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# Policies

## 1 National Electronics Policy 2019

**CONTEXT:** Union Cabinet has approved a National Electronics Policy 2019 which will replace the National Policy of Electronics 2012 (NPE 2012).

- The National Electronics Policy 2019, aims to position India as a global hub for **Electronics System Design and Manufacturing - (ESDM)** by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally. It proposes to build on the existing policy of 2012, to propel the growth of the ESDM industry in the country.

### Salient Features of NPE 2019:

- **Create eco-system for globally competitive ESDM sector:** Promoting domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM.
- **Provide incentives and support for manufacturing of core electronic components.**
- **Provide special package of incentives for mega projects** which are extremely high-tech and entail huge investments, such as semiconductor facilities display fabrication, etc.
- Formulate suitable schemes and incentive mechanisms to encourage new units and expansion of existing units.
- **Promote Industry-led R&D and innovation in all sub-sectors of electronics**, including grass root level innovations and early stage Start-ups in emerging technology areas such as 5G, IoT/ Sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Virtual Reality (VR), Drones, Robotics, Additive Manufacturing, Photonics, Nano-based devices, etc.
- Provide incentives and support for significantly enhancing availability of skilled manpower, including re-skilling.
- Special thrust on Fabless Chip Design Industry, Medical Electronic Devices Industry, Automotive Electronics Industry and Power Electronics for Mobility and Strategic Electronics Industry.
- **Create Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF)** to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in ESDM sector.
- **Promote trusted electronics value chain initiatives** to improve national cyber security profile.

## 2 National Mineral Policy, 2019

**CONTEXT:** The Union Cabinet has approved National Mineral Policy 2019. It replaces the extant National Mineral Policy 2008 ("NMP 2008").

- It will lead to **sustainable mining sector** development in future.
- It will **address the issues of project affected persons** especially those residing in tribal areas.
- The new changes include the focus on make in India initiative and Gender sensitivity in terms of the vision.
- It also **focuses on use coastal waterways and inland shipping** for evacuation and transportation of minerals.
- It encourages **dedicated mineral corridors** to facilitate the transportation of minerals.
- It introduces the concept of **Inter-Generational Equity** that deals with the **well-being not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come**.
- It also proposes to constitute an **inter-ministerial body** to institutionalize the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.

### 3 National Capital Goods Policy

#### Aims/Objectives:

- **Increasing exports to 40 percent of production, from the current 27 percent.** Push to Domestic Production- to **increase the share of domestic production in the country's demand to 80 percent from 60 per cent, potentially making India net exporter of capital goods.**
- To facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors (**increasing research intensity in India from 0.9% to at least 2.8% of GDP**), increase skill availability (**training ~50 lakh people by 2025**), ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
- Increase total production: To create an ecosystem for a globally competitive capital goods sector to achieve total production in excess of Rs. 750,000 Cr by 2025 from the current Rs. 230,000 Cr.
- **Increase employment:** Raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million by 2025.
- Increase domestic market share: To **increase the share of domestic production in India's capital goods demand from 60% to 80% by 2025** and in the process improve domestic capacity utilization to 80-90%.

#### Salient Features:

- **Increasing Exports:** The National Capital Goods Policy 2016 aims at increasing exports to 40 percent of production, from the current 27 percent.
- **Push to Domestic Production:** The policy aims to increase the share of domestic production in the country's demand to 80 percent from 60 per cent, potentially making India net exporter of capital goods.
- **Technological Improvement:** The policy aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across subsectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
- **HIEMDA Scheme:** The policy seeks to enhance Indian made capital goods export through a 'Heavy Industry Export & Market Development Assistance Scheme (HIEMDA)'.
- **Increased Budgetary Allocation:** This includes strengthening existing scheme of DHI (Department of Heavy Industry) on enhancement of competitiveness of Capital Goods sector by increasing budgetary allocation.
- **Technology Development Fund:** The policy advocates launching a Technology Development Fund under the public-private partnership (PPP) model to fund technology acquisition, transfer of technology, purchase or JPRs, designs and drawings as well as commercialisation of such capital goods technologies.

## Draft Defence Production Policy 2018

**CONTEXT:** A draft Defence Production Policy 2018 has been prepared which provides a focused, structured and significant thrust to development of defence design and production capabilities in the country.

### Vision:

- To make India among the top five countries of the world in Aerospace and Defence industries, with active participation of public and private sector, fulfilling the objective of self-reliance as well as demand of other friendly countries.

### Aim/Objectives:

- Create an environment that encourages a dynamic, robust and competitive defence industry as an important part of the 'Make in India' initiative.
- To facilitate faster absorption of technology and create a tiered defence industrial ecosystem in the country.
- To reduce current dependence on imports and to achieve self-reliance in development and manufacture of following weapon systems/platforms latest by 2025:- Fighter Aircraft, Medium Lift and Utility Helicopters, Warships, Land Combat Vehicles, Autonomous Weapon Systems, Missile Systems, Gun systems, Small Arms, Ammunition and Explosives, Surveillance Systems, Electronic Warfare (EW) Systems, Communication Systems, Night Fighting Enabler.
- To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,70,000 Crores (USD 26 Bn approx.) in defence goods and services by 2025 involving additional investment of nearly Rs 70,000 Crores (USD 10 Bn approx) creating employment for nearly 2 to 3 Million people.
- To achieve export of Rs 35,000 Crores (USD 05 Bn approx) in defence goods and services by 2025.
- To make India as a global leader in Cyberspace and AI technologies.

### Salient Features:

- **Ease of Doing Business in Defence Production-**
- Necessary enabling provisions will be brought in to enable Startups and MSMEs to participate in transparent and fair manner, without having restrictions of turnover, prior experience as they meet technical and functional requirements.
- Defence Investor Cell in Department of Defence Production will provide handholding to MSMEs and other investor in defence production, as also to resolve issues with Central, State and other authorities.
- The Simplified Make-II process of DPP 2016 will be streamlined to make it easier for industry to enter in defence production sector
- **PPP Model** -The policy attempts for increased productivity and innovation. It thus calls for increased participation of MSMEs, start-ups and other players from the private sector in the defence industry.
- **Liberal Policies** -The policy would liberalise licences that will be provided to defence industries. Also, the requirements for renewal of licences will be pruned. The companies with a good track record will be given favourable consideration. The policy also liberalises the FDI regime in the defence sector.
- **Skill Development** - It aims at advancing and boosting the existing public sector defence production units. This is particularly aimed to be achieved through skill development and overall program management.
- **Overseas Production** - The recent policy aims at fusing together technologies from Ordnance Factory Board, Defence Public Sector Undertaking and private players. For this, the policy plans on setting up Defence Export Organisation in partnership with the industry. This will facilitate for overseas marketing of domestically produced goods.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- If properly implemented the policy will **reduce the import bill**.
- It could **increase the export earnings** up to Rs 1,70,000 crore by creating employment for more than 3 million people.
- This will make **India a top destination for Research & Development (R&D)** in the world.
- It can promote India as a **hub for defence related Intellectual Property (IP)**.
- The broad policy will **accelerate domestic defence production** and thereby makes it feasible to have a market of our own.
- Indigenous defence production will attract more investors which eventually will lead to **massive market creation**.

## 5 National Manufacturing Policy

**CONTEXT:** Launch of the Make in India programme in 2014 with the aim of attracting business to make investments in manufacturing sector in India and further increase in growth of manufacturing sector to 12 to 14 percent across the medium term.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **increase the sectoral share of manufacturing in GOP to at least 25% by 2022**;
- To increase the rate of job creation so as to **create 100 million additional jobs by 2022**;
- And to **enhance global competitiveness**, domestic value addition, technological depth and environmental sustainability of growth.

**Salient Features:**

- Policy is based on **principle of economic and industrial growth in partnership with states**.
- Central government will create the enabling policy framework providing incentives for infrastructure development on PPP basis through effective financing.
- **Policy aims at setting up National Investment and Manufacturing Zones** using clean energy efficient technology; NIMZ are provided with land area of at least 5000 ha.
- Industrial townships are proposed to be **self governing and autonomous bodies** under the constitution.
- **Infrastructure will be financed appropriately by Central government** through Viability Gap Funding while Special Purpose Vehicle will develop zone infrastructure through PPP mode.
- NIMZ will be managed by SPV headed by government officials and experts including that from the environment.
- Policy also aims at improving access to finance for SMEs in manufacturing sector with in Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor/DMIC.
- The first phase of NIMZ is carried along the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor which will be anchored in the National Manufacturing Policy.
- It will utilise the dedicated railway western Freight Corridor aimed at development of futuristic industrial cities.

## 6 Agriculture Export Policy, 2018

**CONTEXT:** It is aimed at doubling agricultural exports and integrating Indian farmers and agricultural products with the global value chains. Its vision is to harness export potential of Indian agriculture, through suitable policy instruments and to make India global power in agriculture and raise farmers' income.

**Objectives:**

- **Double agricultural exports from present US\$ 30+ Billion to US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022** and reach US\$ 100 Billion in next few years thereafter with stable trade policy regime.
- **Diversify India's export basket, destinations and also boost high value and value added agricultural exports** including perishables.
- **Provide institutional mechanism** for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.
- **Strive to double India's share in world agri-exports** by integrating with global value chain at earliest.
- Promote indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional agri products exports.
- Enable farmers to benefit from export opportunities in overseas market.

**Elements of Agriculture Export Policy:**

- The recommendations in the Agriculture Export Policy have been organised in two categories – Strategic and Operational – as detailed below:

Strategic	Policy measures
	Infrastructure and logistics support
	Holistic approach to boost exports
	Greater involvement of State Governments in agri exports
	Focus on Clusters
	Promoting value-added exports
	Marketing and promotion of "Brand India"
Operational	Attract private investments into production and processing
	Establishment of strong quality regimen
	Research & Development
	Miscellaneous

**Recommendations:**

- The policy should aim at providing productive employment to the huge labour force dependent on agriculture sector.
- One way of doing this could be by making the sector competitive enough to provide gainful employment to all.
- But as the labour force seems to increase at a much higher rate than land productivity, efforts should be made to direct the excess labour to nonfarm activities as it would help them earn better giving rise to the income of those left in agriculture and this process should be clearly defined by the policy.
- The Central Government should involve varied stakeholders in the process of policy making and implementation and should try to strengthen the existing mechanism of this sector.
- The efforts of the centre by establishing National Commission on farmers should be further strengthened.
- The actual condition of the farmers and the ground realities they face have to be kept in mind while formulating any policy as they get affected the most. The priorities should be set up in accordance with the farmers needs.

- Schemes introduced by the government to improve the condition of the farmers should focus on effective implementation with regular rounds of checks and follow-ups. Also the policies formulated by government should be time bound and sector specific.
- Each target should be followed by a strategy and action plan. Proper planning and strategy should be in place to assess what percent of growth has to be achieved in a specified time frame.
- A white paper needs to be published after a specific interval of time and a follow up committee should evaluate the policy in the light of facts mentioned in the white paper and policy should be altered accordingly.

## 7

**Food Processing Policy**

**CONTEXT: For overall growth and development of the Food Processing Industry with an overarching goal of providing remunerative return to farmers.**

- The model policy also suggests steps needed to be taken up by the States/Union Territories to achieve these goals. The event 'World Food India' has been conceptualized to provide a platform to showcase India's strengths in the sector and to attract major investments in the sector.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **reduce wastages, increase value addition, ensure better prices for farmers** while ensuring availability of affordable and quality products to consumers.
- To **address the challenges of malnourishment and malnutrition** by ensuring availability of nutritionally balanced foods.
- To **make food processing more competitive and future ready through** creation of adequate infrastructure facilities along the supply chain, use of modern technology and innovation, promoting traceability, food safety, encouraging optimum capacity utilization of assets and resources.
- To **position India as the most preferred investment destination** for the agri-business and food processing.
- To **generate more opportunities for the development of the agribusiness** and Food Processing Industry, and create employment.

**Salient Features:**

- National Policy apart from documenting footprints of the food processing sector has drafted considering best practices across states and the world.
- India provides most conducive environment to food processing given parameters and conditions like abundance of food production, abundance of manpower engaged in agriculture and low cost of processing.
- To make India Global Food Factory and Global Food Market brings immense opportunities for food processing sector.
- India is ushering in an era of Zero Tolerance towards Post Harvest Wastage, Zero Tolerance on Delays in Commissioning of Food Processing Projects, Zero Tolerance in Delays in obtaining Licenses/ Statutory Clearances for Food Processing/ Food Retail Markets by Central/State/Local authority.
- National Food Processing Policy which shall focus on building India's NATIONAL FOOD GRID and NATIONAL COLD CHAIN GRID and create Retail Markets in every nook and corner of the country.

## 8

**Draft National Forest Policy, 2018**

**CONTEXT: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had kept the Draft National Forest Policy, 2018 in public domain for comments.**

**Aim/Objective:**

- The overall objective and goal of the present policy is **to safeguard the ecological and livelihood security of people, of the present and future generations**, based on **sustainable management** of the forests for the flow of ecosystem services in order.
- To **achieve the national goal for eco-security**, the country should have a **minimum of one-third of the total land area under forest and tree cover**. In the hills and mountainous regions, the aim will be to maintain two-third of the area under forest & tree cover in order to prevent soil erosion and land degradation and also to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-systems.
- The new forest policy **aims to address the new realities – climate change, human-animal conflict and declining green cover**.

**Concepts - the draft has introduced some new concepts such as:**

- Economic valuation of ecosystem services
- Forest certification
- National forest ecosystem management information system

**Highlights:**

- Unlike the previous policies, which stressed on environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance, the 2018 policy **focuses on the international challenge of climate change**.
- It **proposes public-private participation models** for undertaking afforestation and reforestation activities in degraded forest areas and forest areas available with Forest Development Corporations and outside forests.
- **Community participation** - Efforts to ensure synergy between gram sabha & JFMC (Joint Forest Management Committee) will be taken up. This is for ensuring successful community participation in forest management. The National Community Forest Management (CFM) mission will address participatory forest management.
- **Forest fire** - The draft policy includes measures to safeguard ecosystems from forest fires, which include:
  - Mapping the vulnerable areas
  - Developing and strengthening early warning systems
  - Remote sensing technology to control fire
  - Improved community participation
- **Climate change** - Forests are natural carbon sinks, assisting in climate change mitigation.
  - Climate change concerns will be factored in all forest and wildlife areas working/management plans and Community Ecosystem Management Plans.
  - Wildlife rich areas and corridors outside protected areas would be identified and maintained for ensuring ecological and genetic continuity.
- **Human-wildlife conflict** - Quick response, dedicated teams of well equipped and trained personnel would be developed.
- Health and veterinary services, rescue centres, speedy assessment of damage and quick payment of relief to the victims are other short term actions.
- Monitoring and management of population of wildlife would be adopted as part of long-term measures.

**9****National Tariff Policy**

**CONTEXT:** The policy envisages 24×7 power supply to all consumers by 2022.  
It is under Ministry of Power.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **ensure availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates** and financial viability of the sector and attract investments.
- **Promote transparency, consistency and predictability in regulatory approaches** across jurisdictions and minimize perceptions of regulatory risks.
- Promote competition, efficiency in operations and improvement in quality of supply.
- **Promote generation of electricity from Renewable sources.**
- Promote Hydroelectric Power generation including Pumped Storage Projects (PSP) to provide adequate peaking reserves, reliable grid operation and integration of variable renewable energy sources.
- **Evolve a dynamic and robust electricity infrastructure** for better consumer services.
- Facilitate supply of adequate and uninterrupted power to all categories of consumers.
- **Ensure creation of adequate capacity** including reserves in generation, transmission and distribution in advance, for reliability of supply of electricity to consumers.

**Salient Features:**

- **Electricity to All:** State Governments and regulators will devise a power supply trajectory to achieve this. Power would be provided to remote unconnected villages through micro grids. The policy allows production of power from coal washery rejects (these are generated during coal washing) to provide affordable power to people living near the coal mines.
- **Environment-Friendly Procurement of power** from waste-to-energy plants has been made compulsory. This will help the Swachh Bharat Mission. To reduce the pollution of rivers, thermal plants within 50km of sewage treatment facilities need to use treated sewage water.
- Efficiency to increase efficiency through optimal utilisation of land and other resources, power plants will be allowed to increase power production on the same project site to the extent of 100 per cent capacity.
- **Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) to promote renewable energy**, it is proposed to increase solar RPO to 8% by 2022. Solar RPO will not apply to power sourced from hydro power plants. Currently solar RPO is below 1% in most states.
- Transmission of Power Inter-State transmission charges and losses for renewable power (wind/solar) have been exempted.
- Hydro Power for the growth of hydropower generation capacity, hydro power projects will be awarded under cost-plus basis and they are exempted from competitive bidding till 2022. A cost-plus model promises assured returns over the investment made.

**10****National Digital Communications Policy - 2018**

**CONTEXT:** It replaces existing National Telecom Policy-2012 to cater to the modern needs of the digital communications sector of India.

**Aim/Objectives:**

- It envisions **supporting India's transition to digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling information and communications needs of citizens and enterprises.** It strives to achieve this by establishing ubiquitous, resilient and affordable digital communications infrastructure and services. It is customer focused and application driven. It will help lead to new ideas and innovations after launch of advanced technology such as 5G, IOT, M2M, etc. which shall India's govern telecom sector.

**Key Objectives:**

- **Broadband for all.**
- Creating four million additional jobs in Digital Communications sector.

- Enhancing contribution of Digital Communications sector **to 8% of India's GDP from ~ 6% in 2017.**
- **Propelling India to Top 50 Nations** in ICT Development Index of ITU from 134 in 2017.
- Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains and
- **Ensuring Digital Sovereignty.**
- These objectives are to be achieved by 2022.

#### Features NDCP 2018 aims to:

- Provide **universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen.**
- **Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.**
- Ensure internet connectivity to all uncovered areas.
- Attract investments of US \$100 billion in Digital Communications Sector.
- **Train 1 million manpower for building New Age Skill. Expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.**
- Establish comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals.
- Facilitate India's effective participation in global digital economy;
- Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and Secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

## 11 National Civil Aviation Policy

**CONTEXT:** To take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient, establish an integrated eco-system which will lead to significant growth of the civil aviation sector to promote tourism, employment and balanced regional growth, enhance regional connectivity through fiscal support and infrastructure development and enhance ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance.

#### Aim/Objective:

- To create an eco-system **to make flying affordable** for the masses and to enable 30 crore domestic ticketing by 2022 and 50 crore by 2027, and international ticketing to increase to 20 crore by 2027. Similarly, cargo volumes should increase to 10 million tonnes by 2027.

#### Salient Features:

- **Scrapping of the decade-old 5/20 rule and replacing it with 0/20 norm:** Earlier, a domestic airline could start international operations only after five years of domestic operations and having a fleet of at least 20 aircraft. As per new rules, they will be required to deploy 20 aircraft or 20% of the total fleet size, whichever is higher on domestic routes to get international flying rights.
- **Regional Connectivity Scheme:** Airlines will no longer be able to charge more than Rs. 2500 for a 1-hour flight connecting two small cities. The government will provide financial support to fund airlines losses on such un-served routes. A 2% levy has been proposed on all domestic and international flights on metro routes to boost regional connectivity. 50 No frills Airports, also called low cost airports, will be revived in the next three years. Airlines operating from these airports will get concessions on landing, parking charges and other expenses.
- **Private Security Agencies:** Private security agencies comprising of retired personnel from military and para-military forces will be encouraged for non-core security functions at the airports.
- **Code sharing agreements:** Indian carriers will now be able to enter into such agreements with foreign carriers for any destination **within India on a reciprocal basis.**

- **Open Sky Policy:** India will have this policy for **countries beyond the 5000 km radius from Delhi on a reciprocal basis**. This means that airlines from European or SAARC countries, will have **unlimited access**, in terms of number of flights and seats, to Indian airports, leading to increased flight frequencies with these countries.
- **Growth of helicopters:** This will be supported to provide connectivity to remote and inaccessible areas. Separate regulations for helicopters will be notified by DGCA.
- **DGCA:** Necessary administrative and financial flexibility will be provided to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for an effective aviation safety oversight system and for creating a transparent single-window system for all aviation safety related issues

#### **Civil Aviation in India:**

- The Indian civil aviation sector is vital to the growth of Indian economy and enhances the globalization.
- Civil Aviation is a key sector facilitates the growth of business, trade and tourism, with significant multiplier effects across the economy.
- This sector is helmed by **the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA)** which is responsible for formulation of national policies and programmes for the development and regulation of the Civil Aviation sector in the country.
- The Vision for the MOCA is “Enable people to have access to safe, secure, sustainable and affordable air connectivity services with World Class civil aviation infrastructure”.

## **12 National Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy**

**CONTEXT:** The Union Urban Development Ministry has formulated ‘National Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy’ to address the challenges of urbanization. The policy framework aims to promote living close to mass urban transit corridors like the Metros, monorail and bus rapid transit (BRT) corridors.

#### **Significance:**

- Under the new Metro policy, **TOD has been made mandatory** and also an essential reform under the green urban mobility scheme and given priority for receiving central assistance.
- The Union Government already has notified the TOD policy in early 2015, however, there was no clarity on the process for management of open spaces, various sanctions, parking space, water requirement, etc.
- Under it, States/UTs are required to incorporate TOD in their master plans and development plans of cities besides **identifying ‘influence zones’** from transit corridors for tapping revenue streams.
- The central TOD policy will help the states to develop an in-depth understanding of the symptoms and causes of the challenges currently faced by Indian cities.
- Besides, urban design and planning in the form of TOD, is being incentivised by the ministry under two more initiatives viz., **Metro policy and green urban mobility scheme**.
- Development or redevelopment in TOD zone will be incentivised by providing significantly **higher floor area ratio (FAR)**. It will enable vertical construction that is required to address shortage of land availability.
- It also promotes integration of land use planning with transportation and infrastructure development to avoid long distance travel in cities through compact development.
- The policy will be financed by channelising a part of increases in property values resulting from investments in transit corridors through betterment levies and value capture financing tools.

#### **Challenges:**

- In some measure, it seeks to recommend transit and land use strategies, mixed-use development around public transport projects to give access to open space and transport services.

- However, such efforts by the government require intensive capital and a multipronged approach as **“one size fits all policy”**, is unlikely to work, in India. Besides being responsive, the TOD Policy needs to be address some of the legal and regulatory barriers in its implementation.

#### Some such challenges include:

- **Availability of Land and Land Acquisition:** Being a relatively new policy design measure, TOD has **not been a part of city development from its inception stage**. Large parcels of will need to be acquired to undertake TOD. As evident in other infrastructure projects, land acquisition delays will impact the implementation of TOD.
- **Capacity Constraints:** The current transit corridors have come up in a haphazard manner without any planned development and with the speculation of land prices around TOD by the private players. As a result, there adequate space is unavailable around existing MRTS and BRTS projects to undertake TOD.
- **Price and Quality Regulations in PPP's:** Local laws and policies need to be amended to encourage use of public transport over private vehicles. Parking is generally underpriced. This acts as a deterrent to use public transit making private vehicles seem cheaper and more comfortable.

## 13 Draft National Energy Policy

### CONTEXT: NITI Aayog proposed Draft National Energy Policy

#### Aim:

- Access to Electricity - **Available for all households in next five years**. Availability of Power - **Demand to be fully met by 2022**. Energy and peaking shortages to be overcome and adequate spinning reserve to be available.

#### Aim/Objective:

- Supply of Reliable and Quality Power of specified standards in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates. **Per capita availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 units by 2022.**
- Minimum lifeline consumption of 1 unit/household/day as a merit good by year 2022.
- Financial Turnaround and Commercial Viability of Electricity Sector.
- Protection of consumers' interests.

#### Salient Features:

- Short-term and long term demand forecast for different regions.
- Suggested areas/locations for capacity additions in generation and transmission keeping in view the economics of generation and transmission, losses in the system, load centre requirements, grid stability, security of supply, quality of power including voltage profile, etc.; and environmental considerations including rehabilitation and resettlement.
- Integration of such possible locations with transmission system and development of national grid including type of transmission systems and requirement of redundancies.
- Different technologies available for efficient generation, transmission and distribution.
- Fuel choices based on economy, energy security and environmental considerations.

## 14 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

**CONTEXT: To provide for a uniform licensing system and to provide single licensing to cover all hydrocarbons such as oil, gas, coal bed methane etc.**

**Aim/Objective:**

- To enhance the production of domestic oil and gas.
- To bring in substantial investment into exploration and production (E&P) sector.
- Generate huge employment opportunities .
- Enhance transparency.
- Reduce administrative discretion.

**Salient Features:**

- **Uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon:** HELP has a uniform licensing system which **covers all hydrocarbons**, i.e. oil, gas, coal bed methane etc. under a single license and policy framework.
- **Open acreage policy:** Under this policy a bidder may seek to **explore any block** which is not already covered by exploration by applying to the government. The government after examining the expression of interest and justification may call for competitive bids after obtaining environmental and other clearances. This **will help in tapping unused potential blocks**.
- **Easy to administer revenue sharing model:** Easy to administer revenue sharing model will replace the profit sharing model used by earlier contracts. Earlier profits were shared between the government and the contractor after recovery of the cost. With the change, government need not be concerned with the cost incurred and instead will receive a share of the gross revenue from the sale of oil, gas etc. This change will augment the government's policy of "Ease of Doing Business".
- **Marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced:** The contractor can have free hand in pricing and marketing of gas produced in the domestic market on arms length basis (when a buyer and a seller act independently and have no relationship with each other and both parties in the deal act in their own interest. They are not subject to any pressure from the other party). The government's profit share will be calculated depending on the higher of prevailing international crude or actual price to protect government's revenue interests.

## 15 National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

**CONTEXT:** Biofuels in India are of strategic importance as it augers well with ongoing initiatives of Government such as Make in India, Skill Development and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It also offers great opportunity to integrate with ambitious targets of doubling of import reduction, farmers' income, employment generation, waste to wealth Creation.

**Salient features of Policy:**

The policy categorises of biofuels to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category

- **Basic Biofuels:** First Generation (1G) bioethanol and biodiesel
- **Advanced Biofuels:** Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.
- **Expansion scope of raw material for ethanol production:** It allows use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sweet sorghum, sugar beet, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like broken rice, wheat, rotten potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
- **Use of surplus food grains:** The policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol **with approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee**. This will ensure farmers get appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase.
- **Incentives to advanced biofuel:** Viability gap funding scheme indicated for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs.5000 crore in 6 years for giving special emphasis to advanced biofuels. It also proposes additional tax incentives, **higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels**.

- **Supply chain mechanisms:** The policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, short gestation crops.
- **Synergising efforts:** It predefines roles and responsibilities of all the concerned Ministries and Government Departments with respect to biofuels to synergise efforts.

**16****National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy**

**CONTEXT:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy with an aim to boost renewable power generation by promoting new projects as well as hybridisation of existing ones.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Provide comprehensive framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar Photo Voltaic (PV) hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land. **Reduce variability in renewable power generation and achieving better grid stability.** Encourage new technologies, methods and way-outs involving combined operation of wind and solar PV plants.

**Features:**

- Flexibility in share of wind and solar components: It has been provided in hybrid project, subject to condition that, rated power capacity of one resource be **at least 25% of rated power capacity of other resource** for it to be recognised hybrid project.
- **Technology front:** Policy provides for integration of both energy sources i.e. wind and solar at alternating current (AC) as well as direct current (DC) level.
- **Hybrid projects:** The policy seeks to promote new hybrid projects as well as hybridisation of existing wind and solar projects.
- It allows **hybridisation of existing projects (wind or solar)** with higher transmission capacity than sanctioned one, subject to availability of margin in existing transmission capacity.
- **Procurement of power:** It will be on **tariff based transparent bidding process** for which Government entities may invite bids.
- **Use of battery storage:** The policy permits use of **battery storage in hybrid project** for optimising output and reduce variability.
- **Standards and regulations:** It mandates the regulatory authorities to formulate necessary standards and regulations for wind-solar hybrid systems.

**17****National Health Policy**

**CONTEXT:** To inform, clarify, strengthen and prioritize the role of the Government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, prevention of diseases and promotion of good health through cross sectoral actions, access to technologies, developing human resources, encouraging medical pluralism, building knowledge base, developing better financial protection strategies, strengthening regulation and health assurance.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Improve health status through concerted policy action in all sectors and expand preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services provided through the public health sector with focus on quality.

**Salient Features:**

- **Professionalism, Integrity and Ethics:** The health policy commits itself to the highest professional standards, integrity and ethics to be maintained in the entire system of health care delivery in the country, supported by a credible, transparent and responsible regulatory environment.
- **Equity:** Reducing inequity would mean affirmative action to reach the poorest. It would mean minimizing disparity on account of gender, poverty, caste, disability, other forms of social exclusion and geographical barriers. It would imply greater investments and financial protection for the poor who suffer the largest burden of disease.
- **Affordability:** As costs of care increases, affordability, as distinct from equity, requires emphasis. Catastrophic household health care expenditures defined as health expenditure exceeding 10% of its total monthly consumption expenditure or 40% of its monthly non-food consumption expenditure, are unacceptable.
- **Universality:** Prevention of exclusions on social, economic or on grounds of current health status. In this backdrop, systems and services are envisaged to be designed to cater to the entire population including special groups.
- **Patient Centered & Quality of Care:** Gender sensitive, effective, safe, and convenient healthcare services to be provided with dignity and confidentiality. There is need to evolve and disseminate standards and guidelines for all levels of facilities and a system to ensure that the quality of healthcare is not compromised.

## 18 National Mental Health Policy

**CONTEXT:** To train anganwadi workers and school teachers to help parents and caregivers to understand the “physical and emotional needs of children to facilitate an affirmative and positive environment” for their growth. It also proposes teaching mandatory life skills education in schools and colleges that, among other things, includes discussions on issues of gender and social exclusion.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To reduce distress, disability, exclusion, morbidity and premature mortality associated with mental health problems across life-span of a person;
- To enhance understanding of mental health in the country;
- To provide universal access to mental health care;
- To increase access to mental health services for vulnerable groups;
- To reduce risk and incidence of suicide and attempted suicide;
- To ensure respect for rights and protection from harm of persons with mental health problems, and reduce stigma associated with mental health problems; and
- To enhance availability and distribution of skilled human resources for mental health.

**Salient Features:**

- The National Mental Health Policy is based, inter-alia, on the values and principles of equity, justice, integrated and evidence based care, quality, participatory and holistic approach to mental health.
- It enlists the comprehensive list of vulnerable groups, which include the poor (who are linked with mental illnesses in a “negative vicious cycle”), the homeless (who have “no provision for care and support”), persons in custodial institutions (who face a “**deprivation of personal liberty**”), orphans, children, the elderly and people affected by emergencies and various natural or man-made disasters.

- It also recognises the fact that mental health is linked to many other aspects of life, and thus recommends allocation of funds not just to the government's health department but also to other sectors such as social welfare, school education and women and child development.
- In addition to the treatment of mental illnesses, the policy also stresses the need to prevent such problems and promote mental health. It places the onus of such promotion on early childhood care itself, **by targeting anganwadi centres for children below six years of age.**

#### Concerns and Challenges with the bill:

- Unlike the Act of 1987, the Bill does not provide for management of property of mentally ill persons. This is a serious cause of concern as mentally ill persons could easily be exploited and their property taken away from them, leaving such individuals in a perpetual state of dependency.
- The financial memorandum of the **Bill does not estimate the expenditure required** for meeting the obligations under the Bill nor does it provide details of the sharing of expenses between the central and state governments. Without the allocation of adequate funds, the implementation of the Bill could be affected.
- Several states face financial constraints, the central government might have to step in to ensure funds for the implementation of the law.

## 19 Draft National Child Protection Policy

**CONTEXT: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has recently placed the draft National Policy on Child Protection. The protection of children until now is a part of the broader National Child Policy, 2013.**

#### Highlights of the draft:

- The policy **will apply to all Institutions and organisations** including corporate and media houses government or private sector.
- As per the policy all organisations must have a code of conduct based on **zero tolerance of child abuse and exploitation.**
- The policy requires organisations to lay down that employees don't use language or behaviour that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate.
- Institutions should also designate a staff member to ensure that procedures are in place to ensure the protection of children as well as to report any abuse.
- Any individual who suspects physical, sexual or emotional abuse must report it to the **helpline number 1098 or police** or a child welfare committee.

#### What is missing?

- Unlike the national child policy 2013, the latest draft doesn't talk about children who may need additional Special Protection measures.
- It also doesn't include provisions for protecting those affected by migration, communal or sectarian violence or children forced into begging or who are in conflict with the law and those infected with HIV/AIDS.
- The draft talks about organisations laying a code of conduct, but it doesn't explain what acceptable behaviour is such as conduct of teachers in schools.

#### Way Forward:

- The Policy should address four aspects- creating awareness, prevention, reporting and responding.

- The draft needs to go into all these aspects, especially reporting structure involving various nodal bodies and monitoring mechanism for implementation of the guidelines.
- The policy makers should take the opportunity to go beyond the role of Institutions and look at the role of individuals.

## 19 National Child Policy 2013

**CONTEXT: To protect and encourage the rights of the children to survival, health, nutrition, education, development, protection and participation.**

### **Aim/Objective:**

- To help in the implementation of programmes and schemes **for children all over the country**. The policy gives utmost priority to right to life, health and nutrition and also gives importance to development, education, protection and participation.

### **Salient Features:**

- It **focuses on the prevention of disabilities**.
- Since it has been estimated that a large percentage of disabilities in India are preventable, so, it is expected that with early interventions, further disabilities could be treated and managed, after which rehabilitation and social support measures need to be provided.
- It recognizes that, at times, children with disabilities are not given access to education and may be in need of additional care and protection.
- They are included in a larger group of vulnerable children who need to be tracked and have access to their right to education.
- It highlights **the need for schools to be inclusive** and for the availability of trained teachers and special educators, appropriate pedagogy and education material, barrier-free access for mobility, functional toilets and co-curricular activities towards the development of a child's fullest potential and autonomy, as well as dignity and self-worth.
- It specifically states that the views of children with disabilities must be promoted and strengthened within the family, community, schools and institutions, different levels of governance, as well as in judicial and administrative proceedings concerning them.
- It is **the first policy document in India that specifically highlights "disability" as a ground for discrimination that must be countered**.

## 20 National Action Plan for Children- 2016

**CONTEXT: It aims at establishing effective coordination and convergence among all stakeholders, including Ministries and Departments of Government of India and civil society organisations to address key issues pertaining to rights of children.**

### **Aim/Objective:**

- To facilitate the children issue in four priority areas such as- survival health and nutrition; education and development; participation; and protection.

### **Salient Features:**

- The NPAC defines objectives, sub-objectives, strategies, action points and indicators for measuring progress under the four key priority areas and also identifies key stakeholders for the implementation of different strategies.

- The plan also puts focus on new and emerging concerns for children such as online child abuse, children affected by natural and man-made disasters and climate change, etc.
- The strategies and action points largely draw upon the existing programmes and schemes of various Ministries/Departments.
- However, for new and emerging issues related to children, it also suggests formulation of new programmes and strategies, as required.
- The plan takes into account the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and provides a roadmap towards achieving them through co-ordination and convergence with different stakeholders.
- The NPAC 2016 takes into account the current priorities for children in India. It is an initiative to further strengthen and activate the implementation and monitoring of national constitutional and policy commitments and **the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**. It provides a road-map that links the Policy objectives to actionable programmes and strategies.

**In alignment with the National Policy for Children 2013, the NPAC has following objectives:**

- Ensure equitable access to comprehensive and essential preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care of the highest standard, for all children before, during and after birth, and throughout the period of their growth and development.
- Secure the right of every child to learning, knowledge, education, and development opportunity, with due regard for special needs, through access, provision and promotion of required environment, information, infrastructure, services and supports, for the development of the child's fullest potential.
- Create a caring, protective and safe environment for all children, to reduce their vulnerability in all situations and to keep them safe at all places, especially public spaces.
- Enable children to be actively involved in their own development and in all matters concerning and affecting them.

## 21 National Student Startup Policy

**CONTEXT: To create 100,000 technology based student start-ups and a million employment opportunities within the next 10 years (2025).**

### **Aim/Objectives:**

- The Policy plans on achieving the aim by developing **an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem** and **promoting strong inter-institutional partnerships** among technical institutions. It emphasizes on the much-desired need for an appropriate startup policy to propel the youth of India through and beyond the 21st century.
- To prepare students as they gain benefits from GoI's 'Start-up India' programme.
- The policy is aimed at guiding and grooming students to take up entrepreneurial careers and successfully launch their start-ups.
- To motivate students to convert their **Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)** and projects into viable B-plans.
- To create a common virtual platform and ask institutions to submit students' projects on this platform to make the project nationwide.
- To inculcate social responsive behaviours among students aspiring to launch start-ups.
- To offer students, from rural regions of India, training in business opportunity identification in their local areas.

### **Salient Features:**

- The formulated policy has outlined the **role of the AICTE, TBI and academic institutions** in creating student entrepreneurs all along implementing the government's initiative the "Start-up India".

- According to the policy, the curriculum pattern followed by these institutions would **include 40 per cent skills based courses, 30 per cent knowledge related courses and 30 per cent attitude related courses.**
- Courses on Basic Business Management will orient students with the fundamentals of business and other related areas.
- The new policy has made a provision to set up a fund to support startup events and fest that would be organized at national and international levels.

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# E- Governance Initiatives

## 1 E-portal and apps

Portal Name	Information
National e-Vidhan Application(NeVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an initiative of <b>Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs</b>. It aims to <b>make all legislatures in the country paperless</b> by making proceedings of houses digital. It is a work-flow based app <b>deployed in Cloud (Meghraj)</b> which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House.</li> </ul>
e-Sahaj portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)</b> has launched it to <b>facilitate individuals and private companies in seeking security clearance for setting up businesses</b> in certain sensitive sectors.</li> </ul>
e-Nam Inter State Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To network the existing physical regulated wholesale market (APMC market) through a virtual platform.</li> <li>The first inter-State trade on e-NAM was carried out between UP and Uttarakhand followed by that between AP and Telengana.</li> </ul>
National Prisons Information Portal (NPIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A citizen centric portal showing <b>statistical data of various prisons</b> in the country.</li> </ul>
e-AUSHADHI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For <b>online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs</b> and related matters.</li> <li>This new e-portal is an acronym for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy Automated Drug Help Initiative.</li> </ul>
LADIS Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Least Available Depth Information System (LADIS) - It was designed <b>to facilitate the day to day operations of inland vessels</b> plying on National Waterways and to avoid any hindrance in service and operation.</li> </ul>
Samadhan portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To help workers and employers raise industrial disputes online.</b></li> <li>Samadhan stands for Software Application for Monitoring and Disposal, Handling of Industrial Disputes.</li> </ul>

HOPE portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HOPE - Healthcare Organizations' Platform for Entry-Level-Certification aims to <b>promote quality at nascent stages by enrolling a wide range of hospitals</b> across the country including Healthcare Organizations (HCOs) and Small Healthcare Organizations (SHCOs).</li> </ul>
Tele-Law and NyayaBandhu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched recently by <b>Department of Justice (DoJ)</b>, Ministry of Law and Justice.</li> <li><b>Tele-Law</b> is about mainstreaming <b>Legal Aid through Common Service Centers</b> while <b>NyayaBandhu</b> is about <b>Pro Bono Legal Services</b> (Free Legal Services).</li> </ul>
Sampark Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is under the <b>Ministry of MSME</b>.</li> <li>The portal will act as a <b>bridge between the talent pool and those enterprises seeking trained man power</b>.</li> </ul>
ReUnite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ReUnite is a mobile application launched recently to <b>trace missing and abandoned children in India</b>.</li> </ul>
Innovate India portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through this portal, users can <b>view, comment, share, and rate the innovations crowd sourced</b> on the Innovate India platform.</li> <li>It provides for registering both grassroots and deep-tech innovators at a national level.</li> </ul>
National Logistics Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by the <b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b> to <b>bring all stakeholders in the logistics sector on board</b> to cut down transaction cost and time for businesses</li> </ul>
e-PashuHaat portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched under the National Mission on Bovine Productivity for <b>connecting breeders and farmers of indigenous breeds</b>.</li> <li>This portal helps farmers to be aware about breed wise information on indigenous breeds.</li> </ul>
Vidyalakshmi Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that <b>students can avail education loans easily</b> through single window system of banks.</li> <li>It has been developed under the guidance of <b>Ministry of Finance, Human Resource Development and Indian Bank Association</b>.</li> </ul>
TRAI App in UMANG platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has integrated its Mobile Apps namely DND 2.0 &amp; MyCall with UMANG Platform.</li> <li>UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is developed by National e-Governance Division (NeGD), <b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)</b>.</li> <li>It provides a <b>single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies</b> and other citizen centric services</li> </ul>
NiryatMitra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a mobile app launched by the <b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b>.</li> <li>It provides wide range of <b>information required to undertake international trade</b>.</li> <li>The information includes policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff.</li> </ul>

<b>Railsahyog</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indian Railways has launched a web portal <b>www.railsahyog.in</b>. It will provide a platform for the Corporates and PSUs to <b>contribute to creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations</b> through Corporate Social Responsibility funds.</li> </ul>
<b>e-VidyaBharati &amp; e-ArogyaBharati Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India has recently launched digital bridge called <b>e-VidyaBharati &amp; e-ArogyaBharati Network</b> between <b>India and Africa</b>.</li> <li>The network covers 48 african countries and operates based on satellite technology.</li> <li>It aims at providing <b>quality tele-education and tele-medicine facility</b> by linking select Indian Universities, Institutions and Super Specialty Hospitals to African educational institutions and hospitals.</li> </ul>
<b>PAISA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access</b> was recently launched by <b>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs</b>.</li> <li>It is a centralized electronic web platform for <b>processing interest subvention on bank loans</b> to beneficiaries under DeendayalAntyodayaYojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).</li> <li><b>Allahabad Bank</b> is the nodal bank for this portal.</li> </ul>
<b>Ensure Portal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare</b> has recently launched a portal "Ensure" to <b>connect with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)</b>.</li> <li>It is <b>developed by NABARD</b> and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying &amp; Fisheries.</li> </ul>
<b>Women Entrepreneurship Platform</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgraded portal of Women Entrepreneurship Platform was recently <b>launched by NITI Aayog</b>.</li> <li>The platform is a <b>one-stop resource centre for future and budding women entrepreneurs</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>BhoomiRashi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a portal <b>developed by MoRTH and NIC</b>, comprises the entire revenue data of the country, right down to 6.4 lakh villages.</li> <li>The <b>entire process flow for land acquisition</b> from issuing notifications for land acquisition, submission of draft notification by the State Government to its approval will be carried out by the portal.</li> </ul>
<b>Rail Madad</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rail MADAD (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) aims to <b>expedite &amp; streamline passenger grievance redressal</b>. Indian Railways has for the first time completely <b>digitized the Complaint management system</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>cVIGIL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a mobile app launched by <b>Election Commission of India</b>.</li> <li>It enables citizens to <b>report on violation of code of conduct during elections</b></li> </ul>
<b>Khan Prahari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a mobile application is launched by <b>Ministry of Coal</b> for <b>tracking illegal mining</b>.</li> <li>It is a tool for <b>reporting any activity taking place related to illegal coal mining</b> like rat hole mining, pilferage etc.</li> </ul>

<b>Jan Dhan Rakshak</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a mobile application launched by the <b>Finance Ministry</b> as a <b>part of Financial Inclusion</b>.</li> <li>It is jointly <b>developed by National Informatics Centre and Ministry of Finance</b>.</li> <li>The app provide a citizen centric platform <b>for locating financial service touch points across all providers</b> such as banks, post office, CSC, etc at a given location in the country.</li> </ul>
<b>Green Ganga App</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application was launched recently by the <b>Ministry of Water Resources</b> during <b>India Water Impact Summit, 2018</b>.</li> <li>It was <b>developed by Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO</b>.</li> <li>It is used for <b>geo-tagging of saplings and delineation of plantation boundaries</b> under ongoing afforestation activities of NamamiGange programme.</li> </ul>
<b>Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is meant for the <b>law enforcement agencies in the country</b>.</li> <li>The system is an online module available to law enforcement agencies at all levels - national, state, district and police station.</li> </ul>
<b>SWAYATT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is an initiative to <b>promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage</b> Through e-Transactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM).</li> </ul>

## 2 Google-RailTel

- Google-RailTel** completed its 400th **high-speed Internet project** at **Dibrugarh Railway station**.
- 8 million people actively use the public Wi-Fi service on a monthly basis provided under "RailWire".
- Railwire** is a joint project by **Google and State-owned telecom infrastructure provider RailTel Corporation**.
- As part of the Next Billion Users initiative, Google is now building on the success of RailTel project to expand the public Wi-Fi outside train stations, into Indian cities and around the world.

## 3 E-Governance initiatives of the Ministry of Coal

- UTTAM App** has been launched for ensuring **transparency and efficiency in coal quality monitoring process**.
- Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India (SHAKTI)**, for **auction and allotment of coal linkages**, will lead to affordable power and transparency in allocation of coal.

## 4 Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)

- The third phase of SIP was launched at **Mana village** which is situated close to the **Badrinath temple in Uttarakhand**.

- **Sabarimala in Kerala** and the **RaghavendraSwamy temple in Kurnool** of Andhra Pradesh are among the 10 iconic sites added to the phase III Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) mission
- The Swachh Iconic Places is an initiative **under the Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- SIP is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism**.
- It also involves local administrations in the concerned **States and Public Sector and Private Companies** as sponsoring partners.

## 5 National Digital Library

- **Ministry of Human Resources and Development** has launched National Digital Library.
- It is a **repository of millions of academic texts** from around the world which will be open for all to use.
- The earlier version of digital library was limited to schools and other educational institutes.
- The digital library at present hosts 17 million-plus books, audiobooks, images etc in 200-plus languages from more than 170 institutions.
- It has been **built by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**.

## 6 Digitization of Crime Records Bureau

- **Andhra Pradesh** has become the **first state in the country** to complete automation of the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB).
- IT-based web/mobile application “**i-App cloud**” helps the **police access the entire information of crimes** under various IPC sections.
- The data is **collected from District Crime Records Bureau (DCRB)**.
- It is further integrated into the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) data banks.

## 7 Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS)

- The CMSMS is a **web based GIS application** through which location of **sites for unauthorised mining can be detected**.
- Its basic objective is reporting, monitoring and taking suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities.
- The **basic platform** used in the system is of **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology's map** which provides village level information.
- The system will use **satellite data to detect changes by which unauthorised mining activity** extending beyond the allotted lease area can be detected and suitable action can be taken on it.

## 8 Common Service Centre

- The Common Service Center (CSC) Scheme is an integral part of “Digital India” initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- CSCs are the **access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages**.

- In addition to it, CSCs promote rural entrepreneurship, community participation and collective action for social change.
- CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 to monitor the implementation of the Common Services Centers Scheme.
- **Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE)** under CSCs provide service to the rural consumer in villages.
- Recent development – **CSC SPV has entered into agreement with HDFC Bank.**

## 9 DigiLocker

- DigiLocker is a secure **cloud based platform for storage, sharing and verification of documents & certificates launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**
- Ministry of Railways approved digital Aadhaar and Driving Licence from Digital Locker as proof of identity of passengers for undertaking journey by Train.
- The documents are accepted **only if a passenger shows the Aadhaar/Driving Licence** from the 'Issued Documents' section by logging into his/her DigiLocker account.
- However, the **documents uploaded by the user himself/herself** (i.e. the documents in 'Uploaded Documents' section **will not be considered as a valid proof of identity.**

## 10 National Database of Arms Licenses System

- **Union Home Ministry** is planning to create National Database of Arms Licenses System.
- It is to **create vigilance on authorised private gun holders** and eliminate possibilities of issuing arms license to bogus persons.
- Ministry will amend the Arms Act to create the database.

## 11 Innovate India Platform

- The platform is a collaboration between **the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog and MyGov, a citizen centric platform** of the Government of India.
- It will serve as the **common point for all the innovation** happening across the nation.
- Through the Innovate India portal, users **can view, comment, share, and rate the innovations** crowdsourced on the Innovate India platform.
- It provides for registering both grassroots and deep-tech innovators at a national level.

## 12 National Mission for Manuscripts

- National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) is developing an app to make **3 lakhs manuscripts online accessible.**
- NMM was set up in 2003 by the **Ministry of Tourism and Culture** to identify, document, conserve, digitise and publish Indian manuscripts.
- A **manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material** dating back **at least seventy-five years** that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.
- **NMM** is working towards fulfilling its motto, '**conserving the past for the future**'.

## 13 UPI 2.0

- Unified Payment Interface is a platform **created by the National Payments Corporation (NPCI)** to facilitate **faster and smoother digital payments**.
- It allows a customer to **pay directly from a bank account to another bank account & different merchants, both online and offline**, without the hassle of typing credit card details, IFSC code, or net banking/wallet passwords.
- UPI 2.0 is an upgraded version with several new features added to UPI.
- It allows scheduling payment **transfers at a later date with pre-authorisation**.
- It allows customers to link their **overdraft (OD) account with UPI**. In the Earlier version, only current and savings account can linked.
- It will also let **users verify UPI credentials using a QR code**.
- Customers can now **receive invoices from merchants directly in the inbox** to verify the authenticity of credentials.

## 14 Parivesh

- **Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub** was recently launched by the Prime Minister of India.
- It is a **Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System**, launched on the occasion of **World Biofuel Day**.
- It has been designed, developed and hosted by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC)**, with technical **support from National Informatics Centre, (NIC)**.
- It has been rolled out for online submission, monitoring and management of proposals seeking various types of environment clearances from Central, State and district-level authorities.
- It enables project proponents, citizens to view, track and interact with scrutiny officers, generates online mail alerts to state functionaries in case of delays beyond stipulated time for processing of applications.

## 15 Pragati

- PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform **existing in the Prime Minister's Office**.
- It was launched in 2015 and is **not a public web platform**.
- It is used **exclusively by the Prime Minister to give suitable directions for redressal of grievance**.
- It also monitors and reviews compliance on the projects and programmes of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- It brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.
- It deploys **three technologies - Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology**.
- Recently, PM chaired the 29th interaction with PRAGATI and reviewed the progress made in the working of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana.

## 16 Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)

- GSTN provides the technological support to the GST.
- It handles **massive amounts of data and deals with crucial data sets** such as indirect tax returns and refunds.
- Union Cabinet has recently approved **increasing the government stake in GSTN to 100 per cent**.
- At present, **The government holds a 49% stake**, with **Centre and states share of 24.5% each**.
- The **balance 51% is held by five non-government institutions**.
- The stake will be **acquired equally by the Central and state governments**.

## 17 Government e-Marketplace

- National Mission on Government e Marketplace (GeM) will be launched by the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- GeM is a platform that provides **online, end to end procurement of commonly used goods and services** for all Central and State Government Departments, Public Sector Units and affiliated bodies.
- It is **developed by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D)** with technical support of **NeGD (National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT)**.
- It provides the **tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation** to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value for their money.
- The aim of the mission is to promote inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in public procurement and achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction.

## 18 Traffic

- TRAFFIC, the **wildlife trade monitoring network**, is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants.
- It is a **strategic alliance of IUCN and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**.
- Its mission is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.
- It plays a vital role in tackling illegal wildlife trade through conducting research and analysis, advocacy and awareness work and by supporting remedial action against illegal wildlife trade.
- It is currently working in the following projects,
  - ▶ **ReTTA**- Reducing trade threats to Africa's wild species and ecosystems through strengthened knowledge and action in Africa and beyond.
  - ▶ **Wildlife-TRAPS** - Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting.
  - ▶ **The Global Shark and Ray Initiative** - It works to secure the future of our oceans through shark and ray conservation.

## 19 SPARC Scheme

- A webportal for the **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)** was recently launched **by Union Human Resource ministry**.
- It is a scheme for **promotion of academic and research collaboration**.

- It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions.
- The quality benchmark for SPARC is that **only such Indian institutes can apply which are in top 100 NIRF ranking** or top 100 NIRF subject ranking.
- For **foreign universities** the benchmark is either **top 500 of QS ranking or top 200 of QS subject ranking**.
- **IIT-Khargapur** is the national Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.

## 20 Bhudhaar

- **Andhra Pradesh government** has recently launched "**Bhudhaar**" initiative.
- It aimed at enabling **easy identification of details of the land parcel**.
- Under this, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhaar number, an **11-digit unique figure**.
- It would **put an end to irregularities in land registration and corruption** in revenue department.

## 21 Integrated Government Online Training Programme (iGOT)

- **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions** has recently launched iGOT to **augment existing training mechanism for civil servants with online based module**.
- This will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis.
- The initiative aims at "**Competent Civil Services for Good Governance**".
- It would be a platform to bring together the numerous Government and other training institutions for providing a single point of access to the repository of training resources.

## 22 Bims

- **Bidder Information Management System (BIMS)** was launched by **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**.
- It is aimed at **streamlining the process of prequalification of bidders** for **EPC Mode of contracts** for National Highway works with enhanced transparency and objectivity.
- The portal will work as a **database of information about bidders**, covering basic details, civil works experience, cash accruals and network, annual turnover etc.
- BIMS portal will significantly **reduce the procurement time for projects** through an objective and transparent online evaluation system thereby leading to accelerated project implementation.

## 23 Public Financial Management System (PFMS)

- PFMS, earlier known as Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System (CPSMS), is a **web-based online software application**.
- It is **developed and implemented** by the **Office of Controller General of Accounts**.
- It is launched with the objective of **tracking funds released under all Plan schemes of GoI, and real time reporting of expenditure** at all levels of Programme implementation.
- In 2013, its scope was enlarged to **cover direct payment to beneficiaries** under **both Plan and non-Plan Schemes**.
- In 2014, it has been envisaged that **digitization of accounts shall be achieved through PFMS**.

## 24 E-Prison

- All States and UTs **except the States of Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and UT of Lakshadweep**, have implemented the E-prisons network.
- It is developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** with the financial support from the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- An allocation of 100 crore was approved to procure Information and Commercial Technologies (ICT) setup components like Hardware (Desktop systems, printers, web cameras, finger print, scanners etc.) and the Network {Local Access Network (LAN)/Broadband/Leased Line etc}.
- Under E-prison program, the **National Prisons Information Portal (NPIP) is a citizen centric portal showing statistical data of various prisons in the country.**
- It also facilitates **online visit request and grievance redressal.**
- The portal **facilitates visitors to visit and also for showcases and sells the products manufactured in various prisons of the country by inmates** (KaraBazaar Portal).

## 25 Cyber Crime prevention against Women and Children

- It is a scheme under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- It aims to have an effective mechanism to **handle cybercrimes against women and children** in the country.
- The **main features** of the scheme are given below:
  - Online cybercrime reporting platform
  - One national level cyber forensic laboratory
  - Training of Police officers, judges & prosecutors
  - Cybercrime awareness activities
  - Research & Development
- **'Police' and 'Public' are State subject** as per the Constitution of India
- So States are primarily responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crime through their Law Enforcement Agencies.
- The Agencies take legal action as per the relevant sections of the IPC and the IT Act, 2000.
- The online cybercrime reporting **portal [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)** has been operationalized.

## 26 E-Court Service

- Court case information of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country was made available across all **Common Service Centers** in the country recently.
- Court case information are judicial proceedings/decisions, case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments.
- The Government of India had initiated second phase of the e-Courts project as one of the **National e-Governance projects in 2015.**
- The e-Courts project has made significant progress under the guidance of e-Committee of Supreme Court of India in **computerizing district and subordinate courts of the country.**
- It was done through installation of **case information software**, hardware and local area network in courts.
- E-Courts services have now been successfully rolled out through **SMS, email, web, mobile app etc.** benefiting millions of litigants and advocates.

- Now the **Department of Justice** has **decided to deliver e-Courts services** to them through around 2 lakh Common Service Centers (CSCs) to bridge the digital divide among citizens.

## 27 Corruption Perception Index

- India has **improved its ranking by three positions** in the **Global Corruption Index 2018**.
- The index was released by released by the **Transparency International**.
- India was ranked **81st in 2017, is ranked 78 in 2018**.
- Denmark and New Zealand topped the 2018 index while Somalia, Syria and South Sudan were at the bottom respectively.

## 28 River Information System

- River Information System** is a combination of modern tracking equipment related hardware and software designed to **optimize traffic and transport processes in inland navigation**.
- RIS is being implemented under the overall responsibility of **Inland Waterway Authority of India, a statutory body administered by the Ministry of Shipping**.
- The system enhances swift electronic **data transfer between mobile vessels** and shore (Base stations) through advance and real-time exchange of information.

## 29 National Data Repository

- NDR has been created **to provide explorers' data on the country's repositories**, allowing them to **choose fields according to their capabilities**.
- Data received through the **National Seismic Program** (an in-depth study of 26 sedimentary basins) are continuously being updated to the NDR.

## 30 Operation Digital Board (ODB)

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
- It has been launched on the lines of **Operation Blackboard** to provide **better digital education** in schools.
- It aims to set up **one digital and interactive board per classroom** in **government and government-aided schools**.
- 7 lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th and 11th standards and 2 lakh classrooms of colleges and Universities will be covered in the next 3 years.
- University Grants Commission will be the implementing agency for ODB in Higher Education Institutions.

## 31 Rail Drishti Dashboard

- It was launched by **Ministry of Railways**.
- It encompasses all the digitization efforts in Indian Railways and promotes transparency and accountability.

- It consists of **6 services**, namely, PNR enquiry, ODC application enquiry, Complaint Enquiry, Tender Enquiry, Shramik Enquiry and Freight related enquiries.
- **SUGAM – The Freight App** is one of the services provided by the dashboard.
- The App gives access to Indian Railways freight business information.
- It helps customers keep track of their consignment.

## 32 National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)

- It was launched by the **Prime Minister in Ahmadabad, Gujarat**.
- The first Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport consists of NCMC Card, SWEKKAR (SwachalitKiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System (AFC)), SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate).
- **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** brought to the fore the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) to enable **seamless travel by different metros and other transport systems**.
- NCMC enables people to pay multiple kinds of transport charges, including metro services and toll tax, across the country.
- It is also known as '**One Nation One Card**'.
- The inter-operable transport card would allow the holders to pay for their bus travel, toll taxes, parking charges, retail shopping and even withdraw money.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Education Schemes & Initiatives

1

## Integrated School Education Scheme (Samagra Shiksha Scheme)

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved new Integrated Scheme on School Education for period 2018 to 2020 to be formulated by Department of School Education and Literacy.

- ▶ It has been decided by the government to subsume Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education (TE) which were operational since more than 15 years under Integrated School Education Scheme.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Target Group:** School Children especially less than 14 year old

- Main Features of the Scheme:
  - ▶ The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from nursery to senior secondary stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal for Education. The main emphasis of the Integrated Scheme is on improving quality of school education by focussing on the two T's - Teacher and Technology.
- The **objectives of the Scheme**, across all levels of schooling, are:
  - ▶ Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students;
  - ▶ Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education;
  - ▶ Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education;
  - ▶ Ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions;
  - ▶ Promoting vocationalization of education;
  - ▶ Support States in implementation of **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**; and
  - ▶ Strengthening and up-gradation of State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)/State Institutes of Education and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) as nodal agencies for teacher training.

**Impact:**

- The Scheme gives **flexibility to the States and UTs** to plan and prioritize their interventions within the scheme norms and the overall resource envelope available to them.
- It will help improve the transition rates across the various levels of school education and aid in promoting **universal access to children to complete school education**.
- The Scheme, by providing quality education, aims to equip the children with varied skills and knowledge essential for their holistic development and prepare them for the world of work or higher education in the future.

- It would lead to an optimal utilization of budgetary allocations and effective use of human resources and institutional structures created for the erstwhile Schemes.

#### **Benefits:**

- Holistic approach to education
- Inclusion of senior secondary levels and pre-school levels in support for School education for the first time
- An integrated administration looking at 'school' as a continuum
- Focus on Quality of Education- Emphasis on improvement of Learning Outcomes
- Enhanced Capacity Building of Teachers
- **Focus on strengthening Teacher Education Institutions like SCERTs and DIETs** to improve the quality of teacher training
- Enhanced use of digital technology in education through smart classrooms, digital boards and DTK channels
- Specific provision for **Swachhta activities - support 'Swachh Vidyalaya'**
- Improve the Quality of Infrastructure in Government Schools
- Enhanced Commitment to 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' - Upgradation of KGBVs from class VI -VIII to upto class XII
- Emphasis on '**Kaushal Vikas**' in schools
- **Support 'Khelo India'** - provision for sports and physical equipment
- Preference to Educationally **Backward Blocks (EBBs), LWEs, Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the 115 aspirational districts**
- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**
  - SSA is being **implemented since 2001 for universalization of elementary education**. After enactment of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which confers the right to elementary education on all children, **in the age group of 6-14 years**, SSA became the central programme to fulfil its objectives.
- **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**
  - RMSA was launched in 2009 with the objective **to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality**. The scheme envisages to enhance the enrolment by providing a secondary school with a reasonable distance of habitation, with an aim to ensure **GER of 100 per cent and universal retention by 2020**.
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education**
  - The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education was initiated in 1987 pursuant to the formulation of the National Policy of Education, 1986. It aims to **establish District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs)** in all districts created up to 2011, strengthen Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs), Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs) and establish Block Institutes of teacher education (BITEs) in identified SC/ST/ minority concentration districts.

## **2**

### **Revitalization Infrastructure and System in Education (RISE)**

**CONTEXT:** In Union Budget 2017-18 a new scheme "Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Higher Education (RISE)" introduced to revamp India's education sector with a total investment of Rs 1 lakh crore in the next four years by 2022.

#### **Aim /Objective:**

- This scheme aims to **provide loan facility (at low interest )** to all **centrally-funded institutes (CFIs)**, including central universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs, from a Rs 1,00,000 crore corpus

provided under newly restructured **Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA)** over the next four years to expand and build new infrastructure and research facilities.

- **Target Group:** All centrally-funded institutes categorized into 3 groups.

#### Salient features:

- It aims to expand loan facility to all institutions, **especially to the institutions set up after 2014**, Central Universities which have very little internal resources, and the school education/health education infrastructure **like AIIMs, Kendriya Vidyalayas**.
- **Equity Share:** In order to mobilise funds Rs. 1 lakh crore corpus **under RISE**, HEFA will need equity of Rs 10,000 crore, of which Rs 8,500 crore will be provided government and remaining by Canara Bank, which partnered with government to set up HEFA, and other corporations.
- **Target:** All infrastructure and research projects sanctioned by HEFA are to be completed by **December 2022**.
- **Fund Raising:** HEFA will release money directly to vendors or contractors on certification by executing agency and educational institute. Loans taken from HEFA, under the RISE programme, **will be paid back over 10 years**. There will be different modes of loan repayment for different institutes, based on their internal revenue
- Beneficiaries under this scheme has been categorized under three groups mainly:
- **Technical Institutions more than 10 years old:** They will have to repay the **whole Principal Portion** from the internally generated budgetary resources.
  - **Technical Institutions started between 2008 and 2014:** They will have to repay **25% of the principal portion** from internal resources, and receive grant for the balance of the Principal portion.
  - **Central Universities started after 2014 will get loan for funding** construction of permanent campuses. Grant would be provided for complete servicing of loan including the Principal and interest.
  - **Central Universities started prior to 2014** will have to repay 10% of the principal portion from internal resources, and receive grant for the balance of the Principal portion.
  - **All the newly set up AIIMs and other health institutions, the Kendriya Vidyalayas / Navodaya Vidyalayas** would be funded and the Department/Ministry concerned will give a commitment for complete servicing of the principal and interest by ensuring adequate grants to the institution.

#### Significance:

- **Government spends less than 3% of GDP in education sector** which is very less as compared to other emerging economies of the world. RISE scheme and setting up of a corpus fund like HEFA will lead to boost in education infrastructure.
- India is way behind in innovation and research although it is the **third largest publisher of research articles** and scientific journals of the world but quality of research is not good as per the world standard.
- **RISE scheme will help eminent educational institutions** of the country to build better infrastructure which will help in strengthening research ecosystem.

### 3

## Happy School Project

**CONTEXT:** Happy School Project of UNESCO in association with Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEPS) released report titled “Happy Schools: A Framework for Learner Well-being in the Asia-Pacific” following International Day of Happiness on 20 March 2016, to address the challenges faced by students in today’s competitive, stress-fuelled, and test-focused world.

**Agencies involved:**

- UNESCO-MGIEPS (United Nations Education and Social Council-Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development). MGIEP is the first UNESCO institute of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region and is generously supported by the Indian government

**Aim /Objective:**

- To promote happiness in school environment through enhanced learner well-being and holistic development.

**Target Group:** School Children **especially less than 16 year old**

**Salient feature:**

- A social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum called **Libre**, is designed to build four competencies – **critical inquiry, mindfulness, empathy and compassion**.

**Impact:**

- Will pave a way for integrating social and emotional learning in school curricula
- Friendships and Relationships in the School Community
- Positive Teacher Attitudes and Attributes
- Friendships and Relationships in the School Community
- Reasonable and Fair Workload Warm and Friendly Learning Environment
- Positive Teacher Attitudes and Attributes Teamwork and Collaborative Spirit
- Secure Environment Free from Bullying
- Respect for Diversity and Differences Fun and Engaging Teaching and Learning Approaches
- Open and Green Learning and Playing Spaces
- Positive and Collaborative Values and Practices
- Learner Freedom, Creativity and Engagement School Vision and Leadership
- Teacher Working Conditions and Well-being
- Sense of Achievement and Accomplishment
- Positive Discipline
- Teacher Skills and Competencies Extracurricular Activities and School
- Events Good Health, Sanitation and Nutrition
- Learning as a Team between Students and Teachers Democratic School Management
- Useful, Relevant and Engaging Learning Content
- Mental Well-being and Stress Management

**UNESCO- MGIEPS**

- The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), was established with the support of the Government of India and is an integral part of UNESCO.
- It was established in 2009, after the decision of the UNESCO General Conference.
- It is **located at New Delhi**.
- It focuses on education for peace and sustainable development in the vast and rapidly growing Asia-Pacific region.
- It is the first and only **category 1 Research Institute in Asia Pacific** and focuses on achieving **the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7 towards education to foster peaceful and sustainable societies**. In this, the Institute is guided by its vision of **'transforming education for humanity'**.

**Significance:**

- Its aim to develop **disruptive innovative tools** and **methodologies to transform education** to meet global challenges common to humanity will help to rebuild Indian education system on lines of modern education system.
- Its innovative way to make learning fun and connect it to love, compassion and peace will help to build a strong nation with peaceful citizens.

## 4 Startup Academia Alliance Program

**CONTEXT:** To fulfill the Government of India's mission to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country, Startup India launched the Startup Academia Alliance programme.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Aim /Objective:**

- The Startup Academia Alliance aims to **reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications** in order to increase the efficacy of these technologies and to widen their impact.
- It aims to create a **bridge between academia and industry**.
- It aims to strengthen third pillar of Startup India Scheme i.e Incubation of Entrepreneurs through academic and expert counselling

**Target Group:** Newer entrepreneurs under startup India Program.

**Salient features:**

- The Startup Academia Alliance programme is a mentorship program between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.
- By creating a bridge between academia and industry, the alliance strives to create lasting connections between the stakeholders of the startup ecosystem and implement the third pillar on which the **Startup India Action Plan** is based - **Industry Academia Partnerships and Incubation**.
- This scheme aims to bring together a group of academic scholars who have significant experience in related fields to interact with new entrepreneurs.
- The **first phase of Startup Academia Alliance** was kick started through partnering with Regional Centre for Biotechnology, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and TERI School of Advanced Studies.
- Renowned scholars from these institutes, in fields such as renewable energy, biotechnology, healthcare and life sciences were taken on board to provide mentorship and guidance to startups working in relevant arenas.

**Significance:**

- Productivity of startups under guidance of eminent academic experts will significantly increase which will ultimately reflect on financial health of the country.
- Knowledge given by these academic professionals will help to club modern cutting edge technologies with existing one will increase productivity and generate employment in these startups.
- This scheme will help **14,000 startups** which have been started under Start up India Program.

## 5 IMPRESS (Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences)

**CONTEXT:** In August 2018, a scheme called IMPRESS (Impactful Policy Research in Social Science) was launched to promote policy research in social science.

**Ministry:**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (**MHRD**). The Indian Council of Social Science and Research (**ICSSR**) under the HRD ministry is the project implementing agency.

**Aim /Objective:**

- To provide opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in the country, including all Universities (Central and State), private institutions with 12(B) status **conferred by UGC**.

**Target Group:**

- Social science researchers who are enrolled in various eminent institutes of the country.

**Salient features:**

- To identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.
- To **focus research on (11) broad thematic areas such as** : State and Democracy, Urban transformation, Media, Culture and Society, Employment, Skills and Rural transformation, Governance, Innovation and Public Policy, Growth, Macro-trade and Economic Policy, Agriculture and Rural Development, Health and Environment, Science and Education, Social Media and Technology, Politics, Law and Economics. The Sub-Theme areas will be decided on the basis of Expert Groups' advice before notifying the scheme and calling for applications.
- To ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode.
- The **sub- theme areas** will be decided on the **basis of Expert Groups'** advice before notifying the scheme and calling for applications.
- The scheme will be implemented at a total cost of **Rs. 414 crore** till March, 2021.
- Under IMPRESS, **1,500 research projects** will be awarded for two years to support social science research in the higher educational institutions.
- ICSSR funded/ recognized research institutes will also be eligible to submit research proposals on the given themes and sub-themes.

**Significance:**

- IMPRESS scheme aims to provide vital inputs **in policy-formulation, implementation and evaluation**.
- This will help **to identify vulnerable groups** from society on the basis of socio-economic status and will help to eradicate their problem by policy formulation.
- This scheme will help to explore diverse Indian society in a better way and researchers will provide a **tailor-made solutions** for specific problems faced by people belonging to different region, religion, caste and creed.
- This scheme will also help government to assess impact of programs and schemes launched by it.

**6****SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic & Research Collaboration)**

**CONTEXT:** In August 2018 SPARC scheme launched to encourage and improve research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations

**Ministry:**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and IIT-Khargapur is the **national coordinating institute**.

**Aim /Objective:**

- To encourage **research collaborations** between Indian universities and some of the leading universities of the world.

**Target Group:**

- India's higher educational institutions including central universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs etc.

**Salient features:**

- Rs. 418 crore allocated for **600 joint research proposals** up to 31.3.2020.
- Visits and long-term stay of top international faculty/researchers in Indian institutions to pursue teaching and research.
- Visits by Indian students for training and experimentation in premier laboratories worldwide.
- Joint development of niche courses, world-class books and monographs, translatable patents, demonstrable technologies or action oriented research outcomes and products.
- Consolidation of Bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships through **Indo-X Workshops in India**.
- Publication, Dissemination and Visibility through a high profile annual international conference in India.
- It aims to **stop brain drain** and provide facility so research fellows can do research in India which is of international level.
- To implement the SPARC program.

**Impact:**

- Providing the **best international expertise** in solving major national problems.
- Help Indian academicians and researchers unravel deep and open research problems with the help of the best collaborators abroad.
- Enable long-term stay for international faculty the simultaneously helps in academic interactions, research collaborations, niche course development.
- Enable a large number of Indian students to be trained in high end experimental facilities available in the best laboratories in the world.
- Produce a large volume of educational and research content in terms of high quality journal publications, text books, research monographs, patents, demonstrable technologies, products that are jointly authored by Indian and Foreign collaborators.
- Have strong thematic interactions which enable students in the country interact with high quality research groups through Workshops held in India.
- **Develop strong Bilateral relationships in academics** and research with top countries in the world.
- Enable most of the top ranked Indian Institutions to develop academic and research collaboration with foreign institutions.
- Improve International Rankings of Indian Institutions through a combination of internationalization, research outcomes and academic interactions.
- Develop a set of success stories that can enable international agencies, Indian industries, partner ministries support follow up projects.
- Create a major International Impact for Catapulting Indian Academics and Research and help make it competitive with the best worldwide.

**7****Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE)**

**CONTEXT:** In a bid to tap the potential of trained faculty in Universities, colleges and private academic institutions, Teacher Associateship For Research Excellence (TARE) has been launched.

**Ministry:**

- Ministry of Science & Technology (**Science and Technology Research Board (SERB)** under department of science and technology (**DST**).

**Target Group:**

- Faculties of Universities, colleges and private academic institutions who have Ph.D. degree in Science or MS / MD in Medicine or M.E. / M.Tech. in Engineering / Technology.

**Aim / Objective:**

- To tap potential of already trained faculties of various universities and private institutions by providing them research facilities.

**Salient features:**

- This scheme aims to facilitate mobility of faculty members working in a regular capacity in State Universities / Colleges and in private Academic Institutions to carryout research work in an established public funded institution such as IITs, IISc, IISERS, National Institutions (NITs, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR labs and other central institutions) and Central Universities, located preferably nearer to the institution where the faculty member is working.
- 500 teachers will be assisted under this scheme.** They will be provided a yearly remuneration of Rs. 5 lakh, apart from they are provided a monthly expense of Rs. 5,000. This will be in addition to the salary from their existing employer.

**Significance:**

- India spends meagre 0.85% of its GDP on R&D** which has led to brain drain.
- India ranks third in publishing Scientific and technical journal articles** in field of physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, clinical medicine, biomedical research, engineering and technology, and earth and space sciences. This shows a **significant mismatch in expenditure vs research**.
- Although, India's rank on the **Global Innovation Index (GII) has improved from 60 in 2017 to 57 in 2018**. But, more efforts are needed to increase innovation in the country to owing to its vast size and needs.
- Apart from it, many schemes such as **Innovate in India (i3)** in Bio-pharma sector, **Atal Innovation Mission** etc are some of the schemes which aims to strengthen innovation and research in India. These schemes shows government's intention to promote research culture in the country.

## 8 Leap & Arpit Initiatives

**CONTEXT:** Union Ministry of Human Resource Development launches Leadership for Academicians Program (LEAP) and Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) for higher education faculty.

**Leadership for Academicians Program (LEAP):**

- It is a flagship leadership development training programme (2 weeks domestic and 1 week foreign training) for second level academic functionaries in public funded higher education institutions.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The main objective is to prepare second tier academic heads that are potentially likely to assume leadership roles in the future.
- The programme would provide senior faculty, with high academic credentials, the required leadership and managerial skills including skills of problem-solving, handling stress, team building work, conflict management, developing communication skills and understanding.
- The programme will provide training for coping with the complexity and challenges of governance in higher education institutions, financial & general administration.

## Implementation

- The implementation will be through **15 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** top ranked Indian institutions.

The foreign universities identified for the training are also within the **top 100** in the world global rankings.

### National Institutional Ranking Framework

- This framework under Ministry of Human Resources outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.
- It uses broad parameters for ranking various universities and institutions of India.
- The parameters broadly cover **"Teaching, Learning and Resources," "Research and Professional Practices," "Graduation Outcomes," "Outreach and Inclusivity,"** and **"Perception."**

## Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT)

- It is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty using the **Massive Open Online Courses platform SWAYAM**. It is meant for all in-service teachers and faculties in order to enhance their career prospects. The refresher course will make them acquaint with new subjects and learning processes.
- **About the refresher courses**
  - The courses cover a diverse range of topics such as Indian culture & Heritage Studies, Pedagogical Innovations & Research Methodology, Latest Trends in Pedagogy and Assessment, Personal-Emotional Development and Counselling, Neural Networks etc.
  - It is a 40 hour module with 20 hours of video content and 20 hours of non-video content.
  - They are offered in a highly flexible format and can be done at one's own pace and time.
  - All faculties who have successfully completed the online refresher course will be certified.
- **Implementation**
  - For implementing, **75 discipline-specific institutions** have been identified and notified as National Resource Centres (NRCs) in the first phase.
  - These institutions are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies.

### National Resource Centres (NRCs):

**They are located in a mixed range of institutions such as:**

- Central Universities, IISc, IUCAA, IITs, IISERs, NITs
- State Universities under the Ministry's Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching
- UGC's Human Resource Development Centres
- National Institutes for Technical Teachers Training

### SWAYAM:

- It is a programme initiated by GOI and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality.

- The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.
- SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.

### Significance

- These two initiatives-**LEAP and ARPIT** are extremely significant as they will create transformative teachers and leaders. There is a need for constant improvisation to keep abreast of recent developments which will enrich the teaching learning experiences. Combining academic and administrative leadership is an equal requirement for those heading educational institutions LEAP will help in creating better higher education leaders of tomorrow. Through ARPIT, the NRCs will revolutionize professional development of faculty by catering to massive numbers by leveraging ICT and online technology platform of SWAYAM.

9

## Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram (PMVLK)

**CONTEXT:** Government launched a web-based portal [www.vidyalakshmi.co.in](http://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in) for the students seeking educational loans.

### Aim/Objective:

- To ensure that no student misses out on **higher education due to lack of funds**

### Salient features:

- A fully IT based Student Financial Aid Authority is proposed through the '**Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram**', to administer and monitor Scholarship as well Educational Loan Schemes, with a view to enable all poor and middle class students to pursue higher education of their choice without any constraint of funds.
- Vidya Lakshmi Portal is a first of its kind portal **for students seeking Education Loan**. It provides single window electronic platform for students to access information and prepares applications for Educational Loans and Government Scholarships. It provides information on the following:
  - ▶ Educational Loan Schemes of various Banks
  - ▶ Common Educational Loan Application Form for Students
  - ▶ Application for Education Loan to multiple Banks
  - ▶ Facility for Banks to download Students Loan Applications
  - ▶ Facility for Banks to upload loan processing status
  - ▶ Facility for Students to email grievances/queries relating to Educational Loans to Banks
  - ▶ Linkage **to National Scholarship Portal** for information and application for Government Scholarships
- This initiative aims to bring on board all Banks providing Educational Loans. It is expected that students throughout the country will be benefited by this initiative of the Government, by making available a single window for access to various Educational Loan Schemes of all Banks. The portal has been developed and being maintained **by NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited**.
- 39 Banks have registered 70 Educational Loan Schemes on the Vidya Lakshmi Portal and integrated their system with the Portal for providing loan processing status to students

## 10 Institutes of Eminence Scheme

**CONTEXT:** The University Grants Commission has deferred a decision on which institutions should be granted the prestigious *Institutes of Eminence* tag as an expert committee has recommended more names than the government scheme allowed for.

### Background:

- The empowered expert committee headed by former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami had initially recommended **11 institutions** for the tag in July 2018. In December, the committee recommended 19 more names, taking the total list to 30.

### Institutions of Eminence scheme:

- The institutes of eminence scheme *under the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry* aims to project Indian institutes to global recognition.
- The selected institutes will enjoy *complete academic and administrative autonomy*.
- **The government will run 10 of these and they will receive special funding.**
- *The selection shall be made through challenge method* mode by the Empowered Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.
- **Eligibility:** Only higher education institutions currently placed in the top 500 of global rankings or top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are eligible to apply for the eminence tag.
- *The private Institutions of Eminence can also come up as greenfield ventures* provided the sponsoring organisation submits a convincing perspective plan for 15 years.

## 11 Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan

**CONTEXT:** In July 2018, the government launched the second phase of the abhiyaan and brought more than 600 technical and non-technical institutions to work and derive sustainable solutions for the problems of villages in India to develop them.

### Aim/Objective:

- Initiative to bring Villages and Educational institutions together and develop them simultaneously.

### Advantages:

- An educational institution is linked with **at least 5 rural villages** to contribute to their economic and social upliftment.
- The students get practical hands-on experience to utilize their knowledge which is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop.
- Rural areas will become sustainable, environment-friendly and self-dependent with technological solutions to their daily life problems. Bio-power generation with crop residue will reduce pollution, better waste and water management facilities, and access to remote technologies with regular interaction with the intelligent community of society.
- It will also make the students more responsible to the nation and will promote the feeling of development by problem-solving.
- Better cases implemented from here can be extended to whole India, finally solving the problem of the development of rural India, also enabling the government to focus on other issues.

**Limitations:**

- Students of higher education institutions may have an urban bias and lack of inspiration/incentive which will lead to lack of communication.
- Despite so many positive aspects, the scheme is taking time to generate an ideal positive case study from an area to be replicated.
- **The trickle-down effect** expectations may again not reach the rural areas to solve their problems as happened with previous policies of the government.
- The government is moving in the right direction of thought with the scheme and will receive a lot of support from rural areas as well. But the administrators and people in charge of implementing the scheme must keep pushing and inspiring the institutions to be motivated enough towards working in this direction. Some ideal results and case studies are only missing part from this near perfect scheme of the government.

## 12 National Testing Agency

**CONTEXT:** National Testing Agency (NTA) has launched a 'mobile app' through which students can practice or take mock tests on their own computers or smart phones.

**Advantages:**

- In order to ensure that no student is disadvantaged due to lack of resources, NTA has established a network of **more than 4000 Test Practice Centres (TPCs)** to acquaint the aspirants, especially those from rural areas with Computer Based Tests (CBTs).
- Students across the country can register themselves online at NTA Website or 'NTA Students App' for visiting the TPCs.
- All these services are provided to the students free of cost. So far, more than one lakh students have registered at these TPCs and more than one crore students have benefited from these 'App & Web' services.

**About NTA:**

- In pursuance of the Budget Announcement 2017-18, the Union Cabinet, in November 2017, approved creation of the National Testing Agency (NTA) as ***an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.***
- **Composition:** It will be chaired by an educationist who will be appointed by the MHRD. The agency will have a board of governors who will represent the member institutions

## 13 Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)

**Ministry:** Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD)

**Aim/Objective:** To boost the quality of higher education in India.

**Salient features:**

- Aims at improving the quality of higher education in the country through international collaboration.
- Facilitate participation of high quality international academicians for delivering short-term courses and programs in Indian institutions.
- Initially 500 international faculties will be engaged in conducting courses and later in subsequent years 1000 faculties would be engaged **under GIAN throughout India.**

- Under this scheme, academicians will **cover 13 disciplines and 352 courses** to be taught in 68 national institutions.
- These courses will vary in duration from one to three weeks depending on the subject and will be free for students of the host institution and available for nominal fees for others.
- These courses will be webcasted live for students across the country through web portal designed by IIT Kharagpur.

## 14 Uchchtar Aavishkar Abhiyan

### Ministry/Department:

- Launched **Ministry of Human Resource Development** and Implemented by Department of Higher Education.

### Scheme:

- It aims to promote industry-specific need-based research in the educational institutions to keep up the competitiveness of the Indian industry in the global market.
- All the IITs have been encouraged to work with the industry to identify areas where innovation is required.
- The main aim of launching the UAY scheme is to make students more accustomed with the outer world and give them a market oriented mindset.

## 15 Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan:

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Aim/Objective:** To make people aware about cashless economic system.

### Scheme:

- VISAKA aims to create awareness among people about digital economy and cashless modes of transactions.
- It was launched on line with Prime Minister's appeal to youth in 'Mann Ki Baat' for creating awareness for making India digital and cashless economy.
- Under it, young students and faculty members will be roped to encourage and motivate people to use a digitally enabled cashless economic system for transfer of fund.
- For active participation of youth and faculty, HRD Minister also launched a webpage where students can register themselves.
- On this website, students and faculty members also can provide their feedback and suggestions on the initiative as well as upload the progress of their work.

## 16 Shodhganga Repository

### Aim/Objective:

- The University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of **M.Phil./Ph.D Degrees**), Regulation, 2016 mandates that after successful completion of the evaluation process and before the announcement of the award of the M.Phil./Ph.D. degree(s), the Institution concerned shall submit an electronic copy of the M.Phil. dissertation /Ph. D. thesis to the Information and library Network (INFLIBNET), for hosting the same so as to make it accessible to all Institutions/Colleges.

- To implement this provision of the UGC Regulations, 2016, Shodhganga repository was set up. The task of setting-up of this repository was assigned to INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar – an Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

**Salient features:**

- Develop a national repository of theses and dissertations with an intuitive interface which enables submission of electronic version of theses and dissertations by Universities in India and facilitates search, browse and downloading of theses available in the repository;
- Avoid unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is wastage of huge resources, both human and financial;
- Providing access to Indian theses and dissertations in open access to world-wide academic community and making visibility of Indian research to other countries;
- Extend access to plagiarism detection software to eligible universities; and
- Fund eligible Universities (that are under purview of the UGC) for digitization of back lists of theses submitted to their universities.

**The salient features of Shodhganga are as follows:**

- Shodhganga facilitates Universities to deposit their theses in the respective Departments / Centres.
- The system also permits online or offline submission of theses by students on voluntary basis
- Shodhganga interface supports basic search, advanced search and subject-wise browsing.
- So far, 1,35,942 theses have been uploaded onto Shodhganga.

## 17 Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **encourage varsities to display portraits of Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers.**
- The idea of having a wall of martyrs in universities was first proposed by a group of ex-servicemen who said portraits of martyrs and tanks used in wars should be put on display in the campus to **instill sense of “nationalism” and “patriotism” among the students.**
- **Param Vir Chakra:** It is India's highest military decoration awarded for the displaying distinguished acts of valour **during wartime.**
- It can be awarded to officers or enlisted personnel from all branches of the Indian military. To date, the award has not been conferred twice (**can be awarded twice**).
- The medal has been awarded 21 times, of which 14 were posthumous awards, and 16 were awards for action in Indo-Pakistani conflicts. Of the 21 awardees, 20 have been from the Indian Army, and 1 has been from the Indian Air Force.

## 18 Jigyasa

**Aim:** For better student- scientist connection

**Department/Ministry:**

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**) in collaboration with **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).**

**Salient features:**

- The main focus of the programme is to connect school students and scientists as well as to extend student's classroom learning to a very well-planned research laboratory based learning.
- The programme has been inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a new India and “Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)” of scientific community and institutions.

- The JIGYASA programme is expected to inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness and scientific temper on the minds of children and school teachers.
- The programme will connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR and will target 100,000 students and 1000 teachers every year. Under this programme, the CSIR would launch a talent hunt among the visiting students for furthering the cause of scientific development.
- "JIGYASA" programme would be one of the major initiatives of the CSIR at the national level during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year.
- The model of engagement under JIGYASA between the CSIR and the KVS will include Student Residential Programmes; Scientists as Teachers and Teachers as Scientists; Lab-specific activities / Onsite Experiments; Visits of Scientists to Schools/Outreach Programmes; Science and Maths Clubs; Popular Lecture Series/ demonstration programme at Schools; Student Apprenticeship Programmes; Science Exhibitions; Projects of National Children's Science Congress; Teacher Workshops; and Tinkering Laboratories.

## 19 Maitreyi Yatra:

**CONTEXT:** The closing ceremony of Maitreyi Yatra was recently held.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Human Resource Development.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To integrate the **youth of Jammu and Kashmir** to the rest of the country and to promote brotherhood and harmony. It provides a good opportunity for the youth of J&K **to be acquainted with culture, language and development** story of different parts of the country.

**Salient features:**

- The Maitreyi Yatra is an exchange programme for schoolchildren as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the J&K government and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

## 20 Shaala Sarathi

- It is a portal launched by the **Ministry of HRD**.
- It is a State-NGO-CSR Portal to aid the collaboration among the stakeholders in sharing innovative practices in various schools.
- Shaala Siddhi is a comprehensive school evaluation system focused on well-defined quality based parameters that facilitates Schools to make professional judgments for improvement.

## 21 All School Monitoring Individual Tracing Analysis (ASMITA)

- It is launched under Shala Asmita Yojana (SAY).
- SAY aims to track the educational journey of school students from **Class I to Class XII** across the 15 lakhs private and government schools in the country.
- ASMITA will be an online database which will carry information of student attendance and enrolment, learning outcomes, mid-day meal service and infrastructural facilities among others.

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# Social Security, Poverty Elimination, Employment Generation & Skill Development

## 1 Universal Social Security Scheme

**CONTEXT:** The government has drafted an ambitious Rs. 1.2 lakh crore plan to provide universal social security coverage for the poorest fifth of the country as part of a bigger scheme that's being planned for all individuals.

### Aim/Objective:

- According to the **Economic Times**, India's total workforce currently stands at 450 million. Though the statistics make it sound that a large fraction of the Indian population is employed, it is rather saddening that **only a little over 10 percent** are in the organized sector and get to enjoy the basic social security.
- In fact, among the 10 million people who add on to the workforce every year, most of them don't receive the minimum wage and lack any kind of social security coverage, the reason being that most of them belong to the unorganised sector.
- Target group:** This broader programme envisages three categories — the **poorest 20%**, who will get a **government payout**; those who subscribe on their own and formal sector workers who will need to set aside a fixed proportion of income toward the scheme.

### Salient Features:

- The scheme will have two tiers. The first of these comprises **mandatory** pension, insurance (both death and disability) and maternity coverage and the second, **optional** medical, sickness and unemployment coverage.
- Funds collected under the **universal social security scheme** will be divided into sub schemes and be ring-fenced, meaning the benefits and the contribution will be commensurate.
- The **optional element will depend on the funds collected under the mandatory scheme**. The government feels the scheme will enjoy economies of scale and even those making self-contributions will find it attractive because of the large numbers involved.

### Analysis:

- While funding the scheme will be a challenge for the government, which has pledged to stick to the deficit target, it is seen as one that will gain broad popular support. The new policy will be part of the social security.

## 2 Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

**Ministry/Authority:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

### Target group:

- It is a scheme for providing **physical aids and assisted-living devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category**.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The scheme will address disabilities like low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disability with such assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions.

**Salient features:**

- The devices will be distributed in camp mode and will be implemented by **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)**, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- This is a **Central Sector Scheme**, fully funded by the Central Government.
- The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the **"Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund"**.
- Beneficiaries in each district will be identified by the State Governments/UT Administrations through a Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector.

### 3 Atal Pension Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objective:**

- To address the longevity risks among the workers in **unorganised sector** who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.

**Target group:**

- APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of **18 to 40** years and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.
- The APY will be focussed on all citizens in the **unorganised sector**, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and **who are not** members of any statutory social security scheme.

**Salient Features:**

- Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the **age of 60 years**.
- The existing subscribers of **Swavalamban Scheme** would be automatically migrated to APY, unless they opt out.
- The monthly pension would be available to the subscriber, and after him to his spouse and after their death, the pension corpus, as accumulated at age 60 of the subscriber, would be returned to the nominee of the subscriber.
- Administered by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority**.
- The **Central Government would also co-contribute 50% of the total contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum**, whichever is lower, for a period of 5 years for those eligible subscribers who joined the scheme between the period 1st June, 2015 and 31st March, 2016 and who are not members of any statutory social security scheme and who are not income-tax payers.

### 4 Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objective:**

- Extend life insurance cover to people both in case of **natural deaths or accidents**.

**Target group:**

- Available to people in the age group of **18 to 50** and having a bank account. This scheme will be linked to the bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme.

**Salient Features:**

- Premium:** Rs. 330 per annum excluding service tax, which is above 14% of the premium. It will be **auto-debited in one installment**.
- Risk Coverage:** **Rs. 2 Lakh** in case of death for any reason.
- Payment Mode:** The payment of premium will be directly auto-debited by the bank from the subscribers account.
- Terms of Risk Coverage:** A person has to **opt for the scheme every year**. He can also prefer to give a long-term option of continuing, in which case his account will be auto-debited every year by the bank.
- Implemented by **Life Insurance Corporation** and all other life insurers who are willing to join the scheme and tie-up with banks for this purpose.

## 5 Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objective:**

- Insurance subscriber will get annual life insurance in case of accidental death, partial disability or full disability.

**Target group:**

- Available to people in age group **18 to 70 years** with bank account.

**Salient Features:**

- Premium:** **Rs. 12 per annum**.
- Payment Mode:** The premium will be directly **auto-debited** by the bank from the subscribers account. This is the **only mode available**.
- Terms of Risk Coverage:** A person has to **opt for the scheme every year**. He can also prefer to give a long-term option of continuing in which case his account will be auto-debited every year by the bank.
- Risk Coverage:** **For accidental death and full disability - Rs. 2 Lakh** and for **partial disability - Rs. 1 Lakh**.
- Implementation:** The scheme would be offered/administered through **Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs)** and other **General Insurance Companies** willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with Banks for this purpose.

## 6 National Pension Scheme

**Ministry/Authority:**

- The scheme is regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is a **pension cum investment scheme** launched to provide old age security to citizens.

**Target group**

- Any individual citizen of India (**both resident and Non-resident**) in the age group of **18-65 years** can join NPS.

**Salient features:**

- The different sectors covered under the scheme are classified in to 2 categories.
- The employee of the various sectors contributes towards pension from monthly salary along with matching contribution from the employer (central government/state govt/corporate).
- After retirement or exit from the scheme, the corpus is made available with the mandate that some portion of the corpus must be invested into annuity to provide a monthly pension post retirement or exit from the scheme.

**7****Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana**

**Ministry/Authority:** The scheme is administered through LIC.

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is a pension scheme for the benefit of citizens aged **60 years and above**.

**Target group:**

- Citizens aged 60 years and above.

**Salient features:**

- Under the Scheme the subscribers on payment of a lump sum amount get pension at a guaranteed rate of **9% per annum (payable monthly)**.
- Any gap in the guaranteed return over the return generated by the LIC on the fund is compensated by Government of India by way of subsidy payment in the scheme.
- The scheme allows withdrawals of deposit amount by the annuitant **after 15 years of purchase of the policy**.

**8****Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Communications

**Aim/Objective:**

- To provide affordable **life insurance** services to people, particularly those living in **rural areas** of the country.

**Salient Features:**

- In a bid to provide affordable life insurance services to people, particularly those living in rural areas of the country, the government has launched Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and **expanded the coverage of Postal Life Insurance (PLI)**.
- Under Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, at least one village (having a **minimum of 100 households**) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, wherein endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one **RPLI** (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each.
- Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.
- Under the scheme expansion of clientele base of PLI; it has now been decided that benefits of **PLI** will no more be confined to Government and semi-Government employees, but will **also be available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Chartered**

**Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. and to employees of listed companies of NSE (National Stock Exchange) and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).**

- The decision has been taken to enlarge the cover of social security and bring maximum number of people under the protection of Postal Life Insurance (PLI).

## 9 Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

**CONTEXT:** The Government of India has launched Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY), to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs). This scheme has been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

**Ministry:** Union Ministry of Rural Development

### **Aim/Objective:**

- The main objective of AGEY is to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of SHGs under DAY-NRLM by **facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.**
- This will provide safe, affordable and community-monitored rural transport services like **e-rickshaws, three and four wheeler motorised transport vehicles** to connect remote villages with key services and amenities including access to markets, education and health for the overall economic development of the area.
- The sub-scheme will be implemented in **250 blocks in the country** on a pilot basis for a period of three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

### **About Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana:**

- The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through **sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.**
- The financial support under the programme is mainly in the form of **Revolving Fund** and **Community Investment Funds**, given as grants to the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations.
- The programme has a special focus on women empowerment including a dedicated component for promoting farm and non-farm based livelihoods for women farmers in rural areas. In addition, start-up enterprises at village levels are also supported to promote entrepreneurial activities in those areas.

## 10 Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

**Ministry/Authority:** Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India

### **Aim/Objective:**

- PMVVY is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above which is available from May 2017 to May, 2018.

**Target group:** Senior citizens

### **Salient Features:**

- The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the **sole privilege** to operate this Scheme.

- Scheme provides an assured return of **8% p.a.** payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) **for 10 years.**
- The scheme is **exempted from Service Tax/ GST.**
- On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, Purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.
- **Loan upto 75% of Purchase Price shall be allowed after 3 policy years** (to meet the liquidity needs). Loan interest shall be recovered from the pension installments and loan to be recovered from claim proceeds.
- The scheme also **allows for premature exit** for the treatment of any critical/terminal illness of self or spouse. On such premature exit, **98% of the Purchase Price shall be refunded.**
- **On death** of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the **Purchase Price shall be paid to the beneficiary.**

## 11 Housing for all (URBAN)

**Ministry:** Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation

**Aim/Objective:**

- To achieve objective of **"Housing for All"** Mission in Urban areas.

**Target group:**

- The target beneficiaries of the scheme would be poor and people living under **EWS and LIG categories in urban establishments of the country.**

**Salient Features:**

- Construct more than two crore houses across the length and breadth of the nation.
- The government would provide an **interest subsidy of 6.5%** on housing loans availed by the beneficiaries for a **period of 15 years** from the start of loan.
- The houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana would be allotted to preferably the female member of the family.
- All details of **"Housing for All by 2022"** Mission are also applicable here.

## 12 Start Up India Scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Aim/Objective:**

- To build a strong eco-system for **nurturing innovation and start-ups in the country** which will drive economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

**Salient Features:**

- Simple Compliance Regime for start-ups based on **Self-certification.**
- Launch of Mobile app and Portal for compliance and information exchange.
- **Start-up India Hub** to handhold start-ups during various phases of their development.
- Legal support and fast-tracking patent examination at reduced costs.
- Relaxed norms of public procurement for start-ups.
- Modified and more friendly Bankruptcy Code to ensure 90-day exit window.

- Providing funding support through a **Fund of Funds** with a corpus of Rupees Rs. 10,000 crore.
- **Credit guarantee** fund for start-ups.
- **Tax exemption** on capital gains invested in Fund of Funds.
- **Tax exemption to start-ups for 3 years.**
- Organizing Start-up Fests to showcase innovations and providing collaboration platforms.
- Setting up of 7 new research parks modeled on the Research Park at IIT Madras.
- New schemes to provide IPR protection to start-ups and new firms.
- Innovation hub under **Atal Innovation Mission**.
- The initiative provides for creating a credit guarantee fund for start-ups **through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore per year for the next four years.

## 13 Stand up India Scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objective:**

- To promote entrepreneurship among **Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women** for loans in the range of **Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 100 Lakhs**.

**Salient Features:**

- Composite loan between Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 100 lakh, inclusive of working capital component for setting up any new enterprise.
- Debit Card (RuPay) for withdrawal of working capital.
- Credit history of borrower to be developed.
- **Refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** with an initial amount of Rs.10,000 crore.
- Creation of a **corpus of Rs. 5,000 crore for credit guarantee through NCGTC**.
- Handholding support for borrowers with comprehensive support for pre loan training needs, facilitating loan, factoring, marketing etc.
- **Web Portal** for online registration and support services.

## 14 Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objective:**

- To promote & ensure **bank finance to unfunded segments of the economy**.

**Target group:**

- Any citizen, who is otherwise **eligible to take loan and has a business plan for a small business enterprise**, can avail MUDRA loan **up to Rs.10 lakh**.

**Salient Features:**

- It will finance to "Last Mile Financiers" of small/micro businesses. **The lending priority will be given to SC/ST enterprises.**
- To provide formal access of financial facilities to Non-Corporate Small Business Sector (NCSBS). All loans sanctioned on or after April 08, 2015 upto a loan size of Rs. 10 lakh for non-farm income generating activities will be branded as PMMY loans.

**Target Clients:**

- Non-Corporate Small Business Segment (NCSB) comprising of proprietorship/partnership firms running as small manufacturing units, service sector units, shopkeepers, fruits/vegetable vendors, truck operators, food-service units, repair shops, machine operators, small industries, artisans, food processors and others, in rural and urban areas.
- Schemes under PMMY:
- Borrowers can avail loan facility from **any Public/Private/ Regional Rural Banks, NBFCs and MFIs.**
- **No processing fee for loans up to Rs. 50,000/- (SHISHU category).**
- Banks have been mandated by RBI **not to insist for collateral security in the case of loans up to Rs. 10 lakh** extended to the units in the Micro Small Enterprises sector.
- Activities allied to Agriculture have been included under PMMY from April, 2016 onwards.
- All credit related matters of banks including charging of interest (ROI) have been deregulated by RBI and are governed by the banks' own lending policies.]

**15****Krushak Assistance for Livelihood & Income Augmentation (KALIA)**

**CONTEXT:** Proposed by the Government of Odisha, KALIA scheme brings under its umbrella 92% of cultivators of the state and almost all needy landless cultivators, who can avail the benefits of this scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode.

**Ministry:** State government of Odisha

**Aim/Objective:**

- Financing agriculture and insuring the cultivators is essential to **eradicate poverty** and to boost shared prosperity of the state.
- Through the implementation of KALIA Scheme, the State Government aims to **lend farmers with an all inclusive and flexible support system**, ensuring accelerated agricultural prosperity.

**Target group:** Farmers

**Salient features:**

- Amounting to over RS. 10,000 crore the scheme has been tailored to relieve the debt ridden farmers from the debt trap, keeping a pragmatic vision to directly attack poverty by **providing financial assistance to the vulnerable agriculture households, landless labourers as well as marginal cultivators of the state.**
- At the heart of a progressive scheme like KALIA lies the motivation to empower the farmers of the state with finance options that will enable the growth and development of agriculture in Odisha.
- Enhancement of the accessibility to suitable financial services will further ensure agricultural productivity and increase income among farmers, particularly the small and marginal land holders.

**16****Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

**Aim/Objective:**

- It aims at developing the skills of urban youth in order to make them **self reliant and capable of earning meaningful livelihoods.**

**Salient Features:**

- **Employment through Skill Training and Placement** - An expenditure of **Rs. 15,000 per person** is allowed on training of urban poor which is Rs. 18,000 in North-East and J&K. Moreover, training urban poor to meet the enormous demand from urban citizens by imparting market-oriented skills through City Livelihood Centers.
- **Social Mobilization and Institution Development** - It will be done through formation of **Self-Help Groups (SHG)** for training members and hand holding, an initial support of Rs. 10,000 is given for each group. Assistance of Rs. 50,000 is provided to Registered Area Level Federations.
- **Subsidy to urban poor** - An **interest subsidy of 5%-7%** for setting up individual micro-enterprises with a loan of up to 2 lakh and for group enterprises with a loan limit of up to Rs. 10 lakhs.
- **Shelters for urban homeless** - **Cost of construction of shelters for urban homeless is fully funded** under the Scheme.
- **Other means** - Development of vendor markets and also the promotion of skills for the vendors through setting up infrastructure and special projects for the rag picker and differently abled etc.

## 17 Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for enhancing the scope of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Labour & Employment

**Aim/Objective:**

- The **informal sector workers** would get social safety net and there would be more job creation.

**Salient Features:**

- The Government of India will now contribute the Employer's full admissible contribution for the **first three years** from the date of registration of the **new employee for all the sectors** including existing beneficiaries for their remaining period of three years.
- Till now, the scheme has produced quite encouraging results and have added about 31 Lakhs beneficiaries to the formal employment involving an expenditure of more than Rs. 500 crore.
- PMRPY has been in operation since **August, 2016**.
- In this scheme, **Government is paying the 8.33% contribution of Employers to the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) in respect of new employees (who have joined on or after 1st April 2016) having a new Universal Account Number (UAN), with salary up to Rs. 15,000/- per month.**
- The scheme has a dual benefit i.e. on the one hand the employers are incentivized for increasing the employment base of workers in the establishments, and on the other hand a large number of workers will find jobs in such establishments.

## 18 Udyam Abhilasha

**CONTEXT:** SIDBI launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objective:**

- The objectives of the missionary campaign includes :-

- to inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise,
- to impart trainings through digital medium across the country,
- to create business opportunities for CSC VLEs,
- to focus on women aspirants in these aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship and
- to assist participants to become bankable and avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise.

#### **Salient Features:**

- **SIDBI** has partnered with **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited**, a Special Purpose Vehicle, (CSC SPV) set up by the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India for implementing the campaign through their CSCs.
- SIDBI is also taking-up with stakeholders including Banks, NABARD, NBFCs, SFBs, District Industries Centres, State Govt. etc. to be a part of this campaign and ensure multi-fold impact.
- Further, CSC Village Level entrepreneurs (VLEs) would play role of catalyst for these aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Apart from training, VLEs would also provide handholding support to the aspirants to establish new units by assisting them in availing loans for their enterprise and making them aware about various initiatives of Government of India like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, SUI etc. and educate the youths in these districts on business literacy.

## **19 Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme**

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- SVEP is aimed at creating an ecosystem for rural population to be able start their own enterprises for sustainable livelihood.

#### **Salient features:**

- To be launched on the lines of the **DDU-GKY** to generate livelihood through self-employment.
- Loans will be made available through Self Help Groups for starting the enterprise.

## **20 Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister approved the continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond 12<sup>th</sup> Plan for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs.5,500 crore.

#### **Ministry:**

- PMEGP is a major **credit-linked subsidy programme** being implemented by the Ministry of MSME since 2008-09.

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- The Scheme is aimed at **generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector** by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth in rural as well as urban areas. Following modifications/improvements have been made in the Scheme:

**Salient Features:**

- Scheme will create sustainable estimated employment opportunities for **15 lakh persons in three financial years.**
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** is the **nodal implementation agency** at the national level. At the State/district level, State offices of KVIC, Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industry Centres (DIC) are the implementing agencies. Applications are invited and processed on-line on PMEGP-e-portal. Targets are fixed taking into account:
  - ▶ Extent of backwardness of State;
  - ▶ Extent of unemployment;
  - ▶ Extent of fulfillment of previous year targets;
  - ▶ Population of State/Union Territory; and
  - ▶ Availability of traditional skills and raw material.
- A minimum target of 75 project / district is awarded to all districts of the country to achieve Inclusive Growth. Higher rate of subsidy (25% to 35%) will be applicable for women, SC/ST, OBC, Physically Disabled, NER applicants in rural areas.

## 21 Self-Employment & Talent Utilisation (SETU)

**Ministry/Authority:** Under NITI Aayog

**Aim/Objective:**

- Support all aspects of start up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas.

**Salient Features:**

- SETU will be a Techno-Financial, Incubation and Facilitation Programme to support all aspects of start up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas.
- An amount of **Rs. 1000 crore** is being set up initially in **NITI Aayog for SETU.**
- It will involve setting up of **incubation centres** and enhance skill development.
- It aims to create around 100,000 jobs through start-ups.

## 22 Atal Innovation Mission

**Ministry/Authority:** Under NITI Aayog

**Aim/Objective:**

- To give substantial boost to the innovation ecosystem and to **catalyse the entrepreneurial spirit in the country.**

**Salient Features:**

- The Mission would be guided by a **Mission High Level Committee (MHLC)** which will take all decisions relating to approval of requisite guidelines including Grand Challenge areas, prize money and implementation of various elements of AIM.
- NITI Aayog will hire **Mission Director** and other appropriate manpower.
- The **headquarter of the Mission will be New Delhi.**
- Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs.
- **Innovation promotion:** to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated.

## 23 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Aim/Objective:**

- To impart skill training to youth, focussing on improved curricula, better pedagogy and trained instructors.

**Target group:** It will cover 24 lakh youths.

**Salient Features:**

- It is a **skill certification and monetary reward** scheme.
- The training includes soft skills, personal grooming, behavioural change et al.
- The Skill training would be based on the **National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards**.
- Focus on improved curricula, better pedagogy and better trained instructors.
- Under the scheme, a monetary reward is given to trainees on assessment and certification by third party assessment bodies. The average **monetary reward is around Rs. 8,000 per trainee**.
- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is the implementing agency.

## 24 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra for Skilling in Smart Cities

**CONTEXT:** India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in smart cities was inaugurated in New Delhi.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development

**Aim/Objective:**

- The main aim behind the move is to bring momentum in skilling through collaborative efforts.

**Salient features:**

- The Centre is emphasizing on the commitment of the Union Government to support skilling in smart cities.
- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, an executive arm of Skill Development Ministry, has collaborated with New Delhi Municipal Council Smart City Limited for the following:
  - To extend cooperation for setting up of PMKK Centres for Smart Cities.
  - To provide skill training for unemployed youth through its short-term training (STT) module.
  - Contribute to the capacity building of municipal employees through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program.

## 25 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is the **skilling and placement initiative** of the Ministry of Rural Development.

**Target group:**

- It aims to target youth, under the **age group of 15-35 years**.

**Salient Features:**

- A corpus of Rs. 1,500 crore and is aimed at enhancing the employability of rural youth.
- Under this programme, disbursements would be made through a **digital voucher** directly into the student's bank account as part of the government's skill development initiative.
- The DDU-GKY projects are **market linked and implemented in PPP mode**. The involvement and partnership between civil society organizations, Educational institutions, apex skill partners and regulating organizations, the Government and Private organizations, ensures that DDU-GKY can leverage on the strengths of all and achieve transformative change.

## 26 National Skill Development Mission

**Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Aim/Objective:**

- Provide a strong institutional framework at the Centre and States for implementation of skilling activities in the country and to **train 40.2 crore people by 2022**.

**Salient Features:**

- The Mission has been developed to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities.
- It would not only consolidate and coordinate skilling efforts, but also expedite decision making across sectors to achieve skilling at scale with speed and standards.
- It will be implemented through a streamlined institutional mechanism driven by **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- Institutional mechanisms is three tiered:
  - **Governing Council** for policy guidance at apex level.
  - **Steering Committee**.
  - **Mission Directorate** (along with an Executive Committee) as the executive arm of the Mission.
- **Mission Directorate will be supported by three other institutions:**
  - National Skill Development Agency (NSDA).
  - National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Directorate General of Training (DGT).
- Seven sub-missions have been proposed initially to act as building blocks for achieving overall objectives of the Mission. They are:
  - Institutional Training.
  - Infrastructure.
  - Convergence.
  - Trainers.
  - Overseas Employment.
  - Sustainable Livelihoods.
  - Leveraging Public Infrastructure.

27

## National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

**CONTEXT:** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister gave its approval for restructuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Aim/Objective:**

- To strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring framework.

**Salient Features:**

- The restructuring will ensure better corporate governance, transparency and accountability in operations of NSDC besides strengthening the oversight role of NSDF.
- **NSDC and NSDF were set up by the Ministry of Finance** and registered in July, 2008 and January, 2009 respectively for implementing coordinated action for skill development.
- NSDF trust was incorporated to act as a receptacle for financial contributions from Governmental sources, bilateral/multilateral and other agencies.
- Its main objective is to enhance, stimulate and develop the skills of Indian youth force by various sector specific programmes.
- NSDF entered into an **Investment Management Agreement (IMA)** with NSDC for utilization of its corpus to meet the desired objectives of National Skill Development Mission and encourage skill development in the country.
- Provision of supervisory role of NSDF over NSDC's functions is also included in the IMA between NSDC and NSDF.

28

## National Council for Vocational Education and Training, NCVET

**CONTEXT:** Cabinet approves merger of National Council for Vocational Training, NCVT and National Skill Development Agency, NSDA to establish National Council for Vocational Education and Training, NCVET.

**Aim/Objective:**

- NCVET will **regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training**, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.

**Salient Features:**

• **Primary functions:**

- ▶ recognition and regulation of awarding bodies, assessment bodies and skill related information providers;
- ▶ approval of qualifications developed by awarding bodies and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs);
- indirect regulation of vocational training institutes through awarding bodies and assessment agencies;
- research and information dissemination;
- Grievance redressal.

• **Benefits:**

- ▶ This institutional reform will lead to improvement in quality and market relevance of skill development programs lending credibility to vocational education and training **encouraging**

**greater private investment and employer participation** in the skills space. This in turn will help achieve the twin objectives of **enhancing aspirational value of vocational education and of increasing skilled manpower** furthering the Prime Minister's agenda of making India the skill capital of the world.

- ▶ Being a regulator of India's skill ecosystem, NCVET will have a positive impact on each individual who is a part of vocational education and training in the country.
- ▶ The idea of skill-based education will be seen in a more inspirational manner which would further encourage students to apply for skill-based educational courses.
- ▶ This is also expected to facilitate the ease of doing business by providing a steady supply of skilled workforce to the industry and services.

#### • **Background:**

- ▶ In an effort to realize India's demographic dividend, its workforce needs to be equipped with employable skills and knowledge so that they can contribute to economic growth in a substantive manner.
- ▶ In the past, most of the country's skill training needs were met through courses offered by the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) **and under the Modular Employable Scheme (MES), regulated by NCVT.**
- ▶ Since this infrastructure was not enough to meet the increasing skill requirements of the country as well as the skilling needs of the growing workforce, the Government took a number of initiatives to scale up the skilling efforts. These efforts resulted in a large expansion of training infrastructure much of which is in the private sector. At present, there are **20 Ministries/ Departments** implementing skill development programs mostly **using private sector training providers.**
- ▶ However, in the absence of adequate regulatory oversight, numerous stakeholders have been offering training programs of varying standards with multiplicity in assessment and certification systems which are not comparable, with serious consequences for the vocational training system and thus the employability of the country's youth.
- ▶ An attempt towards some measure of regulation was made with the establishment of the **National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) in 2013**, to coordinate and harmonize the skill development efforts of the government and the private sector. The primary role of NSDA has been to anchor and operationalize the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to ensure that quality and standards meet sector specific requirements.
- However, a need was felt for an overarching regulatory authority which could tend to all aspects of short-term and long-term skill-based training. In view of this, NCVET is envisaged as an institution which will perform the regulatory functions so far vested in NCVT and NSDA.

## 29 YUKTI

Yukti aims at Skill Development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood.

## 30 UDAAN

**CONTEXT:** It is a Special Industry Initiative for Jammu & Kashmir in the nature of partnership between the corporates of India and Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs

**Aim/Objective:**

- The programme aims to provide skills training and enhance the employability of unemployed youth of J&K.

**Salient features:**

The Scheme covers **graduates, post graduates and three year engineering diploma holders**. It has two objectives:

- To provide an exposure to the unemployed graduates to the best of Corporate India; and
- To provide Corporate India, an exposure to the rich talent pool available in the State.

**31 TREAD**

**CONTEXT:** The Government of India has launched a scheme titled “Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development” (TREAD)

**Ministry:**

- The **Office of the Development Commissioner (SSI) in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries** is responsible for the implementation of this scheme.

**Aim/Objective:**

- **Economic empowerment of women** through the development of their entrepreneurial skills in non-farm activities.

**32 PM Yuva Scheme****Aim/Objective:**

- To encourage skill development for youth by providing monetary rewards for successful completion of approved training programs.

**Salient Features:**

- Encourage standardization in the certification process and initiate a process of creating a registry of skills.
- Increase productivity of the existing workforce and align the training and certification to the needs of the country.
- Provide Monetary Awards for Skill Certification to boost employability and productivity of youth by incentivizing them for skill trainings.
- Reward candidates undergoing skill training by authorized institutions at an average monetary reward of Rs. 10,000 per candidate.
- **Benefit 10 lakh youth at an approximate total cost of Rs. 1,000 crores.**

**33 National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS)**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Human Resource Development.

**Aim/Objective:**

- **On the job training for duration of 1 year** is given to the apprentice with the concept of ‘Earning while learning’. Aiming at technical skilling & certification of people with on the job training module.

**Target group:**

- The applicant student should have a **diploma in engineering or graduation in engineering or A + 2 vocational qualification.**

## 34 Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres

**CONTEXT:** The government will set up 'Garib Nawaz' skill development centres in 100 districts of the country.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To offer **employment-oriented training** to the youth from **minority communities.**

**Salient feature**

- The course will include training in use of latest technology and machines in cleaning and preparation of compost from biodegradable garbage.

## 35 Swachhta Udyami Yojana

**Ministry/Authority:**

- **National Safari Karmacharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC)** is implementing the scheme.

**Aim/Objective:**

- It aims to provide **livelihood to Safai Karmacharis** and **liberated Manual Scavengers** and also **promote cleanliness.**

**Target group:**

- Safai Karmacharis particularly manual scavengers.

**Salient features:**

- NSKFDC provides concessional loan to
  - ▶ Entrepreneurs among safai karmacharis and identified manual scavengers including women beneficiaries.
  - ▶ For viable community toilet projects and sanitation related vehicles to collect the garbage, to consolidate the ongoing efforts for realising the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Health & Food Security Schemes & Initiatives

1

## Ayushman Bharat

**CONTEXT:** Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojna (PMJAY-Ayushman Bharat) scheme in Ranchi in September 2018.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- Setting up of health and wellness centers all over India to provide extensive primary medical services to the poor, vulnerable families.
- Granting health insurance coverage to **about 40 percent of the population** deprived of basic healthcare services.

**Salient Features:**

- Deemed the world's largest Government-funded health care programme. It is expected to have a far-reaching impact on country's healthcare and insurance landscape.
- Beneficiaries of health insurance under the scheme will include **50 crore economically weak citizens of India as defined in the social, economic and ethnic census 2011 database**. It will cover **both rural (8.03 crore) and urban (2.33 crore) families**.
- Ayushman Bharat will subsume the existing **Rashtriya Sawasthya Bima Yojna**, launched in 2008 and the Senior Citizens Health Insurance Scheme.
- It will provide a benefit cover of **Rs 5 lakh/year/family**.
- Expenses incurred will be shared between Centre and States in **60:40 ratio**.
- The Government aims to open **5 lakh health and wellness centre by 2022** that will be equipped to treat various diseases.
- Ayushman Bharat will take care of **secondary care and tertiary care** procedures and also cover **pre and post-hospitalisation expenses**.
- Cashless benefits will be allowed from **any public or private empanelled hospitals**. Such empanelled hospitals will have 'Ayushman Mitra' to assist patients.
- Benefits can be availed from **any place in India and no hospital can refuse treatment under this scheme**.
- Guidelines have been given by the Government about families that can't avail the benefits under the scheme. For example- Families with credit card limit of over Rs 50,000, families where a member has a government job, etc.
- If implemented properly, the scheme will bring the nation closer to the Sustainable Development Goal of Universal Health Coverage.

**Analysis:**

- **In-patient hospitalization expenditure in India has increased nearly 300%** during last ten years. (NSSO 2015). More than 80% of the expenditure are met by out of pocket (OOP).
- Rural households primarily depended on their 'household income / savings' (68%) and on 'borrowings' (25%), the urban households relied much more on their 'income / saving' (75%) for financing expenditure on hospitalizations, and on '(18%) borrowings. (NSSO 2015).
- Out of pocket (OOP) expenditure in India is over 60% which leads to nearly 6 million families getting into poverty due to catastrophic health expenditures.

## 2 National Health Mission

**Aim/Objective:**

- Reduce MMR to 1/1000 live births
- Reduce IMR to 25/1000 live births
- Reduce TFR to 2.1
- Prevention and reduction of anaemia in women aged 15–49 years.
- Prevent and reduce mortality & morbidity from communicable, non- communicable; injuries and emerging diseases.
- Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure.
- Reduce annual incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis by half.
- Reduce prevalence of Leprosy to <1/10000 population and incidence to zero in all districts
- Annual Malaria Incidence to be <1/1000
- Less than 1 per cent microfilaria prevalence in all districts
- Kala-azar Elimination by 2015, <1 case per 10000 population in all blocks

**Salient features:**

- The Mission has two sub missions such as **National Rural Health Mission** and **National Urban Health Mission**.
- **Public health being a state subject**, the aim is to support States/UTs through NHM, for strengthening their health care delivery systems.

## 3 Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

**CONTEXT:** In the first phase, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) module of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) was launched in selected districts of 7 States (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana & Kerala).

**Integrated Health Information Platform:**

- The **Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)** is a **web-enabled near-real-time electronic information system** that is embedded with all applicable Government of India's e-Governance standards, Information Technology (IT), data & meta data standards to provide state-of-the-art single operating picture with geospatial information for managing disease outbreaks and related resources.

**Key features of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP):**

- **Real time data** reporting (along through mobile application); **accessible at all levels** (from villages, states and central level)

- Advanced data modelling & analytical tools
- GIS enabled Graphical representation of data into integrated dashboard
- Role & hierarchy-based feedback & alert mechanisms
- Geo-tagging of reporting health facilities
- Scope for data integration with other health programs

### Background:

- The **2015 Joint Monitoring Mission report** of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) strongly recommended review and redesign the IDSP surveillance system, including re-prioritization of the list of diseases under the IDSP; assessing the need for collecting more epidemiological data for action, and redefining the required surveillance deliverables.
- It also suggested integration of other disease surveillance platforms that must be explored to contribute towards more efficient EWAR.
- The programme management implications included strengthening disease surveillance in the country with adequate resource allocation, redesigning and upgrading the portal system and dashboard for real-time visualization of data and display of key indicators in the public domain, ensuring adequate numbers of trained human resources and strengthening laboratory systems.
- In December 2016, IDSP, under the oversight of **National Center for Disease Control**, Government of India, conducted the disease re-prioritization workshop and subsequently identified 33 priority health conditions for surveillance.
- In addition, the workshop was also called for an ICT Master Plan and Minimum Data Set for health conditions under surveillance to strengthen early outbreak detection and public health response.
- In May 2017, IDSP conducted a workshop to develop the Minimum Data Set for diseases and health conditions under IDSP. At the request of MoHFW/GoI, WHO Country Office supported the development and design of the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

## 4 Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)

**CONTEXT:** Nikshay Poshan Yojana has recorded slow progress in the last eight months. Of the 18 lakh registered TB patients across the country, only 4.69 lakh, barely 26% of the beneficiary pool, have received cash transfer so far.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

### Aim/Objective:

- The scheme has been set with purpose of monetary assistance to **TB patients** for nutrition needs.

### Salient features:

- It is a **direct benefit transfer (DBT)** scheme for nutritional support to **Tuberculosis (TB) patients** rolled out in April 2018 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The scheme is a **centrally sponsored** scheme under **National Health Mission (NHM)**. Financial norms of NHM in terms of cost sharing are applicable to the scheme.
- The scheme is **not related to Poshan Mission** which is an initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- This scheme is implemented across all States and UTs in India. **All TB patients notified on or after 1st April 2018 including all existing TB patients under treatment are eligible** to receive incentives. The patient must be registered/notified on the NIKSHAY portal.

**Analysis:**

- Financial incentive of **Rs.500/- per month for each notified TB patient** for duration during which the patient is on anti-TB treatment.
- As the scheme is registered under Direct Benefit Transfer, incentives can be distributed in **cash (only via DBT preferably through Aadhaar enabled bank accounts) or in-kind**. The States that have been distributing incentives in-kind are allowed to continue to do so, subject to the condition that the total value of the food basket being distributed must not be less than Rs. 500 per month. Such states where such 'in-kind' support is provided by the state; concurrence should be taken from **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, Government of India.

## 5 Zero Hunger Programme

**Ministry/Authority:**

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** in association with **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, **MS Swaminathan Research Foundation** and **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.

**Aim/Objective:**

- India's ambitious Zero Hunger Programme through interventions in farm sector was launched on occasion of **World Food Day (October 16)** with focus on agriculture, nutrition and health in a symbiotic manner.

**Salient features:**

- The programme consists of organisations of farming system for nutrition, setting up genetic gardens for biofortified plants and initiation of 'Zero Hunger' training.
- A genetic garden for biofortified plants contains germplasm of naturally biofortified crops through plant breeding.
- It has plants and crops that help supplement micro-nutrient deficiencies, including iron, zinc, vitamin A and iodine among others.

## 6 India Health Fund (IHF)

**CONTEXT:** The India Health Fund (IHF) launched by Tata Trusts in collaboration with Global Fund in August 2016 has come forward to financially support innovations and technologies designed to combat tuberculosis (TB) and malaria.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The initiative aims to support new products and strategies that impact entire lifecycle of **malaria and TB**, from **prevention to post-cure recovery**.

**Salient Features:**

- TB and malaria pose long-standing health challenges for India. These two diseases account for over 4.23 lakh deaths and around 15 million lab-confirmed cases every year.
- The IHF initiative will support individuals and organisations with already germinated innovative strategies, services, products, such that they become sustainable and scalable solutions in addressing TB and malaria.
- The initiative is **not a fellowship programme to do research from scratch**. It is long-term exercise aligned with country's goal of **eliminating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030**.
- It will promote innovative solutions such that they are widely accessible and are affordable

- The four areas of research under it are
  - Use of technology and data science to **strengthen surveillance of TB and malaria**, inform early warning systems and improve early detection and prompt treatment.
  - Promote robust **molecular diagnostic facilities** feasible for primary healthcare in low-resource settings;
  - Promote innovations on effective communication strategies that will **prevent transmission of malaria and TB** and enable people to protect themselves from diseases.
  - Research on innovative approaches to vector surveillance.

## 7

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana**

**CONTEXT:** The Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers launched 'Suvidha', a 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

**Aim/Objective:**

- Making quality oxy biodegradable pads available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets Jan Aushadhi Medical Store.
- Reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare by bringing down the rate of the napkin making it easily available for poor women across 586 Indian districts.

**Salient Features:**

- The affordable Suvidha sanitary napkins will be available for **Rs. 2.50 per pad without wing** and **Rs.3.25 for with wings** at over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India.
- It was launched under government's vision of providing Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All.
- It will ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for underprivileged women.
- The **Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India** is expected to decide the manufacturer through a tender process and the pads will be available at all Janaushadhi stores from **May 28, 2018 World Menstrual Hygiene Day**
- These affordable sanitary pads promise to promote hygiene, ensure the ease of disposal, and keep the environment clean.
- **Oxo-biodegradable product is made by blending a pro-degrading additive into it that causes breakdown by oxidation when exposed to heat or sunlight.**
- This will go a long way in making the basic hygiene requirement aid for Women affordable for the underprivileged sections.
- Not only are these pads, branded 'Suvidha', expected to be a third the price of napkins currently available in the market, they will also be environmentally friendly because they are biodegradable.
- The special kendras provide generic drugs, which are **available at lesser prices** but are equivalent in quality and efficiency as expensive branded drugs.
- The government is introducing the Suvidha pads at a time when there has been an increasing demand from women across the country **to waive off the 12% GST on sanitary pads.**

**Analysis:**

- Create awareness among public regarding menstruation hygiene and health.
- Create demand for sanitary napkins through medical practitioners.
- Provide sanitary pads to all section of the society in particular rural women.

- Provide all menstruation related health care products too under the scheme.
- This is a step toward “**waste to wealth management**”.

### Background:

- According to **National Family Health Survey (NHFS) 2015-16**, about **58% of women** aged between 15 to 24 years use locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins and tampons.
- Further, only 48% women in rural areas have access to clean sanitary napkins and about 78% women in urban areas use hygienic methods of protection during menstrual period.
- The use unhygienic aids during menstrual period due to non-affordability of some of branded of sanitary napkins causes fungal infections, Urinary Tract Infection, Reproductive Tract Infection, Cervical cancer and also make women vulnerable to infertility.
- Moreover, the disposal of non-biodegradable sanitary napkins creates a huge environmental problem.

## 8

### Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

**CONTEXT:** The Union Cabinet on May 2, 2018 approved the continuation of **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)** beyond the 12th Five Year Plan for a period of three year from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with the financial outlay of Rs 14,832 crores.

### Aim/Objective:

- The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana was initially approved in March 2006 with an **aim to correct the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare** facilities across the country and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States, in particular.

### Salient Features:

- PMSSY has two components - setting up of **AIIMS** in various states and upgradation of existing Government Medical Colleges (GMC).
- PMSSY will lead to development of apex level medical education and nursing education and connected research facilities.
- It will also lead to creation of tertiary level health care infrastructure through establishment of new AIIMS and will enhance cross linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary level health care facilities.
- The **construction of new AIIMS will be fully funded by the Central Government** and their operations and maintenance expenses will also be fully borne by the Central Government.
- The setting up AIIMS in various states will lead to employment generation for nearly 3000 people in various faculty and non faculty posts in each of the AIIMS. A 960 bedded AIIMS hospital will create a total of 4089 posts.
- Indirect employment generation will also take place due to facilities and services like shopping centre, canteens, etc. in the vicinity of new AIIMS.
- Under each Government Medical Colleges up-gradation project, 8-10 Super Specialty Departments and around 15 new PG seats will be added on an average.
- Each new AIIMS will cater to around 1500 OPD patients every day and around 1000 IPD patients every month.

## 8

**National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project**

**CONTEXT:** The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project.

**Ministry/Authority:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- The project envisions strengthening of evidence-based decision making and developing a platform for citizen and provider-centric services by creating a robust, standardised and secured IT-enabled repository of India's healthcare resources.

**Salient Features:**

- It is country's first ever healthcare establishment census to collect data of all public and private healthcare establishments.
- NHRR will be the ultimate platform for comprehensive information of **both, private and public healthcare establishments including Railways, ESIC, defence and petroleum healthcare establishments.**
- Under the **Collection of Statistics Act 2008**, over 20 lakh healthcare establishments such as hospitals, doctors, clinics, diagnostic labs, pharmacies and nursing homes would be enumerated under this census capturing data on over 1,400 variables.
- The project would create a reliable, unified registry of Country's healthcare resources showing the distribution pattern of health facilities and services between cities and rural areas.
- It would generate real-world intelligence to identify gaps in health and service ratios and ensure judicious health resource allocation and management.
- It would also identify key areas of improvement by upgrading existing health facilities or establishing new health facilities keeping in view the population density, geographic nature, health condition and distance.
- It will provide comprehensive data on all health resources including **private doctors, health facilities, chemists, and diagnostics labs.**
- Establishing a National Health Resource Repository for **evidence-based decision making**, in line with digital India mission.
- Enhancing the coordination between central and state government for optimisation of health resources.
- Improving data accessibility at all levels including State Head of Departments, thus, decentralising the decision making at district and state level.

## 9

**National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme**

**CONTEXT:** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme to control viral hepatitis C on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day (July 28).

**Ministry/Authority:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- The programme aims to combat viral hepatitis and reduce mortality and morbidity associated with it.

**Salient Features:**

- The programme aims at both prevention and treatment of hepatitis which is among leading causes of liver cancer, cirrhosis of liver and acute liver failure.

- It aims to treat **minimum of 3 lakh hepatitis C** cases over a period of three years for eliminating deadly condition by 2030.
- The programme is part of National Health Mission. Under it, **expensive antiviral for hepatitis B and C infections will be made available free of cost at all government hospitals.**
- Under it, expensive antiviral for **hepatitis B and C** infections will be **made available free of cost** at all government hospitals.
- It will set up and upgrade facilities for diagnosis and treatment primarily of hepatitis B and C.
- These designated treatment centres will provide free anti-viral to hepatitis C patients.
- They will also provide hepatitis B vaccine to babies born to mothers carrying the virus within 24 hours of birth.

## 10 National Ayush Mission

**CONTEXT:** Ministry of AYUSH introduced new Central Sector scheme for promoting Pharmacovigilance of AYUSH Drugs.

**Ministry/Authority:** Ministry of AYUSH

**Aim/Objective:**

- Prime objective of the scheme is to develop the culture of documenting **adverse effects and undertake safety monitoring of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs** and surveillance of misleading advertisements appearing in the print and electronic media.

**Salient Features:**

- The scheme intends to facilitate the establishment of three-tier network of **National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPvCC), Intermediary Pharmacovigilance Centres (IPvCCs) and Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centres (PPvCC).**
- **All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, has been **designated as National Pharmacovigilance Centre** for coordinating various activities of the initiative.
- The quality issues and safety concerns of **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy Drugs** have been raised from various sources.
- Ministry of AYUSH felt it necessary in the interest of Public Health to oversee the impact of ASU&H Drugs consumed by the people from the perspective of their safety profile.
- Similarly, publicizing improper drug information in the form advertisements is a matter of concern that needs to be addressed to safeguard the interest of AYUSH drug consumers.
- Pharmacovigilance initiative will facilitate detection of potentially unsafe ASU&H medicines and misleading advertisements for taking regulatory action against them.

## 11 Swasthya Raksha Programme

**CONTEXT:** It is launched to promote health and health education in villages.

**Objectives:**

- To organize Health/Hygiene awareness programme.
- Awareness about cleanliness of domestic surroundings and environment.
- Provide medical aid/incidental support in the adopted Colonies/villages.
- Documentation of demographic information, food habits, hygiene conditions, seasons, lifestyle etc.

- Assessment of health status and propagation of Ayurvedic concept of **pathya-apathya**. The food which is beneficial and nutritional to the body and also gives the happiness to the mind is known as Pathya and opposite to that is known as Apathya.

## 12 Mission Madhumeha

**Ministry/Authority:** National Treatment Protocol

**Aim/Objective:**

- The mission was launched to provide cost-effective treatment and control of non-communicable disease of Diabetes through Ayurveda and is implemented through a specially designed National Treatment Protocol.

## 13 Swachh Bharat Mission

**Ministry:** Ministry of Urban Development (for Urban) and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (for Gramin)

**Aim/Objective:**

- To ensure hygiene, waste management and sanitation across the nation by:
  - Eliminating open defecation.
  - Converting of insanitary toilets to pour flush toilets.
  - Eradicating of manual scavenging.
  - Creating enabling environment for private sector participation in Capital Expenditure and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs.
  - 100% collection and scientific processing/disposal reuse/recycle of Municipal Solid Waste.
  - Strengthening of urban local bodies to design, execute and operate systems.
  - Generating awareness among the citizens about sanitation and its linkages with public health.
  - Bring about a behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices.

**Salient Features:**

- Swachh Bharat Mission has two sub-Missions:
  - Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin); and
  - Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).
- The **funding pattern between the Central Government and the State Government/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) is 75%:25% (90%:10% for North Eastern and special category states)**.
- Enhance the Unit cost of the Individual Household Latrine. It aims to provide every rural family with a toilet by 2019.
- The gap in financing of the aforesaid components could be met by the beneficiary contribution, private funding, and funds with private companies under **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** and the **Swachh Bharat Kosh of the Ministry of Finance**.
- Provision to be included in the Indira Awas Yojana Programme for provision of functional toilets.
- The Mission has following components:-
  - Construction of Household Toilets.
  - Community and Public Toilets.

- Solid Waste Management.
- Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness.
- Capacity Building and Administrative & Office Expenses (A&OE).

## 14 Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2018

**CONTEXT:** The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Movement, to boost nation wide public participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and catalyse the fulfilment of Bapu's dream of a Clean India.

### Aim/Objective:

- It aims at generating **greater public participation towards Swachhta.**

### Salient Features:

- It is being organized in the run up to the fourth anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, on October 2nd, 2018, which will also mark the commencement of the **150th year celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.**
- The Prime Minister urged everyone to be a part of this movement and strengthen the efforts to create a 'Swachh Bharat'.

## 15 Indian Human Microbiome Initiative


**CONTEXT:** Indian Human Microbiome Initiative Project, led by The National Centre for Microbial Resource (NCMR) – National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) has been put up for approval.

### What is Microbiome?

### THE BIG PICTURE

- The Indian Human Microbiome Initiative aims to understand the collection of microbes present on the human body and its role in health and disease
- As a part of the initiative, fecal, oral and skin samples will be collected from **20,000 people** in order to analyze their microbial content
- India has **over 40,000** different genetic groups. Of these, the dominant groups have been selected for the study

A microbiome is a collection of all microbes present at any location, be it soil, plant or the human body



### AMBITIOUS OUTCOME

The project is expected to generate data about the nature and variation of microbiome among healthy individuals in the Indian population. This will help develop simple and cheap solutions to treat many metabolic disorders, including obesity as well as diabetes

### UNDERSTAND GUT BACTERIA

- The gut is the most important organ in the body and the bacteria in the gut affect all aspects of human health, including behaviour, intelligence and longevity
- Alteration of gut microbial population is shown to be responsible for many disorders like diabetes, obesity, inflammatory bowel disease and coronary heart disease, among others

- The collective genome of all micro-organisms contained within the human body, residing inside tissues & bio-fluids is called Human Microbiome. It includes **bacteria, archaea, fungi, protists and viruses**.
- Most of them have either **commensal (co-exist without harming humans) or mutualistic (each benefit from the other)**.
- Different parts of human body including the skin, mammary glands, placenta, uterus, ovarian follicles, lungs, saliva, oral mucosa, conjunctiva, biliary and gastrointestinal tracts, are occupied by characteristic microbial populations.
- The composition of microbiome is shaped by factors such as genetics, dietary habits, age, geographic location and ethnicity. **Human microbiome makes up around 2% of the body mass of the adult.**

### **Importance of the Human Microbiome:**

#### **Microbial communities play a key role in many aspects of host physiology:**

- Metabolism of otherwise complex indigestible carbohydrates and fats
- Production of essential vitamins
- Maintaining immune systems
- Acting as a first line of defense against pathogens
- Influence the susceptibility to certain infectious diseases, as well as contribute to disorders such as obesity and diabetes
- Determines how one responds to a particular drug treatment
- The diversity of microbes that make up human microbiome could lead to novel therapies e.g. an infection caused by a 'bad' bacterial species can be treated by promoting the growth of 'good' bacteria.

### **Human Microbiome Project (HMP):**

- Human Microbiome Project is a **research initiative of US's National Institute of Health** with the mission to generate the resources and expertise needed to characterize the human microbiome and analyze its role in health and disease.
- Launched in 2007, it is focused on **identifying and characterizing human microbial fauna** and elucidating their roles in health and diseases.
- Some methodologies used in HMP are:
  - ▶ **Metagenomics** as a culture-independent method of broad microbial community characterization
  - ▶ Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to provide a "deep" genetic perspective on aspects of a given microbial community, i.e. individual bacterial species

### **Human Microbiome Research in India**

- **India doesn't have a dedicated national human microbiome project.** But, the proposed Indian Human Microbiome Initiative holds a lot of potential.
- The project will include collection of saliva, stool and skin swabs of 20,000 Indians across various ethnic groups from different geographical regions. India provides for a wide range of research with more than 4,500 ethnic groups and presence of two global biodiversity hotspots (**Himalayan range and Western Ghats**).
- Scientists have found that Indian population, particularly tribals, have distinct gut microbiota than individuals from other parts of the world. Such tribal populations largely unaffected by "modern" diet and have lower prevalence of lifestyle diseases and their study would shed some light on mutualism between gut microbiota and the host.

## 15 National Medical Devices Promotion Council

**CONTEXT:** To give a fillip to the medical device sector, which is a sunrise sector, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation announced setting up of a National Medical Devices Promotion Council.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry

### Proposed Structure:

- National Medical Devices Promotion Council will have representations from concerned departments of the Government of India and also healthcare industry and quality control institutions of the country.
- It will be headed by **Secretary of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion**.
- It will get technical support from **Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone, Visakhapatnam**.

### Aim/Objective:

- To work as a facilitating and developmental body for Indian Medical Devices Industry.
- To conduct seminars, workshop and other promotional and networking activities to promote the sector.
- To identify redundant processes and provide technical assistance to simplify the approval processes involved in medical devices industry.
- To work towards making a export driven market in the field.
- To support dissemination and documentation of international norms and standards for medical devices' and promote global best practices.
- To drive a robust and dynamic **Preferential Market Access (PMA) policy**, by identifying the strengths of the Indian manufacturers and discouraging unfair trade practices in imports; while ensuring pro-active monitoring of public procurement notices across India to ensure compliance with PMA guidelines of DIPP and DoP.
- Help validation of Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and other such entities within MDI sector.
- To recommend government various measures to promote the MDI sector.

### Analysis:

- **The Medical Devices Industry (MDI)** plays a critical role in the healthcare ecosystem and is crucial to achieve the goal of health for all citizens of the country. The manufacturing and trade in MDI is growing steadily in double digits. However, it is largely import-driven with imports accounting for over 65 percent of the domestic market.
- The setting-up of the Council will spur domestic manufacturing in this sector as Indian companies and startups have stated moving towards creating innovative products.

## 16 The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)

**CONTEXT:** The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), India's national accreditation body, has secured equivalence for its accreditation programme for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) Certification Bodies in Asia-Pacific region.

### More on News:

- The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) has signed the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)

- **Any industry carrying ISO 45001 certificate with NABCB logo will be recognized in the Asia Pacific region.**
- The NABCB accreditation programme is based on international standards, ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO 45001, applicable for OHSMS.
- **NABCB is the third accreditation body in the Asia Pacific Region to become internationally equivalent in the region, the other two being the accreditation bodies of Hong Kong and Mexico.**

#### **Target group:**

- The immediate beneficiary of this equivalence is the Indian Industry which is exporting products to various countries especially in the Asia Pacific region.
- It can also be used by regulators for establishing confidence in certified units as Goa Government has done by accepting OHSMS certification under NABCB accreditation in lieu of annual audits under Factories' Act.
- Now, **NABCB can facilitate export of Indian goods into the world market** by attesting that these are certified as per international standards by competent certifying bodies.

#### **Salient features:**

- Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring that accredited Certification Bodies (CBs) are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation.
- Accreditation has become an essential tool for getting acceptance of inspection, testing and certification done in India internationally and it is referenced in many bilateral Free Trade Agreements like the India – Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in which NABCB accreditation is a requirement for certification of electrical/electronic and telecom products. Thus, accreditation eliminates technical barriers to trade and facilitates export of Indian products in world market.

#### **About NABCB:**

- NABCB, a constituent Board of the **Quality Council of India**, is responsible for accreditation of Certification/inspection bodies as per applicable international standards under an international system of equivalence.

## **17 Ujjawala Yojana**

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet has approved the increase in the target for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana, meant to provide LPG connections to rural women, to eight crore from the earlier five crore, adding that this has to be achieved by 2020. It also approved an additional allocation for the scheme of 4,800 crore.

- The revised target will be achieved by 2020. In addition to the households identified under the Socio Economic Caste Census, the scheme will cover **all SC/ST households, beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana, and forest dwellers, among others.**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- To **empower women and protect their health by shifting them from traditional cooking based on unclean cooking fuels** or on fossil fuels to clean cooking gas.

#### **Salient Features:**

- The Ujjawala Yojana was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2016 from Maldepur Morh, Ballia in Uttar Pradesh.

- The decision comes in the wake of huge response to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from the women particularly in rural areas and to cover such households not having LPG connection. The revised target of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will be achieved by 2020.
- **Beneficiary:** Under the scheme, **an adult woman member of a BPL will be given deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs. 1,600 per connection by the Centre.** Identification of beneficiaries will be through the **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)** in consultation with state governments and Union territories.
- **Why needed?** According to WHO estimates, about 5 lakh deaths in India alone due to unclean cooking fuels. Most of these premature deaths were due to non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Indoor air pollution is also responsible for a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses in young children. According to experts, having an open fire in the kitchen is like burning 400 cigarettes an hour.
- Providing LPG connections to BPL households will ensure universal coverage of cooking gas in the country. This measure will empower women and protect their health. It will reduce drudgery and the time spent on cooking. It will also provide employment for rural youth in the supply chain of cooking gas
- **Tagline for the scheme: Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.**

## 18

### Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)

**CONTEXT:** A new central sector scheme namely “Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)” has been approved for implementation during 2018-19 and 2019-20.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

**Aim/Objective:**

- To integrate PDS System / Portals of States / UTs with portals of Central Govt. / System.
- Introduction of National Portability to remove restriction on purchase of food grains from the selected cities / districts.
- De-duplication of Ration Cards and beneficiaries.

**Salient Features:**

- The new scheme will bring more transparency and efficiency in distribution of food grains as it will improve the mechanism to identify fake/duplicate ration cards and provide the option to PDS beneficiaries to lift their entitled food grains from the Fair Price Shops of their choice at the national level.
- Presently, **Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi has started portability at the State level**, whereas, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana have also started portability in the few FPS areas within the State.
- All the beneficiaries can purchase wheat and rice at subsidized rates from any Public Distribution System shop. Accordingly, this scheme will **bring transparency and efficiency in distribution of food grains.**
- Government will identify fake / duplicate ration cards under IM-PDS and enable PDS beneficiaries to purchase food grains from any shop of their choice across the nation.

## 19

### Project Dhoop

**CONTEXT:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a nationwide campaign “Project Dhoop” on April 9 in Delhi.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- **To address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD)**, particularly amongst the young people.
- The project aims to encourage schools to **shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, mainly between 11 am to 1 pm** to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.

**Salient Features:**

- It has been launched by FSSAI along with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) as well as North MCD Schools.
- The concept of noon school assembly under it is an innovative and effective concept to ensure that school students get adequate Vitamin D through sunlight, while also opting to choose food products like milk and edible oils that are fortified with Vitamins A and D.
- The launch of project comes in backdrop of rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiency in country as the studies have found that over 90% of boys and girls in various Indian cities are deficient in Vitamin D despite most part of India receiving abundant sunshine all the year through.
- Many factors can contribute to Vitamin D deficiency such as overuse of sun screen, wearing clothes that cover most of the skin, working inside all day in air-conditioned atmosphere among others

**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):**

- It is an autonomous body established under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.**
- The FSSAI has been established under **the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- FSSAI is responsible for **protecting and promoting public health** through the regulation and supervision of food safety.
- The FSSAI is headed by a **non-executive Chairperson, appointed by the Central Government**, either holding or has held the position of not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
- The FSSAI has its **headquarters at New Delhi**. The authority also has 6 regional offices located in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin, and Chennai.

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# Agriculture, Farmer welfare & Rural Development

1

## Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA)

**CONTEXT:** Cabinet approves New Umbrella Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA)

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- The recent scheme is expected to **complement the increase in MSP** which will be translated to farmer's income by way of robust procurement mechanism in coordination with the states.

**Components of PM-AASHA:**

- The new Umbrella Scheme includes the mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers and is comprised of:
  - ▶ Price Support Scheme (PSS),
  - ▶ Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
  - ▶ Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).

**Salient Features:**

- Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives of the Government and in keeping with Government's commitment and dedication for **Annadata**.
- It will help to protect farmers' income which is expected to go long way towards the welfare of farmers.
- Government has already increased **the MSP of Kharif crops** by following the principle of **1.5 times the cost of production**. It is expected that the increase in MSP will be translated to farmer's income by way of robust procurement mechanism in coordination with the State Governments.
- This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.

2

## Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan

**CONTEXT:** The Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare in line with the government's vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- It was launched with an aim to **aid, assist and advice farmers to improve their farming techniques and raise their income.**

**Salient Features:**

- It has been launched from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 till 31st July 2018 during which various activities to **promote best practices** and enhance agriculture income will be undertaken in accordance with an action plan formulated by including various departments of the Ministry such as Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Animal Husbandry Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) etc.
- It will be undertaken in 25 villages with more than 1000 population each in Aspirational District as identified **in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development in accordance with the guidelines of NITI Aayog.**
- In case, the number of villages in a district is less than 25 with more than 1000 population then all the villages will be covered.
- The overall coordination and **implementation will be done by Krishi Vigyan Kendra.**
- Demonstration programmes apart from these activities are also carried out on Micro Irrigation and Integrated Cropping Practice in order to familiarize the farmers with the latest techniques and how it can be implemented at the grass root level.

**Various activities under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan are:**

- Distribution of soil health cards to all the farmers.
- 100% coverage of bovine vaccination for **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in each village.**
- 100% coverage of Sheep and Goat for the eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR )
- Artificial insemination saturation.
- Demonstration programmes on Micro-irrigation and integrated cropping practice etc.
- Distribution of Mini Kits of pulses and oilseeds to all the farmers.
- Distribution of Horticulture/Agro-Forestry/Bamboo plant at the rate of Rs. 5 to each family.

**3****Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) system**

**CONTEXT:** The Niti Aayog released a three-year action agenda for the Centre suggesting the 'Price Deficiency Payment' (PDP) system among other reforms.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Under this, farmers will be compensated for the difference between the MSPs for select crops and their actual market prices.

**Salient Features:**

- The key benefit from the price deficiency payment is that it will **reduce the need for the government to actually procure food crops**, transport and store them and then dispose of them under PDS.
- The PDP system may be more effective than MSPs at ensuring that cropping patterns in India respond to consumer needs.
- It may also ensure that more farmers actually benefit from price support.
- **The difference between the support and market prices can instead simply be paid in cash to the farmer.**
- It is believed that the Price Deficiency Payment can also keep India's bill on food subsidies under check.

**Schemes launched by different state governments:**

- **Mukhya Mantri Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana:**

- It is an ambitious scheme launched to ensure that farmers receive minimum support prices (MSP) for pulses and oil seeds.

- **Bhavantar Bharpai:**

- The **Haryana Government** launched country's first 'Bhavantar Bharpai' a scheme which would come into effect in January through which the state government would compensate farmers for price deficit for agricultural produce in which tomato, onion, potato and cauliflower have been included. It is applicable **only to farmers growing vegetables**.

**4****Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana****CONTEXT: UNDER PMKSY More than 2.6 crore farmers received Rs. 5215 crore****Ministry:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**Aim/Objective:**

- Creation of **modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management** from farm gate to retail outlet contributing to doubling of farmers income.
- Provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country.

**Target group:** Farmers**Salient features:**

- The following schemes will be implemented under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana:
  - Mega Food Parks
  - Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
  - Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/ Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme)
  - Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
  - Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
  - Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
  - Human Resources and Institutions

Analysis: PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is expected to leverage investment of Rs. 31,400 crore for handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valued at Rs. 1,04,125 crore, benefiting 20 lakh farmers and generating 5,30,500 direct/indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20.

**5****Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)****CONTEXT: The Kusum scheme was announced in the Union Budget in 2018.****Ministry:** Minister of State for Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers**Aim/Objective:**

- KUSUM scheme aims to provide **1.75million off-grid agricultural solar pumps** by building 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands.

**Salient Features:**

- As per the scheme, 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands will be built
- Providing sops to DISCOMS so they can purchase the electricity produced
- Solarising existing pumps of 7250 MW as well as solarising government tube wells with a capacity of 8250 MW
- **Farmers will be provided 60% subsidy on solar pumps by the government.** It will be shared between States and Centre whereas 30% will be provided through bank loans. Farmers will bear the balance cost.
- 7.5 lakh solar pumps will be distribution.

**Analysis:**

- The scheme will help in the promotion of decentralized solar power production. It will reduce the transmission losses of discoms and provide support for the improvement of financial health of DISCOMs by the reduction of subsidy which is a burden to agriculture sector. Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme will also **promote water conservation, energy efficiency and provide water security to farmers.**

**6****Krishonnati Yojana**

**CONTEXT:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved continuation of Umbrella Scheme, Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana in agriculture sector beyond 12th Five Year Plan from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The Umbrella scheme comprises of 11 Schemes and Missions.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- The 11 schemes and missions were clubbed together under one umbrella scheme 'Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana in 2017-18.
- They aim to develop agriculture and allied sector in holistic and scientific manner to increase income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.
- They primarily focus on **creating and strengthening of infrastructure of production, reducing production cost and marketing of agriculture and allied produce.**
- These schemes will be now continued for three financial years, i.e., 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 with an expenditure of Rs.33,269 crore.

**Salient features: Schemes part of Green Revolution-Krishonnati Yojana**

- **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):** It aims to promote holistic growth of horticulture sector and also enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm Households.
- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM):** It aims to increase production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops, through area expansion and productivity enhancement in suitable manner in identified districts of country. It will also restore soil fertility and productivity at individual farm level and enhance farm level economy. It also includes National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) which aims to **augment availability of vegetable oils and to reduce the import of edible oils.**
- **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA):** It aims at promoting sustainable agriculture practices best suitable to specific agro-ecology focusing on integrated farming, appropriate soil health management and synergizing resource conservation technology.
- **Submission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE):** It aims to strengthen ongoing extension mechanism of State Governments, local bodies etc. in achieving food and nutritional security and socio-economic empowerment of farmers. It also seeks to institutionalize programme planning and implementation mechanism, forge effective linkages and synergy amongst various stake-

holders, support HRD interventions, promote pervasive and innovative use of electronic and print media, inter-personal communication and ICT tools, etc.

- **Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP):** It aims to increase production of certified and quality seed to increase SRR and upgrade the quality of farm saved seeds. Under it, seed multiplication chain will be strengthened and also new technologies and methodologies in seed production, processing, testing etc. will be promoted to strengthen and modernizing infrastructure for seed production, storage, certification and quality etc.
- **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM):** It aims to increase reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to regions where availability of farm power is low. Under it, Custom Hiring Centres to offset adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership will be promoted. Hubs for hi-tech and high value farm equipment, create awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities will be also created under it.
- **Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ):** It aims to minimize loss to quality and yield of agricultural crops from ravages of diseases, insect pests, nematodes, weeds, rodents, etc. and shield agricultural bio-security from incursions and spread of alien species. It will also facilitate exports of Indian agricultural commodities to global markets and promote good agricultural practices, particularly with respect to plant protection strategies and strategies.
- **Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics (ISACES):** It aims to undertake agriculture census, study of cost of cultivation of principal crops and undertake research studies on agro-economic problems of the country.
- **Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (ISAC):** It aims to provide financial assistance for improving the economic conditions of cooperatives, remove regional imbalances and speed up cooperative development in agricultural marketing, computerization, processing, storage and weaker section programmes. It also will help cotton growers fetch remunerative price for their produce through value addition besides ensuring supply of quality yarn at reasonable rates to decentralized weavers.
- **Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM):** It aims to develop agricultural marketing infrastructure and promote innovative and latest technologies and competitive alternatives in agriculture marketing infrastructure. It also seeks to provide infrastructure facilities for grading, standardization and quality certification of agricultural produce. Under it nation-wide marketing information network will be established to integrate markets through common online market platform to facilitate pan-India trade in agricultural commodities, etc.
- **National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A):** It aims to bring farmer centricity and service orientation to programmes. Under it reach & impact of extension services will be enhanced and access of farmers to information & services throughout crop-cycle will be improved. It will also enhance and integrate existing ICT initiatives of Centre and States and also enhance efficiency and effectiveness of programs through making available timely and relevant information to farmers for increasing their agriculture productivity.

## 7 Rythu Bandhu (Friend of farmers) scheme

**CONTEXT:** Telangana government launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) Scheme, an investment support scheme to support livelihood of farmers.

### Aim/Objective:

- The objective is to help the farmer meet a **major part of his expenses on seed, fertiliser, pesticide, and field preparation.**

**Ministry:** Government of Telangana

### Salient Features:

- Rythu Bandhu is a support scheme for farmers in Telangana, which **provides cheque payments to farmers based on their landholdings.**

- It is first of its kind **investment support scheme** for farmers to be launched by any state in India.
- Under this scheme, farmers will directly get **financial support twice every year** to maximise agricultural production and productivity.
- They will get investment support of Rs **8,000 per acre every year (Rs. 4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season)** as crop investment support.
- About 58 lakh farmers who till over 1.42 crore acres of land in the state are expected to be benefitted from the initiative.
- The state government has already set aside Rs 12,000 crore in the 2018-19 budget exclusively for this scheme.
- The government will issue **cheques rather than make direct benefit transfer (DBT)** because banks might use the DBT money to adjust against farmers' previous dues.

## 8 Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)

**CONTEXT:** Government has approved the continuation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) till 2019-20.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

### **Aim/Objective:**

- To promote balanced use of fertilizers.
- To reduce subsidy burden on the Government.
- To improve availability of fertilizers to farmers.
- To encourage competition among fertilizer companies.

### **Salient Features:**

- The continuation of the Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme and City Compost Scheme will ensure that adequate quantity of P&K is made available to the farmers at statutory controlled price.
- Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual basis, is provided on subsidised P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content.
- Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level which is monitored by the Government.
- Government is making available fertilizers, **namely Urea and 21 grades of P&K fertilizers** to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers and importers.
- The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by **NBS Scheme** which was launched in 2010.

## 9 Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

### **Aim/Objective:**

- To support and **promote organic farming** and thereby improving soil health.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

### **Salient Features:**

- This will encourage farmers to adopt eco-friendly concept of cultivation and reduce their dependence on fertilizers and agricultural chemicals to improve yields.
- Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50 acre land to take up the organic farming under the scheme.

- In this way, during three years, 10,000 clusters will be formed covering 5.0 lakh acre areas under organic farming. There will be no liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification.
- **Every farmer will be provided Rs. 20,000 per acre in three years** for seed to harvesting of crops and to transport produce to the market.
- Organic farming will be promoted by using traditional resources and the organic products will be linked with the market.
- It will increase domestic production and certification of organic produce by involving farmers.

## 10 Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

**CONTEXT:** The Government incorporated the provision of penalties for States and Insurance Companies for the delay in settlement of insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture

**Aim/Objective:**

- The new operational guidelines address the current challenges faced while implementing the scheme by putting forth effective solutions.

**Salient Features:**

- This crucial provision is part of the new operational guidelines issued by the Govt for the implementation of PMFBY.
- The farmers will be paid 12% interest by insurance companies for the delay in settlement claims beyond two months of prescribed cut-off date.
- State Governments will have to pay 12% interest for the delay in release of State share of subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut-off date submission of requisition by insurance companies.
- The new operational guidelines also detail a Standard Operating Procedure for evaluation of insurance companies and remove them from the scheme if found ineffective in providing services.
- The Government has also decided to include perennial horticultural crops under the ambit of PMFBY on a pilot basis.
- The scheme, as per the new operational guidelines provides add on coverage for crop loss due to attack of wild animals, which will be implemented on a pilot basis.

## 11 Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

**Ministry:**

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. State Agriculture Departments to be nodal agencies (Agriculture-State subject Schedule VII of Constitution).

**Aim/Objective:**

- Providing irrigation facilities to every village in the country by converging ongoing irrigation schemes implemented by various ministries and to become “end-to-end” solution in irrigation.

**Salient Features:**

- Converge investments in irrigation at the farm level and provide end-to-end solution.
- **Budgetary allocation:** Rs. 1,000 crore for fiscal year 2015-16.

- **Funding Pattern: Centre-States will be 75:25 per cent.** In case of north-eastern region and hilly states it will be 90:10.
- A state will become eligible to access PMKSY funds **only** if it has prepared the **district irrigation plans and state irrigation plans** and sustained an increasing expenditure trend in irrigation sector in state plan.
- This scheme has amalgamated three ongoing programmes of three different schemes as follows:
  - ▶ Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources.
  - ▶ Integrated Watershed Management Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development.
  - ▶ Farm Water Management component of the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture.
- Providing **soil health cards** to identify suitability of soil for production capability of soil.
- **Har Khet ko Pani:** Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation.
- Identify best nearby water resources in the area.
- Enhance adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies under **More Crop Per Drop**.
- Interlinking of rivers.
- Promotion of micro-irrigation in the form of drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain-guns in the farm (Jal Sinchan).
- Use of satellite imagery and **3D photography** to guide villages to use best possible sources of irrigation.
- Ensure integrated development of Rainfed areas.
- Strengthening of **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** or agriculture science centres in all the districts of the country to aid the Farmers with new technology up gradation for irrigation. Linkage of this scheme with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme to channelize the available work force to productive & value added work.
- Inter-ministerial **National Steering Committee** (NSC) will periodically review these projects.

## 12 Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, approved an initial Corpus of Rs.5,000 crore for setting up of a dedicated "Micro Irrigation Fund" (MIF) with NABARD under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

### **Aim/Objective:**

- The dedicated MIF will supplement efforts of **Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)** Component of PMKSY in an effective and timely manner. It will help to bring about 10 lakh ha of land under irrigation through innovative composite, community and cluster based micro irrigation projects with additional investment in MIF.
- The MIF will facilitate states to mobilise resources for their initiatives, including additional (top up subsidy) in implementation of PMKSY-PDMC to achieve annual target of about 2 Million ha per year **during remaining period of 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission** under PDMC component of PMKSY as recommended by Group of Secretaries.

### **Salient Features:**

- The government estimates the area that can come under micro irrigation at **69.5 million hectares**, compared with the **current coverage of only about 10 million hectares**.
- The states can access this fund for incentivizing micro-irrigation, innovative integrated projects, including projects in the **Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode**.

- The funds can be accessed by State Level Agencies/ Farmers Producers Organization (FPO)/ Cooperatives with state government guarantee or any equivalent collateral.
- The fund may be accessed by the Farmers Co-operatives for innovative cluster based community irrigation projects.
- Under the programme, **NABARD will extend loans to state governments during this period.** The loans can be **paid back in 7 years**, including a **grace period of two years**.

## 13 National Bamboo Mission (NBM)

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Bamboo Mission (NBM) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2018-19 & 2019-20).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

### **Aim/Objective:**

- To increase the area under bamboo **plantation in non-forest Government and private lands** to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change.
- To improve post-harvest management through establishment of innovative primary processing units, treatment and seasoning plants, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation technologies and market infrastructure.
- To promote product development at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industry.
- To rejuvenate the under developed bamboo industry in India.
- To promote skill development, capacity building, awareness generation for development of bamboo sector.

### **Analysis:**

- Bamboo plantation will contribute to optimizing farm productivity and income thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities of small & marginal farmers including landless and women as well as provide quality material to industry. Thus, the Mission will not only serve as a potential instrument for enhancing income of farmers but also contributing towards climate resilience and environmental benefits.
- The Mission will also help in creating employment generation directly or indirectly in both skilled and unskilled segments.

### **Background:**

- **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)** started as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2006-07**, was mainly emphasizing on **propagation and cultivation of bamboo**, with limited efforts on processing, product development and value addition.
- There, was weak linkage between the producers (farmers) and the industry.
- The restructured proposal gives simultaneous emphasis to propagation of quality plantations of bamboo, product development and value addition including primary processing and treatment; micro, small & medium enterprises as well as high value products; markets and skill development, thus addressing the complete value chain for growth of the bamboo sector.

## 14 Mega Food Parks

**CONTEXT:** Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Cremica Food Park, which is the first mega food park of Himachal Pradesh.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)

**Aim/Objective:**

- Providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to ensure maximizing value addition, minimizing wastage, increasing farmers income and creating employment opportunities particularly in rural sector.

**Salient features:**

- The Mega Food Park Scheme is based on **“Cluster” approach** and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri / horticultural zone for setting up of modern food processing units in the industrial plots provided in the park with well-established supply chain.
- Mega food park typically consist of supply chain infrastructure including collection centers, primary processing centers, central processing centers, cold chain and around 25-30 fully developed plots for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units.
- The Mega Food Park project is **implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a Body Corporate registered under the **Companies Act**. State Government, State Government entities and Cooperatives are not required to form a separate SPV for implementation of Mega Food Park project.
- Entrepreneurs looking for fully developed Industrial Plots to setup food processing Units and avail other related services may contact promoters of Mega Food Parks.

## 15 Operation Greens

**CONTEXT:** In the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19, a new Scheme **“Operation Greens”** was announced on the line of **“Operation Flood”**, with an outlay of **Rs.500 crore to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs #), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.**

- Accordingly, the Ministry has formulated a scheme for integrated development of **Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP)** value chain.

**Ministry:** Ministry of food processing industries (MoFPI)

**Aim/Objective:**

- Enhancing value realisation of TOP farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen TOP production clusters and their FPOs, and linking/connecting them with the market.
- Price stabilisation for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses by creation of farm gate infrastructure, development of suitable agro-logistics, creation of appropriate storage capacity linking consumption centres.
- Increase in food processing capacities and value addition in TOP value chain with firm linkages with production clusters.
- Setting up of a market intelligence network to collect and collate real time data on demand and supply and price of TOP crops.

**Salient features:**

- The scheme has two-pronged strategy of **Price stabilisation measures (for short term) and Integrated value chain development projects (for long term).**
- Short term Price Stabilisation Measures
  - NAFED will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilisation measures. MoFPI will provide 50% of the subsidy on the following two components:

- Transportation of Tomato Onion Potato(TOP) Crops from production to storage;
- Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for TOP Crops;
- Long Term Integrated value chain development projects
  - Capacity Building of FPOs & their consortium
  - Quality production
  - Post-harvest processing facilities
  - Agri-Logistics
  - Marketing / Consumption Points
  - Creation and Management of e-platform for demand and supply management of TOP Crops.

#### Operation Greens:

- It was announced in **Union Budget 2018-19** on line of Operation Flood **to promote FPOs, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.**
- It aims to promote farmer producers organisations, processing facilities, agri-logistics and professional management.
- It also aims to aid farmers and help control and limit erratic fluctuations in the prices of **tomatoes, onions and potatoes (TOP).**
- It is essentially **price fixation scheme** that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
- The idea behind it is to double the income of farmers by the end of 2022.

## 16 Price stabilization fund scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs

#### Aim/Objective:

- To help regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses.

#### Salient features:

- The scheme provides for **maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities** for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility and discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.
- For building such stock, the scheme **promotes direct purchase from farmers/farmers' association at farm gate/Mandi.**
- The PSF is utilized for granting interest free advance of working capital to Central Agencies, State/UT Governments/Agencies to undertake market intervention operations.
- Apart from domestic procurement from farmers/wholesale mandis, import may also be undertaken with support from the Fund.

## 17 Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister gave its approval for creation of special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- Creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in marine and inland fisheries sectors.
- To augment fish production to achieve its target of 15 million tonne by 2020 set under the Blue Revolution; and to achieve a sustainable **growth of 8% -9%** thereafter to reach the fish production to the level of about **20 MMT by 2022-23**.
- Employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakh fishers/fishermen/fisherfolk and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.
- To attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- Adoption of new technologies.

**Salient Features:**

- FIDF would provide concessional finance to State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc., for taking up of the identified investment activities of fisheries development.
- Under FIDF, **loan lending will be over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 and maximum repayment will be over a period of 12 years inclusive of moratorium of two years on repayment of principal.**
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and all scheduled Banks will be the nodal loaning entities.**
- The creation of the special fund will enable the creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in marine and inland fisheries sectors.
- It aims to boost fish production and help achieve the **target of producing 15 million tonnes of fish by 2020, which was set under the Blue Revolution.**
- It will also support the government's aim to **achieve sustainable growth of 8 -9 per cent** and thereafter take the fish production to the level of about 20 million tonnes by 2022-23.
- The fund will also boost employment opportunities for over 9.40 lakh fishermen and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.
- It will also attract private investment in the creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- Further, it will encourage the adoption of new technologies in the fisheries sector.

**18****Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise**

**CONTEXT:** Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare launched Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is youth-friendly scheme aimed at **attracting youth to cooperative business ventures.**

**Salient Features:**

- The scheme is linked to **Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC**
- It envisages 2% less than applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal.
- **All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible to avail of the scheme.**

- Under it more incentives will be provided for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST members.
- The funding for the project under this scheme will be **up to 80% of the project cost** for these special categories against 70% for others
- The **NCDChas the unique distinction of being the sole statutory organisation functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector.**
- It supports cooperatives in diverse fields apart from agriculture and allied sectors.
- It is an **ISO 9001:2015** compliant organisation and has a distinctive edge of competitive financing.
- It has extended financial assistance of Rs 63702.61 crore during 2014-2018 (as on November 13), 220% more than Rs 19850.6 during 2010-14.

## 19 Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project

**CONTEXT:** Maharashtra Government launched World Bank assisted State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project to transform rural Maharashtra.

### Aim/Objective:

- The objective of project is to **create and support value chains in post-harvest segments** of agriculture, facilitate agribusiness investment, stimulate SMEs within the value chain.

### Salient Features:

- It will support resilient agriculture production systems, expand access to new and organised markets for producers and enhance private sector participation in the agribusiness.
- The project will be implemented in 10,000 villages of total 40,913 villages in states with objective to achieve sustainable farming within the next three years.
- It will **cover almost one-fourth of Maharashtra**. Its **focus is on villages** which are reeling under worst agriculture crisis compounded by lack of infrastructure and assured value chains to channelize farm produce.
- The project is giant step towards transformation of rural economy and empowerment of farmers and also sustainable agriculture through public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- It seeks to sure higher production of crops and create robust market mechanism to enable farmers to reap higher remunerations for the yield.
- It unites agriculture-oriented corporates and farmers by providing them common platform.
- Its focus is on villages which are reeling under worst agriculture crisis compounded by lack of infrastructure and assured value chains to channelize farm produce.

## 20 Soil Health Card Scheme

### Aim/Objective:

- To issue 'Soil Health Card' to farmers which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilizers required for the individual farms.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture.

### Salient Features:

- This is aimed to help farmers to improve productivity through **judicious use of inputs**.

- Under this scheme, **14 crore Soil Health Cards** are envisaged to be issued over the next 3 years.
- The Soil Health Card is a printed report that will be given to farmers **once in three years** for each of his/her land holding.
- The government plans to distribute 14 crore soil health cards by 2017. (Till January 2018, nearly 10 crore SHC had been distributed).
- It will contain crucial information on:
  - Crop suitability for the type of soil and climate.
  - Macro nutrients in the soil, secondary nutrients and micro nutrients.
  - Fertilizer type to be used.
  - Type of soil.
- The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories for issuing Soil Health Cards to farmers.
- The state governments will prepare yearly action plan on the issue and the cost will be shared in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and states.

## 21 National Agriculture Market

### Aim/Objective:

- Promotion of National Agriculture Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) through provision of the common e-platform.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture

### Salient Features:

- E-National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India e-trading platform.
- It is designed to create a **unified national market for agricultural commodities**.
- Farmers can showcase their produce online from their nearest market and traders can quote price from anywhere.
- **NAM is not replacing the mandis. NAM is an online platform with a physical market or mandi at the backend** enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level.
- It will result in increased numbers of traders and greater competition. It will also ensure open price discovery and better returns to farmers.
- National Agriculture Market is going to be **implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation through Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**.
- It seeks to leverage the physical infrastructure of mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level.
- This e-platform aims to provide more options to farmers to sell their produce and is part of implementation of the roadmap for doubling income of the farmers by 2022.

## 22 RKVY-RAFTAAR

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the continuation of Rashtriya KrishiVikasYojana(RKVY)asRashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) for three years, i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The financial allocation of the scheme will be Rs. 15,722 crore with the objective of making farming as a remunerative economic activity through strengthening the farmer's effort, risk mitigation and promoting agribusiness entrepreneurship.

**Salient features:**

- RKVY-RAFTAAR funds would be provided to the States as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States) through the following streams:
- Regular RKVY-RAFTAAR (Infrastructure & Assets and Production Growth) with 70% of annual outlay to be allocated to states as grants based for the following activities:
  - ▶ Infrastructure and assets with 50% of regular RKVY-RAFTAAR outlay.
  - ▶ Value addition linked production projects with 30% of regular RKVY-RAFTAAR outlay.
  - ▶ Flexi-funds with 20% of regular RKVY-RAFTAAR outlay. States can use this for supporting any projects as per the local needs.
- RKVY-RAFTAAR special sub-schemes of National priorities - 20% of annual outlay; and
- Innovation and agri-entrepreneur development through creating end-to-end solution, skill development and financial support for setting up the agri-enterprise -10% of annual outlay including 2% of administrative costs.
- The scheme will incentivize States in enhancing more allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sectors. This will also strengthen farmer's efforts through creation of agriculture infrastructure that help in supply of quality inputs, market facilities etc. This will further promote agri-entrepreneurship and support business models that maximize returns to farmers.

## 23 AGRI-UDAAN Programme

**CONTEXT:** In an attempt to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, the government is launching a new **AGRI-UDAAN programme that will mentor start-ups** and help them connect with potential investors.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Under the programme, **start-ups will get incubation space** to run their businesses and have access to research laboratories and libraries. **AGRI UDAAN will also help the selected start-ups with regulatory services** like company registration and environmental compliances.
- The programme will help convert innovative ideas from India's rural youth into viable businesses. The idea is to attract the youth from rural India and elsewhere, and train them so they can add value to the farmers' produce.
- It will be **managed by ICAR-NAARM's technology incubator**, a-IDEA along with IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation.
- The programme will shortlist 40 start-ups in the first round who will pitch their ideas to a panel of evaluators. Out of these, between 8 to 12 start-ups will be selected for the final capacity building workshop.
- Following an intensive training lasting six months, the new start-ups will be connected to investors for funding.

## 24 Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme

**Aim/Objective:**

- It was launched for giving the agricultural education to the people.

**Salient Features:**

- The intentions that this particular scheme comes up with are listed in the points given below:
  - ▶ The scheme has come up with some stories where the steps are taken to uplift the cultivation process and that lead to the success of agriculture.
  - ▶ With such schemes the students who are studying agriculture get the opportunity to try and come up with certain solutions that increases the yield in the agricultural field.
  - ▶ This has also helped the nation to have better outcomes from the agricultural field, thus, the farmers are benefited and that can ultimately lead the success of the nation.
  - ▶ The excess yield has also helped the nation to export the grains to other countries and that will earn better profit for the farmers which will indirectly lead to the benefits of the nation.

**25 e-RaKAM**

**CONTEXT:** The Union Government has launched a portal, e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (e-RaKAM). e-RaKAM will provide a platform to sell agricultural produce and strengthen the agriculture-oriented Indian economy.

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is a digital initiative that aims to bring together the PSUs, civil supplies, farmers and buyers on a single platform so that the selling and buying process of agricultural products become smooth.

**Salient features:**

- The e-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to **connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world** through internet and e-RaKAM centres.
- With the help of the platform, various crops whose price increases due to rainfall or bad weather conditions will be managed and get in the market.
- The portal is a **joint initiative by state-run-auctioneer MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation arm CRWC.**

**26 Project CHAMAN**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- To develop sound methodology for **estimation of Horticulture crops** and implement on pilot basis using Sample Survey methodology and Remote Sensing technology.

**Salient features:**

- CHAMAN stands for **Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management.**
- This scheme helps the states to identify suitable areas and horticultural crop types using **satellites and remote sensing technology.**
- It is being **implemented by Delhi-based Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre.**
- The information collected through remote sensing and geoinformatics data is processed to integrate with information on weather, soil, land-use, and crop mapping to prepare horticulture development plans.

## 27 Biotech KISAN

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science and Technology

**Aim/Objective:**

- It aims to understand the **problems of water, soil, seed and market faced by the farmers and provide simple solutions to them.**

**Target group:**

- Farmers, especially women farmers

**Salient features:**

- Biotech-KISAN will connect farmers to best global practices; **training workshops** will be held in India and other countries. **Farmers and Scientists will partner** across the globe.
- The Biotech-KISAN is a **Farmer centric scheme** launched by of the **Department of Biotechnology**, where **scientists will work in sync with farmers** to understand problems and find solutions.
- Developed in consultation with the farmers. **Soil, Water, Seed and Market** are some key points that concern small and marginal farmers. Biotech-KISAN aims to link farmers, scientists and science institutions across the country in a network that identifies and helps solve their problems in a cooperative manner.
- The scheme includes the **Mahila Biotech- KISAN fellowships**, for **training and education in farm practices, for women farmers**. The Scheme also aims to support the women farmers/entrepreneur in their small enterprises, making her a grass root innovator.
- The scheme is targeted towards the least educated marginalised farmer; Scientists will spend time on farms and link communication tools to soil, water seed and market. The aim is to understand individual problems of the smallholding farmers and provide ready solutions.

## 28 Cattle Genomics

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science & Technology

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **predict breeding values of animal, using DNA level information** with performance record, more accurately and identify **genetic worth of animal** (elite animal) at an early age.

**Salient features:**

- The ability to **select elite breeding animal at an early age will help in enhancing productivity at farmer's level in future.**
- Programme is currently in **research mode.**

## 29 Mission Fingerling

**CONTEXT:** Mission Fingerling with a total expenditure of about Rs. 52000 lakh to achieve Blue Revolution.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:** Recognizing the potential and possibilities in the **fisheries sector.**

**Salient features:**

- **Fish Fingerling production** is the single most important critical input visualised to achieve fish production targets under the Mission fingerling.
- To establish more hatchery to produce Fry/PL required for different categories of water bodies.
- Use of High Yielding Varieties of brooders is another significant aspect to be addressed on priority.

**Analysis:**

- The implementation of this program will supplement the requirement of stocking materials in the country up to a large extent, which is a much needed input to achieve the enhanced fish production.

## 30 National Dairy Plan-I

**Ministry/Authority:** National Dairy Development Board

**Aim/Objective:**

- To help **increase productivity of milch animals** and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk.
- To help provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk-processing sector.

**Salient features:**

- **Productivity Enhancement:** This component aims at increasing bovine productivity through a **scientific approach** to animal breeding and nutrition.
- Village based milk procurement systems for weighing, testing quality of milk received and making payment to milk producers.
- Effective coordination of project activities among various EIAs, timely preparation and implementation of annual plans, regular review and reporting of project progress and results, a comprehensive and functional project management information system (MIS) and learning that will support improvement and innovation.

**Analysis: Outputs of NDP-I**

- Production of High Genetic Merit(HGM) cattle and buffalo bulls
  - Production of 2,500 HGM bulls
  - Import of 400 exotic bulls/ equivalent embryos
- Strengthening of "A" and "B" graded Semen Stations
  - Production of 100 million semen doses annually in the terminal year
  - Pilot Model for Viable Doorstep AI delivery Services
  - 3000 MAITs carrying out annual 4 million doorstep AIs by the terminal year

## 31 Pashudhan Sanjivani

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is an **Animal Wellness Programme** encompassing setting up of **Emergency Help Lines**, provision of **Animal Health cards** ('**Nakul Swasthya Patra**') along with UID identification and a National Data Base.

## 32 E-Pashudhan Haat Portal

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is an **e- market portal for bovine germplasm** for connecting breeders and farmers of indigenous bovine breeds.

## 33 Quality mark award scheme

**CONTEXT:** “Quality Mark” Award Scheme for Dairy Cooperatives initiated by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- To promote and encourage enhancement of safety, quality and hygiene of milk and milk products manufactured by dairy cooperatives.

**Salient features:**

- It is bringing about process improvement in the entire value chain from producer to the consumer to ensure availability of safe and quality of milk and products both for the domestic and foreign market.
- The **Quality Mark Award Scheme** for dairy Cooperatives in the country has been initiated to **instill confidence in the consumers for the quality of milk being marketed by them** by ensuring availability of safe and good quality milk and milk products.
- The quality mark scheme was rolled out after deliberating on the process and award mechanism for over a year.
- The initiative **does not propose any new/ additional system for Food Safety and Quality Management but lays down minimum standards against each link of the processes required for ensuring quality and safety.**

## 34 Yuva Sahakar Scheme

**CONTEXT:** To cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has come up with a youth-friendly scheme ‘Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme’ for attracting them to cooperative business ventures.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Salient features:**

- It encourages cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.
- National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has created a dedicated fund with liberal features enabling youth to avail the scheme. It would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.
- The scheme envisages **2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan** for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible.

## 35 Sahakar-22

**Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is an **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** Mission 2022 for new India to achieve **rural and farm prosperity through cooperatives**.

## 36 Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund

**Aim/Objective:**

- The project will focus on building an efficient milk procurement system by setting up of chilling infrastructure & installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipment and manufacturing faculties for Value Added Products for the Milk Unions/ Milk Producer Companies.

**Salient features:**

- The project will be **implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** and **National Dairy Development Cooperation (NCDC)** directly through the End Borrowers such as Milk Unions, State Dairy Federations, Multi-state Milk Cooperatives, Milk Producer Companies and NDDB subsidiaries meeting the eligibility criteria under the project.
- An **Implementation and Monitoring Cell (IMC)** located at **NDDB, Anand**, will manage the implementation and monitoring of day-to-day project activities.
- The end **borrowers will get the loan @ 6.5% per annum**. The **period of repayment will be 10 years** with initial two years moratorium.
- The respective **State Government will be the guarantor** of loan repayment. Also for the project sanctioned **if the end user is not able to contribute its share; State Government will contribute the same**.
- Rs 8004 crore shall be loan **from NABARD to NDDB/NCDC**, Rs 2001 crore shall be end borrowers contribution, Rs 12 crore would be jointly contributed by NDDB/NCDC and Rs 864 crore shall be contributed by DADF towards interest subvention.

**Analysis:**

- Employment Generation Potential:** The implementation of DADF scheme will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower.
- Direct employment opportunities for about 40,000 people will be created under the scheme through project activities like expansion & modernisation of existing milk processing facilities, setting up of new processing plants, establishment of manufacturing facilities for value added products and setting up of Bulk Milk Coolers (BMCs) at village level.
- About 2 lakh indirect employment opportunities will be created on account of expansion of milk and milk product marketing operations from existing Tier I, II & III to Tier IV, V & VI cities/towns etc.
- This will lead to deployment of more marketing staff by Milk Cooperatives, appointment of distributors and opening of additional milk booths/retail outlets in urban/rural locations.

## 37 Gobardhan Yojana

**CONTEXT:** The Union Government launched **GOBARdhan Yojana**, a central government scheme nationally from Karnal district of Haryana by end of April 2018.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation

**Aim/Objective:**

- The scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and **generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste**.
- The scheme also aims at creating **new rural livelihood opportunities** and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.

**Salient Features:**

- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) comprises two main components for creating clean villages – creating open defecation free (ODF) villages and managing solid and liquid waste in villages.
- The GOBAR-DHAN scheme, with its focus on keeping villages clean, increasing the income of rural households, and generation of energy from cattle waste, is an important element of this ODF-plus strategy.
- The scheme envisages the implementation of 700 bio-gas units in different states of the country in 2018-19.
- The scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste from farms and fields to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG. It will also help in keeping villages clean and generate energy while increasing income of farmers and cattle herders.

**Analysis:**

- The scheme will be hugely beneficial for country as India is home to highest cattle population in world (around 300 million in number) which produces around 3 million tonnes of dung.
- It will encourage farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as waste but as source of income. It will provide many benefits to rural people by keeping villages clean and sanitized, improving livestock health and increasing farm yields.
- Under it, biogas generation will help to increase self-reliance in energy utilized for cooking and lighting. It will augment income of farmers and cattle herders. It will create new opportunities for jobs linked to waste collection, transportation, biogas sales etc.
- It will also provide stable fuel supply in market for oil companies and accessible credit in market through government schemes and banks for entrepreneurs. Villagers will be mobilized under this scheme to create self-help groups (SHGs) and creative societies that will help in clean energy and green jobs initiative.

## 38 Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister gave its approval for restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj

**Aim/Objective:**

- To make rural local bodies:
  - Self-sustainable
  - Financially stable
  - More efficient

**Salient Features:**

- The key principles of SDGs, i.e. leaving no one behind, reaching the farthest first and universal coverage, along with **gender equality** will be embedded in the design of all capacity building interventions including trainings, training modules and materials.

- Priority will be given to subjects of national importance that affects the excluded groups the most, e.g. poverty, primary health services, nutrition, immunization, sanitation, education, water conservation, digital transactions etc.
- The scheme is designed keeping in view programmatic **convergence with Mission Antyodaya GPs and 115 Aspirational districts as identified by NITI Aayog.**
- As Panchayats have representation of Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and women, and are institutions closest to the grass-roots, strengthening Panchayats will promote equity and inclusiveness, along with Social Justice and economic development of the community.

#### Analysis:

- Help more than **2.55 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources.
- Increased use of e-governance by PRIs will help achieve improved service delivery and transparency.
- **Strengthen Gram Sabhas** to function as effective institutions with social inclusion of citizens particularly the vulnerable groups
- Establish the institutional structure for capacity building of PRIs at the national, state and district level with adequate human resources and infrastructure.
- Panchayats will progressively be strengthened through incentivisation on the basis of nationally important criteria which will encourage competitive spirit among them.

#### Background:

- The Finance Minister, in his budget speech for 2016-17, announced the launch of new restructured scheme of **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**, for developing governance capabilities of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- A Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman-NITI Aayog was constituted to restructure the existing scheme of this Ministry as Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.
- The Committee held several meetings, consultations etc. with various stakeholders and submitted its report with set of recommendations which were accepted by Government and formed the basis for the formulation of this scheme.

## 39 Swajal Pilot Project

**CONTEXT:** Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, launched the Swajal pilot project at Village Bhikampura, Karauli, Rajasthan.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

#### Aim/Objective:

- Under this scheme, government aims to **provide villages with piped water supply powered by harnessing solar energy.**

#### Salient Features:

- Besides ensuring the availability of clean drinking water to every household round the year, the project would also generate employment.
- **Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.**
- Under the scheme, **90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government** and the **remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community.**
- The Operations and management of the project will be taken care by the local villagers.

## National Rural Drinking Water Programme

### CONTEXT: Cabinet approves continuation and Restructuring of National Rural Drinking Water Programme

#### Aim/Objective:

- To cover **all rural population in Arsenic/Fluoride affected habitations** with clean drinking water on a sustainable basis.

#### Salient features:

- The NRDWP was started in 2009, with a major emphasis on ensuring sustainability (source) of water availability in terms of potability, adequacy, convenience, affordability and equity.
- **NRDWP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 50.50 fund sharing between the Centre and the States.**
- Over the years, learning from the success achieved and the deficiencies felt during the implementation of NRDWP, certain modifications are needed in existing guidelines and procedure of release of funds to the States for making the programme more outcome-oriented and competitive.
- Keeping in view the need to make the NRDWP more result-oriented, incentivize competition amongst States and focused on sustainability, a series of discussions were held with States, various stakeholders / domain experts / international institutions and NITI Aayog, some amendments in the guidelines of the programme have been introduced.
- These are giving more flexibility to the states in utilization of NRDWP funds by reducing the number of components under the programme.
- Focus on piped water supply, increase level of service delivery, thrust on coverage of water quality affected habitations (National Water Quality Sub-Mission to tackle Arsenic & Fluoride affected habitations, JE / AES areas), coverage of Open Defecation Free (ODF) declared villages, SAGY GPs, Ganga GPs, Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts, Border Out Posts (BOP) with piped water supply and Institutional set up for proper O&M of water supply assets etc. have been introduced.

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# Finance & Banking Schemes and Initiatives

1

## Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objective:**

- To eradicate financial exclusion by covering all households in the country with banking facilities and having a bank account for each household.

**Salient Features:**

- A **free zero-balance bank account** with a debit card for every household.
- **Rs 1 lakh accidental insurance** policy and **Rs. 30,000 free medical insurance** cover for those who enroll before January 26, 2015.
- All Indian citizens can now avail of a **bank account despite the lack of KYC documentation**.
- Depending on the performance of the accounts in the first six months, banks will later extend a **Rs. 5,000 overdraft facility**, thereby **turning the debit card into a kind of credit card**.
- Beneficiaries of Government Schemes would get **Direct Benefit Transfer** in these accounts.
- **RuPay Debit Card must be used at least once in 45 days**.

**Advantages :**

- **Loan benefit against Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** Individuals whose Jan Dhan account completes 6 months are eligible to obtain loans of up to **Rs.5000**. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is aimed at **financial inclusion** of the economically weaker section of the society. Most importantly it aims to cover people from the **rural areas as well as the unorganised sector** of the urban and semi-urban areas.
- **Mobile Banking with Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana aims to make available certain **basic financial transactions via ordinary mobile phones and not smart phones**. This step will ensure that even people from rural areas and those from the unorganized sector have access to quick and convenient banking options.
- **Insurance benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** The best and the most significant benefit of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is that it brings under the purview of **insurance**, a lot of people who could not have availed insurance out of their own pocket. The scheme offers a life cover of Rs.30,000 to customers who comply with certain norms of the scheme and offers Rs.2,00,000 as insurance sum in the event of death due to accident.

2

## Unified Payment Interface (UPI)

**CONTEXT:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched UPI 2.0, an upgraded and renewed version of Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

**by adding four new features to make it attractive and safer for users. These new features will allow users to link their overdraft account to UPI, creation of one-time mandates and pre-authorisation of transactions for payment at later date and checking the invoice sent by merchant prior to making payment.**

#### **Ministry/Organisation:**

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is an umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India. It was set up with the guidance and support of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single **mobile application** (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.
- UPI is a payment system that allows money transfer between any two bank accounts by using a smart phone.
- UPI allows a customer to pay directly from a bank account to different merchants, both online and offline, **without the hassle of typing credit card details, IFSC code, or net banking/wallet passwords.**
- The interface has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- It aims to simplify and provide a single interface across all NPCI systems besides creating interoperability and superior customer experience.
- The UPI seeks to make **money transfers easy, quick and hassle free.**

#### **Salient Features:**

- **Overdraft facility:** It will allow users to link their overdraft (OD) account to UPI. Earlier, only current accounts and savings accounts were able to link with UPI. It will help UPI customers have instant transaction through an additional digital channel with access to OD account.
- **One Time Mandate:** It allows users to schedule payments. It also allows pre-authorisation of transaction in which amount will be deducted on date for which has been scheduled. It can be used in cases where money is to be transferred later while commitment has been made now.
- **Invoice in The Inbox:** It allows users to get invoices sent by merchants in their inbox, which will help them to view and verify credentials. With this, users can view and verify credentials of merchant even before making payment and ensure their authenticity.
- **Signed Intent and QR:** This feature will allow users to check credentials of merchants via Quick Response (QR) code. It will enable to check whether merchant is UPI verified or not.

#### **Analysis:**

- **Simple Authentication Process:** allows banking customers with registered mobile to easily set and change MPINs.
- **Simplified Issuance Infrastructure:** Usage of virtual addresses and payment addresses in conjunction with mobile helps banks to create tokenless infrastructure, thereby reducing the costs.
- **Simplified Acquiring Infrastructure:** Considering the fact that India has nearly a billion phones and 150 million smartphones (expected to be at 500 million in next 4-5 years), massive scale can be achieved if effective use of mobile is made compared to creating costly physical acquiring infrastructure.
- **Flexibility for users:** Customers get the flexibility to make payments securely and in addition, innovations such as reminders, using multiple accounts, using special purpose virtual addresses, etc. allow users to enjoy a superior experience.
- **Creating National Interoperability:** A unified interoperable interface allows all players to innovate and provide superior customer experience and still provide a secure, standard-based, interoperable payment scheme.

**Significance:**

- ▶ The proliferation of smart phones, the availability of an **online verifiable identity, universal access to banking** and the introduction of biometric sensors in phones will proactively encourage electronic payment systems for ushering in a **less-cash society in India**.

**Benefits of UPI**

Banks	Merchants	End Users
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Simplified (Single click 2FA)</li> <li>◦ Universal App for Payments</li> <li>◦ Leveraging existing infrastructure</li> <li>◦ Security</li> <li>◦ Payments basis Single/Unique identifier</li> <li>◦ Opportunity to Tap C28 segment</li> <li>◦ Opportunity to tap E-Commerce &amp; M-Commerce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Seamless fund collection from customers using Virtual Address</li> <li>◦ No Risk of Storing customer's virtual address like in cards</li> <li>◦ Can tap customers not having credit/debit cards</li> <li>◦ Suitable for e-commerce and m-commerce</li> <li>◦ Single click 2FA facility to the customer leading to seamless Pull</li> <li>◦ In-app payments (IAP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increased privacy as customers will not have to reveal their personal details like Mobile number/Account number. Funds can be transferred with just the virtual address.</li> <li>◦ Using Pull request, cash can be replaced in many cases such as Bill split sharing/cash on delivery etc.</li> <li>◦ Single click 2FA makes it easy to transact by just entering M-PIN.</li> <li>◦ Pull request can be generated both in Web Interface (Desktop) and mobile Interface (App).</li> <li>◦ Payments can be done by providing only one identifier like Mobile Number/Aadhar number/Virtual Address.</li> </ul>

**3 India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**

**CONTEXT:** Prime Minister in September 2018, launched the Payments Bank of Indian postal department that will take banking to the doorstep of every citizen through a huge network of post offices, postmen and 'Grameen Dak Sewaks'.

**Ministry:**

- Payments banks are a new model of banks **conceptualized by the Reserve bank of India**.
- The recommendation for formation of Payments Bank was given by the Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households (also called **Nachiket Mor Committee**) formed by Raghuram Rajan (then RBI Governor) in September 2013.
- The panel studied various aspects of financial inclusion in India and submitted its final report on 7 January 2014.
- Payments bank are licensed under Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949, and registered as public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- **IPPB is the sixth Payments bank**, which has become operational after Aditya Birla, Airtel, Fino, Jio and Paytm Payments Banks.
- The Government owns 100% in IPPB, which has been set up under the aegis of the **Department of Posts**.

**Aim/Objective:**

- They can accept deposits of **up to Rs 1 lakh** (which may be raised later by RBI), offer remittance services, mobile payments/ transfers/ purchases and other banking services (ATM/ debit cards, net banking and third-party funds transfers.)
- It will offer products and services through **counter services, micro ATMs, mobile banking app, messages and interactive voice response.**
- IPPB will offer its services using QR cards. Unlike ATMs and Point of Sales (POS) machines, the postmen will scan the fingerprint, QR card and make the payment. So, the need to remember PIN and other credentials is not required.
- IPPB has been integrated with **Post Office Savings Bank (POSB).**
- IPPB aims to promote digital payments mainly in the **rural and remote areas** of the country. It will be helpful to rural masses and urban migrants.

### Target Group:

- Despite various efforts by the Government like the Jan Dhan Yojna, it is estimated that about 18% of the Indian population is not being served by the banking system.
- IPPB can be seen **as filling an important gap in the scheme of inclusion.**

### Salient Features:

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will be like any other bank, but at a smaller scale without involving any credits risk.
- IPPB will carry out most banking operations like accepting deposits but **can't advance loans or issue credit cards.**

### Analysis:

- The service available should be **efficient and cost effective.** Making available a good connectivity and network, for example, can be a major challenge in remote parts for IPPB to be a success.
- Also, the postmen need to be trained periodically to provide such new services and he may demand an incentive for this new job.
- To overcome the possible challenges lying ahead required training programs have been started by the Department of Posts. **Micro ATMs** have been given in many of the Post Offices in rural areas.
- To sort out the issue of connectivity in remote areas, different connectivity providers are being contacted to issue SIM cards, etc.

### Significance:

- IPPB is a welcome step to connect the rural masses and remotest areas of India to banking services.
- By providing proper training to related persons and making required infrastructures available, the Department of Posts can help effectively in the scheme of financial inclusion.



Front view of the QR Card



Rear view of the QR Card

## 4 Comprehensive plan Project Sashakt

**CONTEXT:** Union Finance Minister, in July, 2018 approved the **Sunil Mehta Committee's** suggestions of a 5-pronged strategy to tackle the **Non-Performing Assets (NPA)**.

### Ministry:

- The committee led by Punjab National Bank Chairman Sunil Mehta has submitted its draft report titled 'Sashakt' to the Finance Ministry with a strategy to tackle stress in the banking sector. However, there is no proposal or recommendation to create a bad bank.
- The recommendations now await the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Aim/Objective:

#### Recommendations of the Committee

- The 'Sashakt' Report highlights **nine guiding principles** aimed at the operational turnaround of the banking sector in a manner that will create jobs and enhance the value of public sector banks.
- Resolution of bad assets below Rs 50 crore within 90 days: Banks will be required to create a **'Focused Vertical'** for bad assets below Rs 50 crore and set up a Steering Committee for resolution of such bad assets within 90 days.
- Resolution of consortium loans between Rs 50-500 crore within 180 days: It suggested the **Bank Led Resolution Approach (BLRA)** for loans between Rs 50 and Rs 500 crore. It suggested constitution of an Independent Screening Committee to examine resolution of such loans within 180 days and if there is no resolution in 180 days, then these bad assets will be moved to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- Resolution of loans above Rs 500 crore: The loans above Rs 500 crore will be dealt via **AMC/AIF-led resolution process**. The panel proposed creation of a national Asset Management Company (AMC) to take over such Non-Performing Assets from banks.
- Recommendations included creating platforms where banks can trade in bunched loan assets.

### Salient Features:

#### Creation of National Asset Management Company (AMC)

- The committee suggested **setting up of an AMC** with an equity contribution from banks, foreign funds and infrastructure funds such as the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF).
- The AMC could be set up under an existing Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) like Arcil Ltd which is already promoted by banks.
- The National AMC will **determine the price of individual accounts** after due diligence and once the asset is sold, turnaround specialists would be appointed. The asset would be sold down to strategic buyers over a period of time.
- The plan to set up a national ARC or AMC over and above existing private ARCs come amid the mounting bad loans in the system leading to bleeding balance sheets of banks.

### Analysis:

- The bankers' panel has suggested the need to take the function of **NPA management out of the banks**, thus, suggesting the banks to focus on core banking activities of lending and growing their balance sheets.
- They opine that the transfer of NPA management to a specialised entity would help clean up the long due loans and experts can help **restructure the loans**.
- As on March 31, 2018, bad loans across listed banks stood at over Rs 10 lakh crore.
- As per the RBI's recently released Financial Stability Report, the number of gross NPA ratio is set to rise by March 2019 to 12.2 percent from 11.6 percent in March 2018.

**Significance:**

- Project Sashakt (recommendations) will help retain the value of the asset through operational turnaround.
- Sashakt aims to strengthen the credit capacity, credit culture and credit portfolio of public sector banks.
- However, Sashakt does not require any regulatory forbearance

## 5 Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)

**CONTEXT:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched Ombudsman Scheme for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for redressal of complaints against NBFCs registered with RBI under section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934.

**Institution:** Reserve Bank of India

**Aim/Objective:**

- The scheme will provide cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism relating to **deficiency in services by non-banking financial companies** covered under the scheme.

**Target Group:**

- The offices of NBFC Ombudsmen will function at four metro centres —**Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi.**
- They will handle complaints of customers in respective zones.
- To begin with, the scheme will **cover all deposit-taking NBFCs.**

**Salient Features:**

- Under this scheme, any customer or person can file complaint with ombudsman on various grounds.
- **Only written complaints or those in electronic format** will be accepted.
- The complaint may be with respect to non-payment or inordinate delay in payment of interest, non-repayment of deposits, lack of transparency in loan agreement, non-compliance with RBI directives on fair practices code for NBFCs, levying of charges without sufficient notice to customers and failure or delay in returning securities documents despite repayment of dues among others.

**Analysis:**

- **RBI will appoint** one or more of its officers in rank of **not less than General Manager (GM)** to be known as Ombudsman to carry out functions.
- The appointment will for period not exceeding three years at time.

**Significance:**

- The schemes provide for **Appellate mechanism** under which complainant/NBFC will have option to appeal against decision of Ombudsman before Appellate Authority.
- It will obligation of NBFC concerned to implement settlement arrived with complainant or Award passed by Ombudsman when it becomes final and send report in this regard to RBI within 15 days of award becoming final.
- In case of non-implementation of settlement or Award, the complainant may represent to RBI and RBI may initiate such action under provisions of RBI Act, 1934 as it deems fit.

## 6 Project Shaksham

**CONTEXT:** The government has approved Rs 2,256 crore outlays for Project Saksham to bolster the information technology network for the new GST regime.

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is a **New Indirect Tax Network (Systems Integration) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)**. It is mainly for upgrading the information technology systems of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

**Salient Features:**

- Under the project, the **CBEC's existing IT systems will be integrated with the GST Network**. This is required for processing of registration, payment and returns data sent by GSTN systems to CBEC, as well as act as a front-end for other modules such as audit, appeals, investigation.
- The exercise is also expected to help the indirect tax department cater to the larger number of taxpayers when GST rolls out. **The number of taxpayers under various indirect tax laws administered by CBEC is about 36 lakh at present, and will nearly double to 65 lakh after the introduction of GST.**
- It will integrate with other government initiatives such as **E-Nivesh, E-Taal, e-Sign**.

**Advantages:**

- The government estimates that the number of taxpayers administered by the CBEC will increase to over 6.5 million from the current 3.6 million in a GST regime.
- The upgrade of the IT systems will be carried out while keeping the existing Tax-payer services running.
- CBEC's IT systems need to integrate with the Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN) for processing of registration, payment and returns data sent by GSTN systems to CBEC
- The IT systems will also act as a front-end for other modules like Audit, Appeal, and Investigation.
- There is **no overlap in the GST-related systems of CBEC and GSTN**.

## 7 Gold Monetisation Scheme

**CONTEXT:** Gold monetization programme to reduce reliance on gold imports by encouraging households to monetize their gold.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The objective of the Gold Monetisation scheme is to **mobilize the gold held by households and institutions in the country to put this gold into productive use** and in the long run to **reduce the current account deficit** by reducing the country's reliance on the imports of gold to meet the domestic demand.

**Salient Features:**

- The **minimum limit** to deposit gold in bank is set at **30 grams** to attract gold deposit even from households **which was 500 grams in previous scheme**.
- To avail benefits first a person has to **verify gold purity at Collection & Purity Testing Centers (CPTC) certified by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** which will determine value of gold and interest to be gained in a particular time period.
- The individuals or trust or companies has to **open a gold deposit account** with banks to deposit the gold and earn interest on them. The **Interest shall be payable in form of gold or money** as opted by depositor at time of opening the account.
- The **interest earnings are exempted from capital gains tax, wealth tax and income tax to attract the depositors**.
- The **minimum tenure is one year** to get benefits of the scheme and bank will design **short term (1-3 years), Medium (5-7 years) and long term (12-15 years)** gold deposit schemes.

- The **banks may sell or lend gold accepted under GMS to Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC)** to issue gold coins and to jewelers or further sell it to other banks that are engaged in GMS.

#### **Advantages:**

- In the recent issued guideline by RBI for GMS, it is said that **for short term deposit banks need to maintain CRR and SLR requirements** for this scheme as well. However the stock of gold which held by banks will be counted under general SLR requirements. So it is almost clear that **for long term gold accepted under GMS shall come under SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) which includes gold, government securities, T bills, etc.**
- It will help bank to provide more interest rate of return under GMS at least for long term deposit and consequently attract more customers to deposit their gold for success of GMS.
- Further other provisions like exemption from capital gain or Income tax and minimum deposit requirement is reduced at 30 grams which will be a major step to lure the small customers.

## **8 Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance in association with RBI

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- To **reduce the demand for physical gold** by shifting a part of the demand for physical gold into investment in Gold Bonds.

#### **Salient Features:**

- Bonds will **be issued by RBI on behalf of govt.** To be sold through banks, post offices NSE, BSE and stock Holding Corporation of India Limited.
- The **risk of gold price changes will be borne by the Gold Reserve Fund** that is being created. Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued on payment of rupees and denominated in grams of gold. Customers can buy gold bonds which will be relatable to the weight of gold.
- The bonds will be issued in various denominations for **5-7 years** with a rate of interest to be calculated on the value of the metal at the time of investment.
- **Maximum 500 gms gold equivalent bond** can be purchased **in a year by one person.**
- **Only offered to Indian citizen and institutions.**
- **Strict KYC norms.**
- **Interest taxable as per IT Act.**
- **Capital gains tax treatment will be the same as for physical gold for an individual investor.**
- **Rate of interest will be decided by government.**
- The bonds will be issued in denominations of 5, 10, 50, 100 grams of gold or other denominations.

#### **Advantages:**

- Bonds can be used as **collateral for loans.**
- On maturity, the redemption will be in **rupee amount only.**
- **Sovereign Guarantee** : Both on redemption amount and on the interest
- **SAFEST : Zero risk of handling physical gold**
- **Tax Benefits** : **No TDS applicable on interest** **Indexation** benefit if bond is transferred before maturity. **Capital Gain Tax exempt on Redemption.**

## 9 Tejaswini

### Aim/Objective:

- It is World Bank's first project in India solely focused on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged between 14 and 24 years to complete their secondary level education and provide relevant skills for job market.

### Salient Features:

- It seeks to empower adolescent girls with basic life skills to acquire market driven skill training or completion of secondary education, depending on the inclination of the beneficiary.

### Its three main components are:-

- Expanding social, educational and economic opportunities: Support AGYW to achieve greater social, educational, and economic empowerment at community level and institutional level.
- Intensive service delivery:** It will evaluate more intensive community-level service delivery models focused on increasing AGYW's access to educational interventions, training and employment opportunities.
- State capacity-building and implementation support:** It aims to support strengthening of institutional capacity and outreach of concerned government agencies to enable effective and efficient delivery of services for AGYW in the state.
- Life skills education includes four core elements: (i) **Resilience and soft skills** (ii) **Rights and protections** (iii) **Health and nutrition**. (iv) **Financial literacy**.
- The project is being delivered in 17 Districts of Jharkhand. About 680,000 adolescent girls and young women in these districts are expected to benefit from the program.

## 10 DARPAN

**Ministry:** Ministry of Communications

### Aim/Objective:

- DARPAN** stands for The **Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India**. DARPAN is **Information Technology (IT) modernisation project** aimed at realising financial inclusion of un-banked rural population. It offers core banking services to the account holders.

### Salient Features:

- The project intends to provide **low power technology solution** to each branch postmaster (BPM).
- This will enable each of approximately 1.29 lakhs branch post offices (BOs) to improve service delivery.
- It aims **to increase rural reach of Department of Posts (DoP)** and enable BOs to increase traffic of all financial remittances, savings accounts, Rural Postal Life Insurance and Cash Certificates.
- It also aims **to improve mail operations processes** by allowing for automated booking and delivery of accountable article.
- It will also increase revenue using retail post business and provide third party applications and make disbursements for social security schemes such as MGNREGS.

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# Industry, Trade & Commerce

## Schemes & Initiatives

### 1 FAME India Scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

**Aim/Objective:**

- To provide fiscal and monetary incentives for adoption and market creation of **both hybrid and electric technologies vehicles** in the country.

**Salient features:**

- FAME stands for **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles**
- The scheme has 4 focus areas i.e.
  - ▶ Technology development,
  - ▶ Demand Creation,
  - ▶ Pilot Projects and
  - ▶ Charging Infrastructure.
- The FAME India Scheme is aimed at incentivizing all vehicle segments i.e. **2 Wheeler, 3 Wheeler Auto, Passenger 4 Wheeler Vehicle, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.**

**What is mild hybrid vehicle?**

- A **mild hybrid vehicle has an electric motor**, which on its own cannot run a vehicle but **assists normal engine** by using **recovered energy stored in a battery and helps save fuel.**
- It uses the **energy generated while applying the brakes** and **turns it into electric energy** which is then stored in a battery. This energy can then be used to turn the starter motor when the car's start stop system needs it.
- **Mild-hybrids are 7-15% more fuel efficient** as compared to conventional hybrid systems that can run on pure electric power for short distances too.

### 2 Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), Mining Surveillance System (MSS), Mining Tenement System (MTS)

**CONTEXT:** The Central government has asked the states to step-up the spending under District Mineral Fund as just 24 per cent of the Rs 23,606-crore mopped up under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) was actually spent. The central government has also issued directions to ensure that there is no fund diversion or leakage.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Mines

**Aim/Objective:**

- Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is aimed at the **welfare of areas and people affected by mining-related operations**, using the funds generated by District Mineral Foundations (DMFs).

**Target Group:**

- The scheme mandates that **60 % share of the funds be spent on high priority areas** like drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, the welfare of aged and disabled people, skill development and environmental conservation.
- Balance funds can be used for **creating a supportive and conducive living environment** by making roads, bridges, railways, waterways projects, irrigation and alternative energy sources.

**Salient Features:**

- To implement various **developmental and welfare projects**/programs in mining-affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government.
- To **minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment**, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts.
- To ensure **long-term sustainable livelihoods** for the affected people in mining areas. Care has been taken to include all aspects of living, to ensure substantial improvement in the quality of life.
- The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 makes it mandatory for the miners to contribute to the District Mineral Funds a percentage of the royalty payable to the government. The funds accumulated in the District Mineral Funds would be used for implementing PMKKKY.

**Analysis:**

- The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, mandated the setting up of **District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in all districts** in the country affected by mining related operations.
- The Central Government notified the rates of contribution payable by miners to the DMFs.
- The Central Government has directed the State Governments, under Section 20A of the MMDR Act, 1957, laying down the guidelines for implementation of PMKKKY and directing the States to incorporate the same in the rules framed by them for the DMFs.

### 3 National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

**CONTEXT:** The Union Government has notified National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

**Ministry:**

- NAPS will be implemented by Director General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of Union Ministry of **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** (MSDE).

**Aim/Objective:**

- It aims to provide **apprenticeship training to over 50 lakh youngsters** in order to create more jobs.

**Target Group:**

- The Scheme has an outlay of 10,000 crore rupees with a target of 50 Lakh apprentices to be trained by 2019-20.

**Salient Features:**

- Under it, Central Government for the first time will **provide financial incentives to the employers to engage apprentices.**
- Central Government will also directly share 25% of the total stipend (maximum of 1,500 rupees per month per apprentice) payable to an apprentice with employers.
- In addition, it will **support basic training** which is considered an essential component of apprenticeship training.
- The Central Government will bear the 50% of the total expenditure incurred on providing basic training to an apprentice.
- All transactions including registration by employers, apprentices, registration of contract and payment to employers will be made in **online mode.**

**Analysis:**

- It is **first of its kind scheme** notified to offer financial incentives to employers.
- Apprenticeship Training is considered to be one of the most efficient ways to develop skilled manpower.

**Significance:**

- It provides for an industry led, practice oriented, effective and efficient mode of formal training.
- NAPS seek to **catalyze the entire apprenticeship ecosystem in the country.**
- It is expected to become one of the most powerful skill-delivery vehicle in the country and will offer a win-win situation for all stakeholders.

**4****Solar Charkha Mission**

**CONTEXT:** President Ram Nath Kovind recently launched the Solar Charkha Mission covering artisans in 50 identified clusters.

**Ministry:**

- The Solar Charkha Mission is a **Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** initiative launched during June 2018. The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** would implement the programme.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To ensure inclusive growth by generation of employment, especially for **women and youth**, and sustainable development through solar charkha clusters in rural areas.
- To **boost rural economy** and help in arresting migration from rural to urban areas.
- To **leverage low-cost, innovative technologies** and processes for sustenance

**Target Group:**

- The target is to cover 50 solar clusters across the country, whereby approx. 1,00,000 artisans/beneficiaries are to be covered under the various scheme components.
- The scheme shall be **implemented in all States** of India.
- The geographical distribution of the clusters throughout the country, with at least 10% located in the North Eastern Region (NER), J&K and hilly states, will also be kept in view.
- Special focus will be given to 117 aspirational districts** for soliciting project proposals under the scheme.

**Salient Features:**

- The mission will entail a subsidy of Rs 550 crore in the initial two years for 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans.
- The scheme also aims at linking five crore women across the country to the initiative.

**Analysis:**

- The Solar Charkha Mission will generate employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy.
- The mission is expected to create one lakh jobs during the first two years.

**Significance:**

- **MSME account for around 60% employment** in India.
- MSME have registered over **10% growth** in recent times which is much more compared to large enterprises.
- This is one sector where people not only exhibit their entrepreneurial skills, become part of large value chains but also **become job creators** in the process.

**5****PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators)**

**CONTEXT:** The Union Ministry of Power has launched web portal ([www.praapti.in](http://www.praapti.in)) and app namely PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators).

**Ministry:** Ministry of Power

**Aim/Objective:**

- The PRAAPTI app and web Portal will **capture invoicing and payment data** for various long term Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs) from power generation companies (generators).

**Salient Features:**

- The PRAAPTI app will also **allow users to know the details related to payments** made by Discoms to power generators and when they were made.
- The PRAAPTI portal will also help DISCOMs and GENCOs to **reconcile their outstanding payments**.
- It will facilitate relative assessment of various State DISCOMs on ease of making payments to various generators and will also help make transactions in power Sector more transparent.

**Analysis:**

- It will help stakeholders in **getting month-wise and legacy data** on outstanding amounts of Discoms against power purchase.
- It will also enable consumers to evaluate financial performance of their Discoms in terms of payments being made to generators.

**Significance:**

- The web-portal and app aims to **bring transparency** in power purchase transactions between Generators and Discoms.

**5****Defence Offset Fund (DOF)**

**CONTEXT:** Defence ministry is planning to set up an offset fund namely Defence Offset Fund (DOF).

**Ministry:**

- To create the DOF corpus, the **defence ministry** is amending the defence offsets guidelines that are set out in the Defence Procurement Procedure of 2016.

**Aim/Objective:**

- It will be set up to fund **promising defence start-ups**.
- It will be modeled on the successful **Electronics Development Fund (EDF)**.
- In this fund, the 30 per cent contribution would come from a foreign vendor in discharge of an offset obligation and rest would be raised from market.

**Target Group:**

- Contributions to the DOF will be eligible for a multiplier of three, which means that by contributing \$100 million, a vendor would extinguish offset liabilities worth \$300 million.
- The proposed offset guidelines allow foreign arms vendors to discharge offsets — which amount to at least 30 per cent of the actual value of all contracts above Rs 20 billion.
- This fund can then be invested in following areas:
  - ▶ **Indian defence** related infrastructure.
  - ▶ Sharing specified **critical technologies**.
  - ▶ Equity investment in **defence manufacturing** companies.
  - ▶ Investment in Sebi-regulated fund dedicated for development of start-ups and MSMEs of defence, aerospace and internal security-related enterprises in the country.

**Salient Features:**

- It is a "**Fund of Funds**" contributing 15 per cent of the value of professionally managed "Daughter Funds", required to raise the remaining 85 per cent from the market.
- The funds choose and fund start-ups for developing technologies in electronics, Nano-electronics and information technology.
- The Meity nominated **Canara Bank Venture Capital** to select the Daughter Funds. These must be private- or government-run funds following SEBI rules.

**Analysis:**

- Offsets are essentially benefits that a buyer gets from a seller — technology/capability that Indian industry gets from a foreign vendor selling equipment to India.
- The policy on offsets was first introduced as part of the **Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)** 2005, and has undergone revisions since then.

**Significance:**

- The main objective of the Defence Offset Policy is "**to leverage capital acquisitions** to develop Indian defence industry by fostering development of internationally competitive enterprises, augmenting capacity for research, design and development related to defence products and services, and encouraging development of synergistic sectors like civil aerospace and internal security".

**6****The Incredible India 2.0**

**CONTEXT:** The Ministry has launched the Incredible India 2.0 campaign, during the financial year 2017-18 to promote various destinations and tourism products of the country including spiritual, medical and wellness tourism in important and potential source markets overseas.

**Ministry:**

- It is a campaign of the **Ministry of Tourism** to promote Indian Tourism.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The “Incredible India 2.0” Campaign, aims at moving to the next level of promotion and marketing with a **shift from generic promotions across the world to market specific promotional plans**, content creation and use of thematic creatives.

**Target Group:**

- The Ministry, as part of its on-going activities, annually releases global print, electronic and online media campaigns in important and potential markets overseas, under the ‘Incredible India’ brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country, including the cultural heritage. Promotions are also undertaken through the website and Social Media accounts of the Ministry.

**Salient Features:**

- The 2.0 campaign marked a shift from generic promotions across the world to market specific promotional plans and content creation.
- Thematic **promotions on different Niche tourism products** have been produced and are being used in the Campaign, to cater to diverse consumer interests. These thematic promotions include Commercials on Yoga, Wellness, Wildlife, Luxury and Cuisine.
- The thematic commercials are produced in English with voice-overs in **9 international languages**, viz. German, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Arabic.

**Analysis:**

- Unlike the first campaign, which **focused purely on tourist spots** across the country, the current campaign highlights how each tourist perceives India in his/her individual way.
- The story has been told through **four global personalities**—Emma Puttick, a Brisbane-based fashion designer; US travel blogger Clint Johnston; London-based culinary expert Kylee Newton; and Scottish professional golfer Carly Booth—who share why India continues to inspire and charm them.

**6****Draft Indian National Strategy for Standards (INSS)**

**CONTEXT:** The Union Ministry has released draft Indian National Strategy for Standardisation for standardisation of products and services to provide level playing field to domestic industry and adopt best global practices.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Aim/Objective:**

- Positioning standards as **key driver of all economic activities** relating to goods and services
- Create integrated infrastructure, roadmaps and institutions for their effective management
- **Enhance competitiveness** of Indian goods and services in domestic and international markets.
- **Develop comprehensive ecosystem** for standards development taking into account diversity of interests and expertise available.
- **Provide level playing field** to domestic industry and adopt best practices in standardisation, conformity assessment and technical regulations.

**Target Group:**

- The strategy will play an active role and **take leadership positions in apex international forums** in related areas besides creating response mechanisms to global developments on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment practices that impact market access of Indian goods and services.

**Salient Features:**

- Rapid growth of Indian economy, its size and emerging relevance in global trade has made it essential **to establish robust quality infrastructure in country with harmonised, dynamic and mature standards ecosystem for goods.**
- The **standardisation will fuel economic growth** and enhance 'Made in India' label as standards are widely recognised as catalysts for technical development, industrial growth, well-being of society and more recently for convergence of new and emerging technologies.
- The strategy for **standardisation of products** considers current state of development across sectors, existing quality infrastructure and policy directions in relation to domestic economic developments and trade in goods and services.

**7****North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS)**

**CONTEXT:** In March, 2018, the Union Cabinet has approved North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017 to promote employment in North Eastern Region states including Sikkim.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Aim/Objective:**

- **Central Capital Investment Incentive for Access to Credit (CCIIAC):** Under it, 30% of investment in Plant and Machinery with upper limit of Rs.5 Crore will be provided per unit.
- **Central Interest Incentive (CII):** It will be 3% on working capital credit advanced by eligible Banks and Financial institutions for first 5 years from date of commencement of commercial production by unit.
- **Central Comprehensive Insurance Incentive (CCII):** It will provide reimbursement of 100% insurance premium on insurance of building and Plant & Machinery for 5 years from date of commencement of commercial production by unit.
- **Goods and Service Tax (GST) Reimbursement:** It will be up to extent of Central Government share of CGST and IGST for 5 years from date of commencement of commercial production by unit.
- **Income-Tax (IT) Reimbursement:** It will be of Centre's share of income tax for first 5 years including year of commencement of commercial production by unit.
- **Employment Incentive (EI):** Government will pay 3.67% of employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) in addition to its bearing 8.33% Employee Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of employer in Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY).
- **Transport Incentive (TI):** Indian Railways will provide 20% of cost of transportation including subsidy currently provided for movement of finished goods by rail. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will provide 20% of cost of transportation for finished goods for movement through inland waterways. Airport nearest to place of production will provide 33% of cost of transportation of air freight on perishable goods (defined by IATA) to any airport within country.

**Target Group:**

- NEIDS has been launched **to catalyse the industrial development in the North Eastern Region** and will boost employment and income generation.
- It has come into force from 01.04.2017 and will remain in force up to 31.03.2022.
- It **covers eligible industrial units in the manufacturing and service sectors** of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

**Salient Features:**

- **Promote industrialization:** It will promote industrialization in North Eastern Region (NER) states including Sikkim and will boost income generation and employment.

- **Promote employment:** For this, government is incentivizing primarily MSME Sector through this scheme. It is also providing specific incentive through scheme to generate employment.
- **Benefits to industrial units:** It will provide various incentives and benefits to all eligible industrial units. The overall cap for benefits under all components of incentives will be of Rs. 200 crores per unit.
- Incentives to be provided to new industrial units in NER

#### **Analysis:**

- NEIDS is combination of the incentives covered under the earlier two government schemes with a much larger outlay.
- It will have financial outlay of **Rs. 3000 crores** up-to March, 2020.
- The Scheme does not envisage sanction of projects; rather, eligible units are registered after following due process.

#### **Significance:**

- In order **to promote employment in the North East States**, Government is incentivizing primarily the MSME Sector through this scheme. Government is also providing specific incentive through the scheme to generate employment.
- All eligible industrial units, which are getting benefits of one or more components of other schemes of the Government of India, will also be considered for benefits of other components of this scheme.

## **8**

### **Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry**

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, has given its approval for Central Sector Scheme “Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry” for the next three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

#### **Ministry:**

- The scheme will be implemented by the **Ministry of Textiles through Central Silk Board (CSB).**

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- The Scheme has four components –
  - **Research & Development (R&D)**, Training, Transfer of Technology and IT Initiatives
  - **Seed Organizations** and farmers extension centres
  - **Coordination and Market Development** for seed, yarn and silk products and
  - **Quality Certification System (QCS)** by creating amongst others a chain of Silk Testing facilities, Farm based & post-cocoon Technology Up-gradation, and Export Brand Promotion.

#### **Target Group:**

- The scheme will benefit 85 lakh people in the silk sector.
- It will **provide livelihood** opportunities for women, those belonging to SCs and STs, and other weaker sections of the society across the country, including those from Left-Wing Extremism affected areas and North Eastern Region.
- Silk farmers, seed producers and chawki rearers will be brought under Direct Benefit Transfer, with Aadhaar linkage.

**Salient Features:**

- The core objective of the scheme is **to improve the productivity and quality of silk** through R&D intervention. The focus of R&D intervention is to promote improved crossbreed silk and the import substitute Bivoltine silk so that Bivoltine silk production in India enhances to such a level that raw silk imports become nil by 2022 thereby making India self-sufficient in silk.
- R&D interventions will include **race improvement through development of improved host plant varieties and improved disease resistant silkworm breeds** by having collaborative research with reputed National Research organizations like IITs, CSIR, IISc and international research institutes on Sericulture in Japan, China, Bulgaria etc.; Technological advancements with respect to pre cocoon and post cocoon sectors. Thrust will be given on technology upgradation and making mechanization affordable.
- **Use of silkworm by-products (pupa)** for poultry feed, sericin for cosmetic applications and product diversification into non-woven fabrics, silk denim, silk knit etc. will be given thrust for added value realisation.
- Under Seed Sector, Seed Production Units will be equipped and strengthened **to bring in quality standards in production network**, besides increasing the production capacity to cater to the increased silk production target. Support would be provided for adopted seed rearers to generate quality seed cocoons, private graineurs to produce quality seed and Chawki Rearing Centres (CRCs) with incubation facilities to produce and supply chawki worms. Other efforts will include setting up new Cold storage, providing mobile disinfection units and equipment support for mechanization.
- Registration process under Seed Act and reporting by seed production centres, basic seed farms and extension centres will be automated **by developing web based software**. All the beneficiaries under the scheme from silk farmers, seed producers and chawkirearers will be brought on a DBT mode with Aadhaar linkage. A Helpline will be set up for timely redressal of grievances and all outreach programmes.
- **Brand Promotion of Indian silk** will be encouraged through quality certification by Silk Mark not only in the domestic market but in the Export market as well. High quality standards in silkworm seed, cocoon and raw silk will be promoted by setting up Cocoon Testing Centres & Silk Testing Centres. Efforts will be strengthened for collaborating with NIFT and NID for support on design and product development.

**Analysis:**

The scheme has following improvement over the earlier scheme:

- The scheme **aims to achieve self-sufficiency in silk production** by 2022. To achieve this, production of high grade silk in India will reach 20,650 MTs by 2022 from the current level of 11,326 MTs thereby reducing imports to Zero.
- For the first time, there is **clear focus on improving production of highest grade quality of silk**. It is proposed to increase 4A grade silk from the current level of 15% to 25 % of mulberry production by 2020.
- The implementation strategy is clearly based on convergence at the State level with the schemes of other Ministers like MGNREGS of Rural Development, RKVY & PMKSY of Ministry of Agriculture, for maximizing benefits to the sericulturists.
- The R&D projects pertaining to **disease resistant silkworm, host plant improvements, productivity enhancing tools and implements for reeling and waving** etc. will be done in cooperation with Ministries i.e. Science and Technology, Agriculture and Human Resource Development (HRD).

**Significance:**

The scheme is expected to increase the silk production from the level of 30348 MTs during 2016-17 to 38500 MTs by end of 2019-20 with the following interventions:

- **Production of import substitute bivoltine silk** to the tune of 8500 MTs per annum by 2020.
- **Research & Development to improve productivity** from the present level of 100 Kgs to 111 kgs of silk per ha. of plantation by the end of 2019-20.

- **Large scale propagation of improved reeling machines** (Automatic Reeling Machine for mulberry; improved reeling/spinning machineries and Buniyad reeling machines for Vanya silk) under Make in India programme to produce quality silk to cater to the market demand.

The scheme will promote Women Empowerment and livelihood opportunities to SC/ST and other weaker sections of the society. The scheme will help to increase productive employment from 85 lakhs to 1 crore persons by 2020.

## 9 Integrate to Innovate Programme

**CONTEXT:** Invest India has joined hands with energy sector companies to offer a unique lab-to-market opportunity for Indian startups through the Integrate to Innovate Programme.

### Aim/Objective:

- Integrate to Innovate is a **3-month corporate acceleration programme** for energy start-ups housed at the corporate premises.

### Salient features:

- The application for the programme is **hosted on Startup India Hub** – an online platform bringing together all stakeholders of the Indian startup ecosystem.
- The programme **provides an opportunity for collaboration and conversation** around valuable energy transitions, offering startups an opportunity to bring their ideas to life with the guidance and support from corporates.
- The selected startups will receive a cash prize grant of upto ₹ 5 Lakh per startup along with an opportunity to pilot their product with corporates.
- The corporates would **offer them access to technology, technical and commercial mentorship** and access to potential customers through the corporate network of partners.
- Entries are invited from innovators across various stages of the energy life-cycle—generation, transmission and distribution, storage and consumption—in multiple sectors such as households, farm, industry, infrastructure, building, utility and transport.
- The winners will be assessed on select parameters such as the breakthrough nature of the innovation, business viability and scalability potential.

## 10 e-Biz

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce

### Aim/Objective:

- The e-Biz project is **one of the 27 Mission Mode Projects under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)** being executed by **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India. It is **G2B (government to business) model** which will create a virtual interface between **business men and the government**.

### Salient features:

- e-Biz when implemented in its complete vision will transform business environment through following projected benefits:
- Enable **entrepreneurs to submit one integrated application for multiple licenses and make a consolidated payment for the various licenses that they require**
- Reduce the number of procedures and correspondingly the cost and time taken for obtaining approvals for starting and operating a business.

- Significantly improve the country's position on the **World Bank's Doing Business ranking** making the nation an investor friendly destination. Potentially improve the country's Starting a Business ranking to 112 (a jump of over 20 positions).
- A world-class G2B portal that enhances India's business competitiveness through a single, service oriented, event-driven interface for all G2B interactions.
- Integrated G2B Services across Central, State & Local Government & across all geographies in India.
- Currently, government of India has decided **10 pilot states** in which they are going to execute the plan and will develop later in other states of India.
- The e-Biz portal will provide total 11 union government services to reach its purpose.
- Provide all information regarding business 24X7 on a single portal

#### **Challenges:**

- Technological capabilities of govt. staff,
- Business process re-engineering,
- Change in management etc.
- Accessibility of the internet in India.
- Concerns over security, fear of spam.
- Seamless implementation of project

## **11 Scheme for IPR awareness**

#### **Ministry:**

- Launched by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- The Scheme aims at raising IPR awareness amongst students, youth, authors, artists, budding inventors and professionals to inspire them to create, innovate and protect their creations and inventions across India including Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 cities as well as rural areas in the next 3 years.

#### **Salient features:**

- The Scheme for IPR Awareness aims to conduct over 4000 IPR awareness workshops/seminars in academic institutions (schools and colleges) and the industry, including MSMEs and Startups, as also IP training and sensitization programmes for enforcement agencies and the judiciary.
- Workshops will cover all vital IP topics including international filing procedures, promotion of Geographical Indications and highlighting the ill effects of piracy and counterfeiting.

#### **Funds:**

- Funds to implement this scheme will be made available from the **head 'Intellectual Property' under the head 'Awareness Campaign'** which has already been

## **12 Niryat Bandhu Scheme**

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- To focus on **mentoring the first generation entrepreneurs** in the field of **international trade**.

- For **mentoring new and potential exporters** on the **intricacies of foreign trade** through **counselling, training, and outreach programme**

**Salient features:**

- Niryat Bandhu Scheme was announced as part of **Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14** in October, 2011.
- **Scheme was given a major thrust in the new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.**
- Online Certificate Programme in Export and Import Management offered by IIFT is an excellent effort which aims at empowering entrepreneurs and creating exporters under the same.
- Programme is **handled by faculty of international repute having expertise** in the area of international trade and well versed with the nuances of export-import procedures, documentation, regulations, financial schemes, currency management, risk management, customs and excise interface, etc. DGFT also extended total support for making this programme effective.
- To mark **successful completion of one year** of the programme, IIFT celebrated the occasion on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 to take a review of the progress and streamline the path forward.

## 13 Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Communication and IT

**Aim/Objective:**

- Created to supplement the **telecom skilled manpower creation for the growth of telecom sector** and to generate livelihood for the youth of the nation.

**Salient features:**

- Ministry will impart training to 10,000 people from 10 States/UTs in the first phase.
- States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab and Haryana will get benefitted in the first phase.
- Further, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) plans to establish more than 1,000 Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan in future.

## 14 India BPO Promotion Scheme

**CONTEXT:** The Union government is planning to expand its BPO promotion scheme under the Digital India initiative. The government has proposed to more than double the number of seats under the scheme.

**Ministry:** Ministry of IT and Electronics

**Aim/Objective:**

- The India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS), envisaged under Digital India Programme, seeks to incentivize establishment of 48,300 seats in respect of BPO/ITES operations across the country.

**Salient features:**

- It is distributed among each State in **proportion of State's population** with an outlay of Rs. 493 Crore.
- This would help in capacity building in smaller cities in terms of infra & manpower and would become basis for next wave of IT/ITES led growth.
- This scheme has potential to create employment opportunities of around 1.5 lakh direct jobs considering three shift operations. It may also create good number of indirect jobs.

- The scheme aims to incentivize establishment of BPO firms and their extension to Tier II and Tier III cities (as per census 2011) to provide employment, distributed across various states in proportion to population of state with financial support in form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF).
- The **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society of MeitY is nodal implementing agency of the scheme.**
- It will be implemented to incentivize setting up of BPO/ITES operations across the country (**excluding** certain cities and north eastern states which are covered separately under North-East BPO Promotion Scheme).

#### **Incentives:**

- **Financial Support:** Up to 50% of expenditure incurred on BPO/ITES operations towards capital expenditure (CAPEX) and/or operational expenditure (OPEX) on admissible items, subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 1 Lakh/Seat.
- Special incentives toward employment of **women & specially enabled persons.**
- Incentive for generating employment beyond target & wider dispersal within state including rural areas.
- **Encouragement for local entrepreneurs.**
- Special consideration for **Hilly states** of HP, J&K and UK.

## **15 ASPIRE**

**Ministry:** Ministry of MSME

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- ASPIRE has been launched in March, 2015 with an objective to set up a **network of technology centers, incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship** and also to **promote start-ups** for innovation and entrepreneurship in **rural and agriculture based industry** with a fund of Rs. 210 crores.

#### **Salient features:**

- Under ASPIRE, 80 Livelihood Business Incubation (LBI) centres are to be set up in which a total of 104000 incubates will be trained and 30 (10 new & 20 existing) Technology Business Incubation (TBI) centres.

#### **The main objectives of the ASPIRE scheme are to:**

- **Create new jobs** and reduce unemployment;
- Promote **entrepreneurship** culture in India;
- **Grassroots economic development** at district level;
- **Facilitate innovative business** solution for un-met social needs; and
- **Promote innovation** to further strengthen the competitiveness of MSME sector.

## **16 Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)**

**Ministry:** Ministry of MSME

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- The scheme has been introduced **all over India** to generate employment in rural areas. Under this scheme 29 khadi, 47 village industries and 21 coir clusters have been made functional by providing them with improved equipment, common facilities centres, business development services, training, capacity building and design and marketing support, etc.

**Salient features:**

- To organize the **traditional industries and artisans into clusters** to make them competitive and provide support for their long term sustainability and economy of scale;
- To provide **sustained employment for traditional industry artisans** and rural entrepreneurs;
- To **enhance marketability of products** of such clusters by providing support for new products, design intervention and improved packaging and also the improvement of marketing infrastructure;
- To **equip traditional artisans** of the associated clusters with the improved skills and capabilities through training and exposure visits;
- To make **provision for common facilities** and improved tools and equipment for artisans to promote optimum utilization of infrastructure facilities.

## 17 Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme

**CONTEXT:** The Central government will continue the *"Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme"* for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) beyond the 12th Plan period for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has approved the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Up-gradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS) with a total outlay of Rs.2900 crore.

**Salient features:**

- The objective of the Scheme is to facilitate **technology up-gradation in MSMEs** by providing an **upfront capital subsidy of 15 per cent** (on institutional finance of up to Rs 1 crore availed by them) for induction of well-established and improved technology in the specified 51 sub-sectors/products approved.
- The major objective is to **upgrade their plant & machinery** with **state-of-the-art technology**, with or without expansion and also for new MSEs which have set up their facilities with appropriate eligible and proven technology duly approved under scheme guidelines.
- The Scheme is a **demand driven one without any upper limit on overall annual spending** on the subsidy disbursal.

**Nature of assistance:**

- The revised scheme aims at facilitating technology up-gradation by providing 15% up front capital subsidy to MSMEs, including **tiny, khadi, village and coir industrial units**, on institutional finance availed by them for induction of well-established and improved technologies in specified sub-sectors/products approved under the scheme.

**Advantages:**

- In addition, the scheme through **Zero Defect & Zero Effect**, component will promote reduction in emission level of green house gases and improve the competitiveness through reduction in defect / wastage during the manufacturing process of the products. It will also promote the innovation, digital empowerment of MSMEs, design interventions and support the protection of intellectual property of MSMEs.
- The scheme will facilitate technology up-gradation to MSEs, improvement in Quality of products by MSMEs, enhancement in productivity, reduction in waste and shall promote a culture of continuous improvement.

## 18 Solar Charkha Mission

**CONTEXT:** President Ram Nath Kovind recently launched the Solar Charkha Mission covering artisans in 50 identified clusters.

**Ministry:** Ministry of MSME

**Aim/Objective:**

- It was launched during the event of **Udyam Sangam (National MSME Conclave)** on the occasion of **World MSME Day (observed on 27 June)**.

**Salient features:**

- The **Solar Charkha Mission** will **generate employment** in **rural areas** and contribute to the green economy. The mission will entail a subsidy of Rs 550 crore in the initial two years for 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans.
- The scheme also aims at linking **five crore women** across the country to the initiative. The mission is expected to create one lakh jobs during the first two years.

**Significance of MSMEs:**

- MSME account for around **60% employment** in India.
- MSME have registered over **10% growth** in recent times which is much more compared to large enterprises.
- This is one sector where people not only exhibit their entrepreneurial skills, become part of large value chains but also become **job creators** in the process.

## 19 TAMRA

**Ministry:** Ministry of Mines

**Aim/Objective:**

- The Ministry of Mines has launched Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation (TAMRA) Portal and Mobile Application to ensure **transparent award of statutory Clearances for mining operations**.

**Salient features:**

- The TAMRA platform was simultaneously launched across **12 mineral rich states** as a part of the **Ease of Doing Business** in the Mining sector and to double mining contribution to GDP.
- The TAMRA covers block-wise, state-wise and mineral-wise information of mines to be auctioned. It monitors various statutory clearances and also highlights the additional resources generated through e-auction.
- It is an interactive platform to **speed up mining activity** by facilitating all the stakeholders to track the status of the statutory clearances associated with mining blocks.
- In case of delay in obtaining any statutory clearances, TAMRA platform will send triggers to the concerned authority so that they can take remedial steps immediately.
- The **Union Ministry of Mines** will also receive triggers generated by TAMRA, facilitating it in expediting clearances. Further, the status of each of the clearances will be reflected on the portal.
- The portal also enables successful bidder to give suggestions and inputs. It will help to establish a participative and informative network among all stakeholders.

## 20 Surya Mitra Scheme

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

**Aim/Objective:**

- To provide **skill training to rural youth in handling solar installations**

**Salient features:**

- It is Union Government's **skill development program**
- Aims to create skilled manpower in commissioning, installation, O&M of solar power plants and equipment.
- Its primary objective is to provide **entrepreneurship and employability opportunities to rural and urban youth & women.**
- The scheme is aimed at creating 50,000 trained solar photovoltaic technicians by March 2020.
- Special emphasis is given to skill youth from SC/ST/OBC categories.
- **The qualification required to participate in the program is ITI (Electrical & Wireman) / Diploma in Engineering (Electrical, Electronics & Mechanical).**
- **Higher qualified participants such as B.Tech etc are not eligible for this programme.**
- The programme is **100% funded by GOI** and **implemented by National Institute for Solar Energy (NISE) across the country.**
- In addition, short term training programmes for small hydro, entrepreneurship development, operation & maintenance of solar energy devices and boiler operations in co-generation plants have been organized.
- **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)** is an autonomous institution of **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).**

## 21 India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Programme

**CONTEXT:** Government of India and the World Bank sign \$300 Million Agreement to help scale-up India's Energy Efficiency Program

**Aim/Objective:**

- The Program, to be implemented by the **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, will help scale-up the deployment of energy saving measures in residential and public sectors, strengthen EESL's institutional capacity, and enhance its access to commercial financing.

**Salient features:**

- Creating sustainable markets for **LED lights** and energy efficient ceiling fans; facilitating well-structured and scalable investments in public street lighting; developing sustainable business models for emerging market segments such as super-efficient air conditioning and agricultural water pumping systems; and strengthening the institutional capacity of EESL.
- Moreover, the Program will help to increase private sector participation in energy efficiency, including through private sector energy service companies.
- Under the Program, EESL will deploy **219 million LED bulbs and tube lights, 5.8 million ceiling fans, and 7.2 million street lights**, which will be **supplied by private sector manufacturers and suppliers.**
- As an integral part of the operation, the **first-ever IBRD guarantee in India** will help EESL access new markets for commercial financing in line with the Bank's approach of maximizing finance for development.

- The **guarantee is expected to leverage some \$200 million in additional financing**, to help EESL with its growing portfolio and future investment needs.

## 22 Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Power

**Aim/Objective:**

- Financial turnaround and **revival of Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs)** and ensure a sustainable permanent solution to the problem.

**Scheme:**

- It has ambitious target of making **all discoms profitable by 2018-19**.
- The scheme will ease the financial crunch faced by power distribution companies that has impaired their ability to buy electricity.
- It is based on the premise that it is **states' responsibility to ensure that discoms become financially viable**.
- **States shall take over 75% of DISCOM debt** as on 30 September 2015 over two years i.e 50% of DISCOM debt shall be taken over in 2015-16 and 25% in 2016-17.
- **Government of India will not include the debt taken over by the States as per the above scheme in the calculation of fiscal deficit** of respective States in the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- **States will issue non-SLR including SDL bonds in the market** or directly to the respective banks / Financial Institutions (FIs) holding the DISCOM debt to the appropriate extent.
- **DISCOM debt not taken over by the State shall be converted by the Banks / FIs into loans or bonds.**

## 23 National Power Portal

**CONTEXT:** NPP is integrated with associated systems of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and other major utilities and would serve as single authentic source of power sector information to apex bodies, utilities for the purpose of analysis, planning, monitoring as well as for public users.

**Ministry:** Ministry for Power and New & Renewable Energy

**Salient features:**

- NPP is a **centralised system** for Indian Power Sector which facilitates online data capture/ input (daily, monthly, annually) from generation, transmission and distribution utilities in the country and disseminate Power Sector Information (operational, capacity, demand, supply, consumption etc.).
- It works through various **analysed reports, graphs, statistics** for generation, transmission and distribution at all India, region, state level for central, state and private sector.
- The NPP Dashboard has been designed and developed **to disseminate analyzed information about the sector** through GIS enabled navigation and visualization chart windows on capacity, generation, transmission, distribution at national, state, DISCOM, town, feeder level and scheme based funding to states.
- The system also facilitates various types of statutory reports required to be published regularly.

- The system is **available 24×7** and ensures effective and timely collection of data. It standardized data parameters and formats for seamless exchange of data between NPP and respective systems at utilities.
- The stakeholders of NPP are Ministry of Power (MoP), CEA, PFC for Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), REC for Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), other power sector utilities in government as well as private sector, Apex Bodies, other government organizations and public users.
- The Nodal Agency for implementation of NPP and its operational control is **CEA**.
- The system has been conceptualized, designed and developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

## 24 Mahatma Bunker Bima Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles

**Aim/Objective:**

- To provide **insurance cover to handloom weavers** in case of **natural death** (Rs. 60,000/-), **accidental death** (Rs.1,50,000/-), **total disability** (Rs.1,50,000/-) and **partial disability** (Rs. 75,000/-).

**Features:**

- In addition to above, a scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying in standards IX to XII. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered.
- It is expected to cover 10 lakh weavers in the current year.

## 24 JUTE – iCARE

**Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles

**Aim/Objective:**

- Handholding the farmers to increase the supply of raw jute & to improve agronomical practices

**Salient features:**

- **Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise for Jute (Jute – ICARE)** introduced some of the better agronomic practices and microbial-assisted retting among farmers.
- **Retting is a process in which jute is placed in liquid so as to promote loosening of the fibres from the woody tissue.**
- It was promoted intensively in a few blocks in **West Bengal and Assam** on pilot basis.
- Under the project, SMS are sent in regional languages on improved practices in jute cultivation, to registered farmers.

## 25 Hath Kargha Samvardhan Sahayata

**Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles

**Aim/Objective:**

- The scheme aims to **improve earnings of the handlooms weavers.**

**Significance:**

- It helps to meet the needs of the handloom weavers for assistance for looms and accessories on larger scale with an objective to improve quality of fabric and productivity.
- Under this scheme, **GoI assists the weaver by bearing 90% of the cost of new looms** so that they do not have to bear the heavy financial burden.

## 26 Deendayal Hastkala Sankul

**Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles

**Aim/Objective:**

- This Centre would **help the artisans and weavers showcase their skills** to the world, and facilitate a brighter future for them

**Salient features:**

- The centre will facilitate weavers/artisans/exporters in **promotion of handlooms and handicrafts in both domestic and international markets**. Moreover, Crafts Museum at the centre will preserve traditional handloom/handicrafts products of Varanasi and showcase handloom & handicraft products.
- The centre will help to **promote rich traditional craft of ancient Varanasi**.
- It will provide **enabling platform and environment** to showcase Indian handloom and handicrafts.
- It will **provide supply chain linkages** to domestic and foreign buyers.
- Moreover, it will **give thrust to domestic and international tourism**.
- It will also give boost to trade and economic development of Varanasi as well as eastern parts of country.

## 27 Saathi Initiative

**Ministry:** Ministries of Power and Textiles

**Aim/Objective:**

- Under the initiative, Small and Medium Power loom units will be provided energy efficient powerlooms, motors and rapier kits at **no upfront costs by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power.

**Salient features:**

- The SAATHI initiative will be jointly implemented pan India by **EESL and the office of the textile commissioner of India**.
- Key clusters such as Ichalkaranji, Surat, Erode etc have been chosen for implementation of the initiative.
- The initiative is based on the aggregation, bulk procurement and financing model that EESL has successfully deployed in several sectors like Electric Vehicles, Smart Met Meters and LED bulbs.
- Under this initiative, the **owner of the unit does not have to allocate any upfront capital cost to procure these equipments. He also does not have to allocate additional expenses for repayment**.
- **The repayments by unit owner to EESL will made from savings that accrue as result of higher efficiency equipments and cost savings.**

- The aggregation of demand and bulk procurement will lead to reduction in capital cost and benefits of it will be passed on to powerloom units so that their repayment amount and period would reduce.

## 28 Bunkar Mitra

**Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles

**Aim/Objective:**

- The Union Ministry of Textiles has decided to establish a **Bunkar Mitra-Handloom Helpline Centre** where experts in the field of textiles will answer professional queries of weavers.

**Salient features:**

- This helpline aims to overcome the **problem of unavailability of single point of contact** where weavers can seek solutions for their technical issues/problems.
- Currently there **28 Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs)** functioning across the country to provide technical assistance to handloom weavers in improving their skills.

## 29 PowerTex

**Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles

**Aim/Objective:**

- **To boost common infrastructure and modernisation of the powerloom sector in the country.**

**Salient features:**

- PowerTex India scheme comprises new research and development in power loom textiles, new markets, branding, subsidies and welfare schemes for the workers.
- It has two schemes:
  - ▶ Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme (PMCS) for powerloom weavers and
  - ▶ Solar energy scheme (SEC) for powerlooms.
- **PMCS for power looms:** Under it, financial assistance, including margin money subsidy and interest reimbursement, will be given as against the credit facility under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana to the decentralised power loom units.
- **SEC for power looms:** Under it, financial subsidy for the installation of the Solar Photo Voltaic Plants will be provided to alleviate the problems of power cuts.
- Government will provide subsidy of 50% to power loom units having maximum eight looms for adopting solar energy for captive use either in grid or off grid system

## 30 Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector

**Aim/Objective:**

- To ensure steady supply of skilled manpower in the labour-intensive textile sector.
- The objectives of the scheme are to provide demand driven, placement oriented skilling programme to incentivize the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile

and related sectors; to promote skilling and skill up-gradation in the traditional sectors through respective Sectoral Divisions/organizations of Ministry of Textiles; and to provide livelihood to all sections of the society across the country.

### Salient features:

#### The scheme will broadly adopt the following strategy:

- **Job role wise skilling targets** will be based on skill gap identified for various levels i.e. Entry level courses, Up-skilling/ Re-skilling (supervisor, managerial training, advanced courses for adapting technology etc.), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Training of Trainers, Entrepreneurship Development.
- Segment Wise/ Job role wise requirement of skill needs will be assessed from time to time in consultation with the industry.
- **Web-based monitoring will be adopted** for steering every aspect of implementation of the programme.
- Skilling requirement in the traditional sectors such as handlooms, handicrafts, jute, silk etc. will be considered as special projects through respective Sectoral Divisions/organizations. Skill upgradation will be supported further for entrepreneurial development through provision of MUDRA loans.
- With a view to make outcomes measurable, successful trainees will be assessed and certified by an accredited Assessment Agency.
- **Atleast 70% of the certified trainees are to be placed in the wage employment.** Post Placement tracking will be mandatory under the scheme.
- Acknowledging the high levels of employment of women in the sector post training, all partner institutions will be required to comply with the guidelines regarding Internal Complaints Committee to be constituted under the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013** to become eligible for funding under the scheme.

### Advantages:

- The scheme will be implemented for the **benefit of all sections of the society** across the country including rural, remote, LWE affected, North East, J&K by imparting skills in the identified job roles.
- Preference will be given to various social groups, SC, ST, differently abled, minorities and other vulnerable groups.
- Under previous scheme of skill development implemented by the Ministry of Textiles in the XII Plan period, more than 10 lakh people have been trained of which more than 70% were women.
- Considering that the apparel industry, a major segment to be covered under the scheme, **employs majorly women (about 70%)**, the trend is likely to be continued in the new scheme.
- 10 lakh people are expected to be skilled and certified in various segments of Textile Sector through the scheme, out of which 1 lakh will be in traditional sectors.

## 31 North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Textile

### Aim/Objective:

- To develop and modernise the textile sector in the North East Region.

### Salient features:

- The broad objective of the North East Textile Promotion Scheme is to develop and modernise the textile sector in the North East Region by providing the required Government **support in terms of raw material, seed banks, machinery, common facility centres, skill development, design and marketing support etc.**

- The specific objectives of the scheme include increase in the value of textile production, technology upgradation, improvement in design capability, diversification of product lines and value addition, better access to domestic and export markets, clusterisation and improvement in labour productivity, market access & market promotion.
- The scheme was **launched by the Union Textile Ministry**. Under this intervention, each state now has one centre with three units having approximately 100 machines each.
- The project is **fully funded by the Ministry** with an estimated cost of Rs. 18.18 crores for one Apparel Centre in each state.
- The central assistance is towards construction of physical infrastructure, machinery for the units and towards capacity building of workers for a period of 3 years.

## 32 UTTAM App

**Ministry:** The Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL)

**Aim/Objective:**

- It aims to provide an **App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries**.

**Salient features:**

**The salient features of UTTAM APP are:**

- **Sampling Coverage;** The App provides coverage of Third Party Sampling which includes information on production, dispatch and quantity sampled of coal.
- **Subsidiary wise quality parameters;** An interactive map based view provides holistic coverage of coal quality across subsidiaries, along with subsidiary details on quality parameters (Declared Gross Calorific Value [GCV], Analysed GCV) and coverage parameters (Locations, Quantity sampled).
- **Declared Vs Analysed GCV:** With CIL's aim of having minimum variation between declared and analysed GCV of coal, an accurate representation of the same is incorporated in the App.
- **Complaints pertaining to quality of Coal:** Complaints are reflection of coal quality and transparency in the coal ecosystem. The App reflects the trend of complaints, which validates CIL's efforts for quality improvement through Third Party Sampling.
- With the reduction in imports and gap minimising between analysed and declared grade, the reduction of complaints have been observed.
- **Sampled volume** – The App presents the latest quantity sampled in the power and non-power sector, bringing transparency in the coal quality assessment system.
- **Imports of coal** – The amount of coal imported is a clear reflection of the quality of coal that is produced within the country. The trend of coal imports over the last years is presented in the App.

**Specific benefits of the UTTAM App:**

- **For Subsidiary structure:** The information about subsidiary wise declared GCV will help citizens and coal consumers to compare and assess the coal quality coming from a particular mine. It will provide a proper mapping of declared grade of coal dispatch to the consumers.
- **For Coal consumer portal:** The portal would give detailed information for coal consumers regarding the Third Party Sampling parameters. The App will give access for monitoring coal quality to individual coal consumers.

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# Infrastructure Schemes & Initiatives

## 1 Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Power

**Aim/Objective:**

- To ensure **electrification of all the un-electrified villages by 2017** in mission mode.

**Salient features:**

- It focuses on **feeder separation (rural households & agricultural)** and strengthening of sub-transmission & distribution infrastructure including metering at all levels in rural areas.
- This will help in **providing round the clock power to rural households** and adequate power to agricultural consumers .
- The earlier scheme for rural electrification viz. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has been subsumed in the new scheme as its rural electrification component.
- The major components of the scheme are **feeder separation; strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network;**
- **Metering at all levels (input points, feeders and distribution transformers);** Micro grid and off grid distribution network & Rural electrification- already sanctioned projects under RGGVY to be completed.

**Benefits from the scheme**

- **All villages and households** shall be electrified
- Increase in **agriculture yield**
- **Business of Small and household enterprises** shall grow resulting into new avenues for employment
- Improvement in **Health, Education, Banking (ATM)** services
- Improvement in accessibility to **radio, telephone, television, internet and mobile** etc
- Betterment in **social security** due to availability of electricity
- **Accessibility of electricity** to schools, panchayats, hospitals and police stations etc
- Rural areas shall get increased opportunities for comprehensive development

## 2 Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018

**CONTEXT:** Supreme Court has approved Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme.

- The apex court also modified Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007 and made it clear that it will not be extending time for its implementation on any ground.

**Ministry:**

- It will be implemented by **Cauvery Management Authority (CMA)**.
- CMA will be sole body to implement CWDT award as modified by Supreme Court.
- The Central Government will have no say in implementing of the scheme except for issuing administrative advisories to it.

**Aim/Objective:**

- It aims for **smooth distribution of water among four southern riparian states/UT** viz. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.
- The scheme deals with release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

**Salient Features:**

- The newly constituted Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA) has been created as per the Cauvery Management Scheme earlier framed by Centre and approved by Supreme Court.
- The authority will comprise a **chairman, a secretary and eight members**. Out of the eight members, two will be full time, while two will be part time members from centre's side.
- Rest four will be part time members from states. The main mandate of the CMA will be to secure implementation and compliance of the Supreme Court's order in relation to "storage, apportionment, regulation and control of Cauvery waters".
- CMA will also **advise the states to take suitable measures to improve water use efficiency**. It will do so by promoting use of micro-irrigation, change in cropping patterns, improved farm practices and development of command areas.
- The CMA will **also prepare an annual report** covering its activities during the preceding year.

**Analysis:**

- Cauvery River rises on **Brahmagiri Hill of Western Ghats** in south-western Karnataka.
- It flows in south-easterly direction through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu before emptying into Bay of Bengal.
- At its mouth near Bay of Bengal it forms **wide delta** called garden of southern India.
- Kaveri's main tributaries are **Kabani (Kabbani), Noyil, Amaravati, Hemavati, Lakshmantirtha and Bhavani rivers**.

**Significance:**

- The river is **important for its irrigation canal projects** in southern states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.
- The Supreme Court order **raised Karnataka's share** of Cauvery water by 14.75 tmcft saying that issue of drinking water of Southern Karnataka region has to be placed on a higher pedestal.
- At the same time, it **reduced Tamil Nadu's share**, while compensating it by allowing extraction of 10 tmcft groundwater from river basin.

**3****Highway capacity Manual (Indo-HCM)**

**CONTEXT: 'Indo-HCM', country's first ever Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) has been released.**

**Ministry:**

- It was released by Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.

**Aim/Objective:**

- India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual is **to guide road engineers and policy makers** about road expansion. The manual is known as Indo-HCM.

**Target Group:**

- Road Engineers and Policy Makers

**Salient Features:**

- The manual lays down guidelines for when and how to expand or manage different types of roads and their intersections and level of services to be put in place.
- It is designed to be useful tool for guiding road engineers and policy makers in country.

**Analysis:**

- The manual has been **developed by CSIR-CRRI** on basis of an extensive, country-wide study of traffic characteristics on different categories of roads like single, two, multi-lane urban roads, inter-urban highways and expressways and associated intersections on these roads.
- The study involved **seven academic institutions** including IITs Mumbai, Roorkee, and Guwahati, School of Planning and Architecture (New Delhi), Indian Institute of Engineering and Science and Technology (Shibpur), Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Institute of Technology (Surat) and Anna University (Chennai).

**Significance:**

- It has been developed based on the unique nature and diversity of traffic on Indian roads.
- The manual will **help in the scientific planning and expansion of road infrastructure** in country.
- This is **first time that manual has been developed in India**. Other countries like USA, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Taiwan have developed their own Highway Capacity Manuals long time back.

**4****Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Housing for All (Urban)**

**CONTEXT:** According to the findings by ratings agency Crisil, the central government has to mobilise Rs 1 lakh crore in the next three years for achieving its target of building 1 crore houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), being implemented by the ministry of housing and urban affairs under the mission 'Housing for All by 2022' since June 2015.

**Ministry:**

- This scheme was launched by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA)** to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) was launched in June 2015 with an objective to **provide affordable housing to urban and rural poor**.
- This scheme has **two components** viz. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) for the urban poor and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G or PMAY-R) for the rural poor.

**Target Group:**

- The beneficiaries of this scheme **include Economically Weaker Section (EWS), low-income groups (LIGs) and Middle Income Groups (MIGs)**.
- The annual income cap is up to Rs 3 lakh for EWS, Rs 3-6 lakh for LIG and Rs. 6 + -18 lakhs for MIG.
- EWS category of beneficiaries is eligible for assistance in all four verticals of the Missions whereas LIG and MIG categories are eligible under only Credit linked subsidy scheme (CLSS)

- The identification is done **on the basis of self-certificate or affidavit submitted by individual** at the time of loan application. Further, the beneficiary family should not own a pucca house either in his name or in the name of any member of his family.

### Salient Features:

The key components of this programme are as follows:

- **In-situ as well as ex-situ slum rehabilitation** with participation of private developers.
- **Credit linked subsidy** for affordable housing to poor
- Affordable housing **in partnership with private sector**
- **Subsidy** for individuals for construction of house

Kindly note that the scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme except the “credit linked subsidy” component which is a central sector component.

### Analysis:

- The mission supports **construction of the houses up to 30m<sup>2</sup> carpet area** with basic amenities. However, the states and union territories have freedom to determine the sizes of houses and other facilities.
- One of the components of this scheme is the **in-situ slum redeveloped based on Land as a resource** with participation of private sector for providing houses to eligible slum dwellers. Under this component, the slums are developed in-situ and provided pucca houses in same land. Such land, whether that of central government or state government or local body must be denotified.
- Under Credit Linked Subsidy, the loan up to Rs. 6 Lakh with a interest rate of 6.5% for 20 years or more is provided to beneficiaries. The total interest subsidy under this scheme is Rs. 2.30 Lakh.
- The houses for availing this subsidy should be less than 30sqm in carpet area.
- **Preference is given to women, SC, ST, Manual scavengers, PwD** and so on.
- From January, 2017, the credit linked subsidy scheme is also available to taxpaying middle class population who don't have a pucca house. The people who have income between 6 and 18 Lakhs per annum are also thus eligible to get low interest loans for MIG houses. The carpet area of houses in such condition is fixed maximum @120 sqm for income up to 12 Lakh and @150 sqm for income up to 18 Lakh per annum.
- Under Affordable Housing through Partnership component, **government provides financial assistance @Rs. 1.5 Lakh per EWS house** being built up to builders in States/UTs/Cities.

### Significance:

- The PMAY-U covers all 4041 statutory towns as per Census 2011 with focus on 500 class-I cities. It has three phases as follows:
- **Phase I** (April 2015 – March 2017) to cover 100 Cities selected from States/UTs as per their willingness.
- **Phase II** (April 2017 – March 2019) to cover additional 200 Cities
- **Phase III** (April 2019 – March 2022) to cover all other remaining Cities

## 5 Multimodal logistics park

**CONTEXT:** Jogighopa, a small town in Assam, is set to become India's gateway to South-East Asia as well as the rest of the North-East with the road ministry gearing up to develop a multimodal logistics park (MMLP) there with road, rail, waterways and air transport facilities.

- The development includes railway sidings, container terminals, warehousing, non-cargo processing, a truck terminal, common facilities, support infrastructure and equipment.

- **A special purpose vehicle, backed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, will be created to execute the project, which will be executed in two phases—Phase I of around Rs155.46 crore and Rs115.88 crore for Phase II.

### Ministry:

- As per the note, the **transport ministry** will form a multi-modal company (MMC) to manage the development of logistic parks.
- This company will have representation from **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Indian Railways, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Indian Ports Association (IPA)**.
- It will also enter into partnerships with other government entities such as Dedicated Freight Corridor Corp. of India, Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corp. and Container Corporation of India Ltd.

### Aim/Objective:

- The concept note has proposed 15 multi-modal logistics parks worth Rs.32,853 crore in seven states viz. Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana to improve freight movement across the country.
- These would **cover about 40% of the total road freight movement** in the country.

### Salient Features:

The major functions of these parks would be as follows:

- To act as **hubs for freight movement** enabling freight aggregation and distribution
- Connectivity with road and rail and other modes of transport to **promote multi-modal freight transportation**
- Provision of modern mechanized warehousing space to satisfy requirements of different commodity groups.

### Analysis:

Currently, the logistics cost in India are about 13-14% higher in comparison to developed countries. The major factors responsible for higher logistics cost include

- Unfavourable **inter-modal mix** (road transport carries 60% of freight, despite rail transport being cheaper than roads on a per ton per km basis)
- Inefficient **fleet mix** (smaller inefficient trucks)
- Under-developed **material handling infrastructure** (unorganised warehouses) increasing supply chain costs
- **Procedural complexities** (toll collections, inter-state freight movement, etc.) leading to about 15% loss of time on freight routes.

### Significance:

The key expected advantages from these parks include:

- **Reduction in transportation costs** by 10% for top 15 nodes;.
- **Reduction in pollution** {because it will facilitate transportation on bigger and efficient trucks}.
- **Reduction in congestion and warehousing cost** by moving warehouses outside of cities where traffic movement is easy and rentals are low.

## 6 Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas

**CONTEXT:** Government has signed second Loan Agreement with New Development Bank (NDB) for financing of Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas. This is the first tranche loan of \$100 million

**was approved by the NDB under Multi Tranche Financing Facility of \$345 million for this project.**

**Ministry:**

Government of Rajasthan will implement the project primarily through **Rajasthan Water Resources Department**.

**Aim/Objective:**

The objective of the project is **to rehabilitate 678 km long Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP)** built during 1958-63 to prevent seepage, conserve water, and enhance water use efficiency as mandated by both national and state level policies on water use.

**Salient Features:**

- The project will enable **arresting the seepage** by rehabilitating the deteriorating canal lining of IGNP system which needs urgent attention.
- Its implementation period is of **6 years**.

**Analysis:**

New Development Bank (NDB)

- NDB is multilateral development bank promoted by **BRICS nations** viz. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It is outcome of 6th BRICS Summit being held in Fortaleza, Brazil.
- It is headquartered in **Shanghai, China**. It will have a regional office in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- NDB began its operations in July 2015 with an initial capital of 100 billion dollars.
- The goal of the bank is **to fund infrastructure projects** in emerging economies for sustainable development.
- In the NDB, **each participant country has been assigned one vote**, and none of the countries have veto power.

**Significance:**

The project is aimed at **arresting seepage** by refurbishing canal, modernisation of irrigation management practices by involving water users' associations, strengthening of drinking water supply and irrigation facilities and rehabilitation of waterlogged areas.

**7**

## **Smart Freight Optimisation and Real Time Information (SFOORTI) Application**

**CONTEXT:** In a major digital initiative to help plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations, Ministry of Railways have launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Railways

**Aim/Objective:**

- It helps to plan traffic flows and optimize freight operations.
- The app will help Freight Managers **to monitor and manage freight business** using Geographic Information System (GIS) views and dashboard.

**Target Group:**

- SFOORTI application will help to track movement of **freight trains** over Zones/Divisions/Sections on GIS View.
- Even **passenger trains** can be tracked using it.

**Salient Features:**

- It has Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) Map View–A **GIS based monitoring and management tool** designed and developed in CRIS which provides layered views of freight trains on Indian Railways.
- The FOIS Map View–A GIS has been designed to cater to Divisional, Zonal and Board levels of management for improved freight operations and also help to plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations

**Analysis:**

- Railway Freight traffic is **vital for economic and industrial progress** of the country.
- Freight traffic is major source of **revenue for Indian Railways**.
- Only one-third of 13000 trains running daily by Indian Railways are freight trains, but they accounts 65% of total revenue of Railways.

**Significance:**

- It will help **to monitor freight business** along with comparative analysis of Zonal and Divisional Traffic.
- The app will help in analysis of new traffic captured and traffic lost and **provides a Bird's eye view of all Freight Assets in a single window**.
- It will also provide **end to end Rake movement** on Geospatial view and will also help evaluate daily performance of expected traffic at Interchange points.

**8****Jal Marg Vikas Project for development of fairway (navigable waterway) on National Waterway-1 (NW 1)**

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on 1,380-km Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW1) on Ganga River.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Shipping, Government of India

**Aim/Objective:**

- JMVP was announced by Government in 2014-15 Budget to enable commercial navigation of at least 1500 tonne vessels on the **Ganga river**.
- The project envisages the development of waterway **between Allahabad and Haldia** on Ganga River that will cover a distance of 1620 km.

**Target Group:**

- The project will be implemented at a cost of over Rs. 5,370 crore rupees with the technical assistance and investment support of the **World Bank**.
- It is expected to be completed by March, 2023.

**Salient Features:**

- The project covers **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
- The major districts under its ambit are Varanasi, Ballia, Ghazipur, Chhapra, Buxar, Patna, Vaishali, Khagaria, Begusarai, Munger, Bhagalpur, Sahibganj, Murshidabad, Pakur, Hooghly and Kolkata.
- The project aims **to develop a fairway with three metres depth** to enable commercial navigation of at least 1500 tonne vessels on the river.
- It also includes the development of fairway, multi-modal terminals, strengthening of open river navigation technique, conservancy works, modern River Information System (RIS) etc.

**Analysis:**

- The World Bank has provided technical assistance and financial support to the project. Besides, WB's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will provide loan of Rs 2, 512 crore for the project.
- Union government provide Rs 2,556 crore from budgetary allocation and proceeds from bond issue.
- Moreover, **private sector participation under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode** will provide Rs. 301 crore.

**Significance:**

- Development and operations of NW1 will provide **alternative mode of environment friendly and cost effective transport mode.**
- The project will contribute in **bringing down the logistics cost** in the country and reduce traffic burden and congestion on roads and railways.
- It will result into **mammoth infrastructure development** like multi-modal and inter-modal terminals, Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) facilities, ferry services, navigation aids.
- It will also give **impetus to socio-economic development** and result in employment generation.

**9****NABH Nirman**

**CONTEXT:** The government is augmenting the airport capacity of various airports as part of NABH (NextGen Airports for BHarat) Nirman initiative.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation

**Aim/Objective:**

- The government in February announced a new initiative — NABH Nirman— under which it proposes to expand airport capacity in the country by **more than five times** to handle a billion trips a year.
- The three key aspects of NABH Nirman are:
  - fair and equitable **land acquisition**
  - **long-term master plan** for airport and regional development
  - **balanced economics** for all stakeholders.

**Target Group:**

NABH is an initiative for building airport capacity.

**Analysis:**

- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has 124 airports and it is proposed to expand by more than five times the airport capacity to handle a billion trips a year under the new initiative.
- Improving passenger amenities, promoting cargo handling facilities and early operationalization of 56 new airports under UDAN scheme will be the focus areas while simultaneously working on improving regional connectivity and improving passenger services in a big way.

**Significance:**

- In the last three years, domestic air passenger traffic grew at 18% a year and the airline companies placed orders for more than 900 aircraft.
- NABH Nirman could **take the number of airports in India to 700 from about 125** airports today.

## 10 National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

**CONTEXT:** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved investment of \$200 million in India's National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to give greater impetus to mega infrastructure projects. It will be investing US \$100 million now and remaining \$100 million in the time to come.

### Ministry:

- NIIF was set up in December 2015 to catalyse funding into the country's infrastructure sector.
- It has been registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India as a Category II Alternate Investment Fund.

### Aim/Objective:

- The objective of NIIF would be **to maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure development** in commercially viable projects, both green-field and brown-field, including stalled projects.
- It could also consider other **nationally important projects**, for example, in manufacturing, if commercially viable.

### Target Group:

- It has been set up as a fund of funds structure with aim **to generate risk adjusted returns for its investors** alongside promoting infrastructure development.
- It has targeted corpus of Rs 40,000 crore to be raised over the years — 49% of it will be funded by government at any given point of time. The remaining 51% will be raised from domestic and global investors, including international pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, multilateral/bilateral investors.
- Its **Governing Council is chaired by Finance Minister** and has already been set up to act as an advisory council to the NIIF.

### Salient Features:

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is a fund created by the Government of India for **enhancing infrastructure financing in the country**.
- This is **different from the National Investment Fund**.
- NIIF was proposed to be set up as a Trust, **to raise debt to invest in the equity of infrastructure finance companies** such as Indian Rail Finance Corporation (IRFC) and National Housing Bank (NHB). The idea is that these infrastructure finance companies can then leverage this extra equity, manifold. In that sense, NIIF is a banker of the banker of the banker.
- NIIF is envisaged as a fund of funds with the ability **to make direct investments as required**. As a fund of fund it may invest in other SEBI registered funds.

### Analysis:

The functions of NIIF are as follows:

- Fund raising** through suitable instruments including off-shore credit enhanced bonds, and attracting anchor investors to participate as partners in NIIF.
- Servicing of the investors of NIIF.
- Considering and approving candidate companies/institutions/ projects (including state entities) for **investments and periodic monitoring of investments**.
- Investing in the corpus created by Asset Management Companies (AMCs) for **investing in private equity**.
- Preparing a shelf of infrastructure projects and providing advisory services.

**Significance:**

- NIIF provides equity / quasi-equity support to those Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)/Financial Institutions (FIs) that **are engaged mainly in infrastructure financing**. These institutions will be able to leverage this equity support and provide debt to the projects selected.
- Invest in funds engaged mainly in infrastructure sectors and managed by Asset Management Companies (AMCs) for equity / quasi-equity funding of listed / unlisted companies.
- It provides Equity/ quasi-equity support / debt to projects, **to commercially viable projects, both green-field and brown-field, including stalled projects.**

## 11 Aapoorti of Indian Railways e-procurement system (IREPS)

**CONTEXT:** The Indian Railways launched the Aapoorti Mobile App to facilitate easier conduct of business with the railways.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Railways

**Aim/Objective:**

- The app is expected **to contain all the information** regarding published and closed tenders as well as details on purchase orders.
- **Details regarding the e-auction of scrap sales** would also be available on the mobile app which would further boost engagement of local businesses with the national transporter.

**Target Group:**

- The mobile app will be **part of the Indian Railways e-procurement system (IREPS)** and would provide all information and data regarding e-tender and e-auction activities.

**Salient Features**

- It is also reported that the mobile app would carry the user manual of IREPS and solicit feedback from users for the purposes of improving the functioning of the app.
- **Procurement of goods, services and works by the Indian Railways** are all done via IREPS which has made it the largest G2B portal in India.

**Analysis:**

- The mobile app Aapoorti is only expected to **further increase the volume of transactions** as it provides businesses with an easier and alternative interface.

## 12 Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)

**CONTEXT:** Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has launched Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10881 crore. Under this fund, first installment of Rs. 440 crore was given to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

**Ministry:**

- This scheme was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in September 2017 with aim to boost dairy sector. It is managed by NDDB and will be implemented from 2017-18 to 2028-29.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Under this scheme, **eligible milk organisations will be provided financial assistance** in the form of a loan at 6.5% interest for building an efficient milk procurement system and other dairy processing infrastructure.
- This loan will be reimbursed over period of 10 years. It also has **provision of interest subsidy on loans**.

**Target Group:**

- **Milk unions, multi-state milk cooperatives, state dairy federations, milk producer companies and NDDB subsidiaries** can avail loan under this scheme after meeting eligibility criteria.

**Salient Features:**

- The loan proceeds will be provided for **putting in place efficient milk procurement system** by setting up of chilling infrastructure and installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipment.
- It will be also used **for creation, modernisation and expansion of processing infrastructure** and manufacturing faculties for value-added dairy products.

**Significance:**

- The scheme will benefit 95,00,000 farmers in about 50,000 villages.
- In addition to this, it **provide direct and indirect employment** to many skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.
- It will also help in creating additional milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre per day, milk drying capacity of 210 MT per day, milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre per day.

## 13 Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)

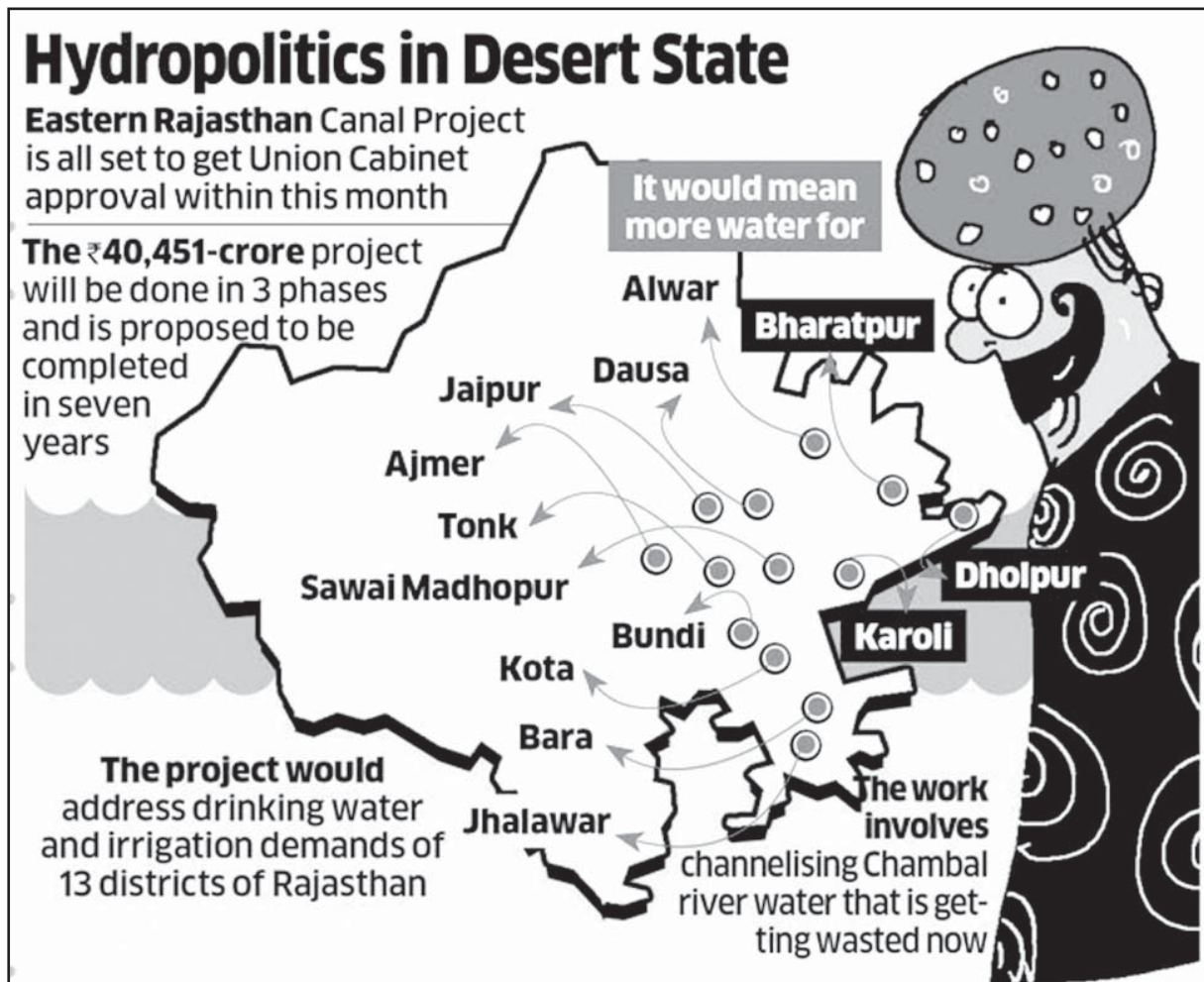
**CONTEXT:** In Rajasthan Budget 2018, the Chief Minister has announced several schemes to the tune to Rs 52,000 crore, including development of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) at cost of Rs 37,500 crore.

**Ministry:**

- The detailed project report for the ERCP has been sent to the Centre and Central Water Commission (CWC) has already approved its working.

**Aim/Objective:**

- The project will **link the Kalisindh, Gambhiri and Parbati rivers**
- ERCP is planned **to meet the Drinking / Irrigation and Industrial water needs** of the 13 districts of Southern & South Eastern Rajasthan viz. Jhalawar, Bara, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur of Rajasthan for Humans and Live stock till year 2051.
- The project will help **to irrigate nearly 10 lakh acres of land**, giving a boost to agriculture in the state.

**Salient Features:**

- Will **enhance availability of surface water & Ground water** in the region.
- Will also **take care of Flood/ Drought situation** in the area.
- Would also boost the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in Alwar district and **generate employment** for youths of the state.

**Analysis:**

- The state is likely to seek **60 percent financial assistance from the Centre** to the project under national project scheme.
- The Project will be executed in **three phases**.
- The first phase of the project will extend from **Galwa Dam to Dholpur**,
- The second phase will extend from **Galwa to Bisalpur-Isarda**,
- The third phase will extend from **Galwa to Alwar**

**Significance:**

- The surface water of Rajasthan has been divided into 15 River basins and one outside basin area. It is estimated that out of fifteen river basins **surplus water is available only in Chambal and Mahi basin.**
- Within Chambal basin, during rainy season Kunnu, Kul, Parbati, Kalisindh, Mez, and Chakan sub-basins are also having surplus yield, while Banas, Banganga, Ghambhiri and Parbati sub-basins are deficit in yield.
- Hence, Eastern Rajasthan Canal Projects (ERCP) is planned **to harvest surplus yield available in the Southern Rajasthan rivers** and transfer to deficit basins in South-Eastern Rajasthan.

## 14 BIMS & Bhoomi Rashi

**CONTEXT:** Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highway (MoRTH) launched two IT initiative Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) and Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH)

**Aim/Objective:**

- Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) and Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage aimed at **expediting pre construction processes** relating to bidding and land acquisition respectively.

**Salient Features:****Bidder Information Management System (BIMS)**

- BIMS portal aims at **streamlining process of pre-qualification of bidders** for EPC Mode of contracts for National Highway works with enhanced transparency and objectivity.
- It works as **data base of information** about bidders, covering basic details, civil works experience, cash accruals and network, annual turnover etc.
- It allows **assessment of pre-qualification of bidders from data already stored in portal** to carry out technical evaluation at much faster rate. It will be used by all project implementation agencies of MoRTH for maintenance of technical information of civil works of contractors, concessionaires and for online technical evaluation of civil works bids.
- BIMS portal will be **operated in conjunction with Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)** portal for invitation of bids for civil works for EPC mode.
- It will help to significantly **reduce procurement time for projects** through objective and transparent online evaluation system thereby leading to accelerated project implementation.

**Bhoomi Rashi:**

- Bhoomi Rashi portal has been **developed by MoRTH and National Informatics Centre (NIC).**
- It comprises **entire revenue data of country**, right down to 6.4 lakh villages.
- It makes **entire process flow from submission** of draft notification by State Government to its approval by Minister of State (MoS) for RT&H and publication in e-Gazetteis **online.**
- The portal has been created for expediting process of publication of notifications for land acquisition. It will be utilized for issuing notification.
- It will play instrumental role in **reducing time taken for approval and publication** of notifications pertaining to land acquisition

**Analysis:**

- The Bhoomi Rashi portal has been integrated with Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to **facilitate payment related to compensation for land acquisition** to all beneficiaries directly through Bhoomi Rashi system.

- It will make payment of Compensation by MoRTH to beneficiaries **in real time and without any parking of funds.**

**Significance:**

- PFMS is **web-based online software application** developed and implemented by Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA) to facilitate sound public financial management system for Central Government.
- It provides various stakeholders with **real time, reliable and meaningful management information system** and effective decision support system, as part of Digital India initiative of Central Government.

## 15 Mission Satyanishtha

**CONTEXT:** Indian Railways had organised a programme on Ethics in Public Governance and launched Mission Satyanishtha at a day-long event held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi. It was first of its kind event organised by any government organization in the country.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Railways

**Aim/Objective:**

- Mission Satyanishtha aims at **sensitizing all railway employees about need to adhere to good ethics** and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.
- Under it, talks and lectures on subject were organised all over Indian Railways for this purpose.

**Target Group:** All the Railway employees

**Salient Features:**

- To train every employee **to understand need and value of ethics** in personal and public life.
- To **deal with ethical dilemmas** in life and public governance.
- To help **understand policies of Indian Railways on ethics** and integrity and employee's role in upholding same.
- To **develop inner governance** through tapping inner resources.

**Analysis:**

- The issue of ethics, integrity and probity in public life has been matter of concern all over government sector across the country.
- In this context, it is also extremely important that all railway servants adhere to impeccable conduct and integrity at all times.

## 16 "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan"

**CONTEXT:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) had organised Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan in five main Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The drive was launched on 9th July 2018 for a week upto 15 July 2018 which was observed as 'Shubharambh Saptah'.

**Ministry:**

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.**

- NMCG is implementation wing of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (also referred as National Ganga Council).
- It was established in 2011 as registered society under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It has a **two tier management structure** and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee. Both of them are headed by Director General (DG), NMCG. Executive Committee is authorized to approve projects under mission up to Rs.1000 crore.

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- The campaign was initiated as **part of Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) component of Namami Gange programme**. It aimed to bring greater awareness among people and other stakeholders regarding **importance of afforestation** for task of Ganga Rejuvenation.

#### **Target Group:**

- Under this campaign, number of schools, colleges and departments were requested to **"Adopt a Plant"** for making it people's movement.
- Besides, various **seminars, workshops, lectures, drawing and painting competitions** etc. were organized on sidelines of this campaign.

#### **Salient Features:**

- The state forest departments of these five states were nodal agencies for the smooth and effective execution of the campaign. It also saw participation from Ganga Vichar Manch (GVM), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), NGOs and educational institutions.
- **Dehradun based Forest Research Institute (FRI)** had prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR) to implement the afforestation project in a scientific manner. On basis of DPR, State Forest Departments carried out their plantation activities.
- Some of plants that were planted during campaign are Kanji, Siras, Chhitvan, Mango, Sheesham, Farmis, Jamun, Arjun, Gutal, Neem, Sagwan, Saal, Mahogni, Ber, Semal, Jungal Jalebi, Gulmohar, Kadam, Bamboo, Karaonda, Ashwagandha, Curry Patta, Jathrofa, Beheda, Dhatura, Sarpagandha etc.
- Importance of Afforestation in Ganga Basin.

#### **Analysis:**

- Forests cause **higher rainfall and raise water level in the river basins**.
- Through their foliage, abundant leaf litter and craggy bark, trees and forests **decrease speed of water dispersion**.
- It favours slow but **greater infiltration of rainwater** to ensure smooth functioning of hydrological cycle.
- Moreover, presence of healthy forest cover along river **provides self-cleaning ability to river**.
- Thus, afforestation and augmentation of existing forest cover along Ganga River holds promise to strengthen riparian ecosystem thereby contributing to **overarching cause of Ganga Rejuvenation**.

17

## **Border Area Development Programme**

**CONTEXT:** Union Home Ministry has released more than Rs. 113 crore to six border states under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) as part of its plan to ameliorate the problems of people living in isolated locations. These six states are Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

#### **Ministry:**

- The BADP programme was introduced as a **"Centrally Sponsored Scheme"** and is implemented by state governments under the monitoring of Department of Border Management under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

**Aim/Objective:**

- **Create infrastructure** in border areas
- Provide **economic opportunities** to people living in the vicinity of the border
- Instil a **sense of security among the people** living in border areas.

**Target Group:**

- Border Area Development Programme was launched to meet the special development needs of the **people living in remote and inaccessible areas near the international border**.

**Salient Features:**

In July 2015, the government had released revised guidelines for the modified Border Area Development Programme (BDAP). The key features of these guidelines are as follows:

- BADP Programme has been **now extended to all villages located within 0-10 km of International border** in all the 17 states that share India's international borders.
- Within these villages, the villages identified by the Border Guarding Forces will get first priority.
- The Empowered Committee on BADP under the secretary, Department of Border Management will **now include representatives of Ministries of Rural Development, Sports, Health etc.**
- Some new schemes for convergence to BADP have been included viz. Swachhta Abhiyan, Skill Development Programmes, Rural / border tourism, scientific farming etc.
- **Provisions for third party inspection** and quality control mechanism have been included.
- Special and specific area schemes have been included under which **some villages are to be developed as model villages**.

**Analysis:**

- Though this programme was launched for western border with Pakistan, it was later extended to all of border areas including North East in 1993-94 in the eighth five year plan.
- Its implementation includes **development of community-based infrastructure** like forestry, pasture land, fishery ponds, floriculture parks, community centres, mobile dispensaries, mini marketing yards, etc. in border areas.
- The funds under BADP are provided to the States as a **100% non-lapsable Special Central Assistance**.
- The programme is supplemental in nature and the budget allocation for the financial year 2015-16 is Rs.990 crore.
- Currently, this programme is being implemented in all the 17 states which share international borders of India. These include: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- Over the years, the nature of the **programme has changed from a schematic one with emphasis on education to a state-level programme with emphasis on balanced development of border areas**. Grass root level institutions such as Panchayati Raj Institutions, District Councils/ Traditional Councils are encouraged to participate in deciding the priority schemes for their areas.
- **Security related schemes** are also taken up under the BADP.

**Significance:**

- The major issues with which India's borders are plagued which include – poor accessibility, economic backwardness, sense of insecurity among people living in border areas etc.
- Thus, development of the border areas was envisaged as **an important element of the border management policy of the government**.
- In this direction, the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was **started as early as 1987 along with India-Pakistan border**.

## 18 Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)

**CONTEXT:** The recent initial public offering (IPO) of India's first Real Estate Investment Trust (Embassy REIT) was subscribed 2.5 times, with the share sale generating a demand of over Rs 5,300 crore.

### Aim/Objective:

- Reits are **investment vehicles** that can be **used by real estate players to attract private investment**, while investors (both retail and institutional) can gain dividends generated from income-producing real estate assets like office buildings, shopping malls, etc.
- It aims to **provide the investors with dividends** that are generated from the capital gains accruing from the sale of the commercial assets.
- The trust distributes 90% of the income among its investors via dividends.
- Apart from minimum entry level, a REIT is supposed to **provide diversified and safe investment opportunities** with reduced risks and under a professional management, to ensure maximum return on investments.

### Target Group:

- REIT is a process to generate funds from a lot of investors, to directly invest in properties like offices, residential units, hotels, shopping centers, warehouses, etc.
- All REITs will be **listed with the stock exchanges, as they would be structured like trusts**.
- Consequently, REIT assets will be **held with independent trustees** for unit holders/investors.

### Salient Features:

- They are similar to mutual funds which provide opportunity to invest in equity stocks, whereas REITs **allow one to invest in income-generating real estate assets**.
- In REITs, most of the earnings via sale / rent of such investments are distributed to its shareholders.
- Its purpose is to **improve the liquidity position of Real Estate developers** and give a secure avenue to investors to invest in long term.

### Analysis:

- REITs are **only for completed projects** not the under-construction projects.
- They are primarily for commercial projects and mainly **serve as an alternative investment**.

### Significance:

- In 2014, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had amended the SEBI (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014, (REIT Regulations), which allowed them to issue debt securities apart from raising equity.
- The amendment was part of the government's move **to revamp the real estate sector** by allowing more investor participation.
- The listing of India's first REITs was **one of the most awaited events for the real estate sector** as it has taken over a decade and half to come to fruition.
- The over subscription of REITs is, therefore, a very encouraging sign for the real estate sector at large, and especially for the commercial segment.
- This is not just India's first REITs offering, but also the **largest in Asia**.

## 19 The regional connectivity scheme UDAN.

**CONTEXT:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated new airport in Jharsuguda – also known as the powerhouse of Odisha. PM also flagged off the

**UDAN flight on Jharsuguda-Raipur sector. It is first airport in Odisha to provide necessary connectivity to Bhubaneswar, Raipur and Ranchi under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (UdeDesh Ka AamNaagrik) Scheme.**

#### **Ministry:**

- This scheme has been launched as per the vision in new Civil Aviation Policy, **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, which had capped the passenger fares for flight journeys from un-served and underserved airports at Rs.2500 per hour of flying for around 500 kilometers under RCS scheme.
- This is first of its kind scheme and has been rolled out in January 2017 for a period of 10 years.

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- **To revive the existing under-served and un-served airports / airstrips** in smaller towns and provide them connectivity so that persons in those towns are able to take affordable flights.
- Provide **viable and profitable business to operators**.
- **Promote tourism**, increase employment, and promote balanced regional growth

#### **Target Group:**

- The Regional Air Connectivity Scheme (RCS) i.e. UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik) has been launched to provide connectivity to **un-served and under-served airports** of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports.

#### **Salient Features:**

- RCS is applicable on route length between 200-800 kilometers with no lower limit set for hilly, remote, island and security sensitive regions.
- The business model of the scheme is based on **Government subsidy and viability gap funding (VGF)**. The central government will provide concessions of around 2% excise on VAT and service tax at 1/10th rate along with liberal code sharing for regional connectivity airports.
- The airlines are required to commit around 50% of the seats as RCS seats on RCS flights.
- The fund for this scheme would come from a Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) created by levying certain charges on certain flights. States will need to contribute around 20% to this fund.
- For balanced regional growth, the **allocations will be spread equitably across five regions** in the country viz. North, South, East, West and North East with a cap of 25%.

#### **Analysis:**

- The scheme will be **in operation for 10 years** with individual contracts for 3 years.
- The interested operators submit initial route proposals and the **government compensates gap in cost and revenue through Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**.
- To determine the least VGF, government will select airline operators on the base of Market-based reverse auction mechanism. Implementing agency for the scheme is Airports Authority of India.
- Under this scheme, the **central government will fund 80% of the losses incurred** by the airlines by flying on regional routes.
- The rest of the loss will be covered by the states.
- The states will also incentivize the airlines in the form of lower excise duty at 2% and VAT at 1% on aviation turbine fuel at RCS airports.
- The VGF will be funded by charging a cess per departure on domestic flights at a rate decided by the aviation ministry from time to time.
- The **VGF will be shared between the aviation ministry and the states in the ratio of 80:20**.
- In case of the **North Eastern States the ratio will be 90:10**.

- VGF will be provided for a term of three years from the beginning of operations of such RCS flights.
- In sum the financial assistance to the airlines will be in the form of:
  - ▶ Concessions offered from central and state governments.
  - ▶ Viability gap funding (VGF)
  - ▶ Concessions offered by the airport operators like not levying parking and landing charges.

#### Significance:

- The role of states in implementation of this scheme is immense and scheme's success depends on their role. RCS will be implemented only in those states which reduce VAT on ATF to 1% or less and offer other support services and 20% of VGF.
- The success of the scheme **requires Centre-State cooperation**.
- **States** are required to provide **free land and operational infrastructure**.
- Similarly, the **centre has to forego excise on aviation fuel and service tax on tickets**. So, the success of this scheme ultimately rests upon the commitments of governments both at the Union and the state levels.
- Private airlines have not showed much interest in this scheme. So, ultimately the **burden of operation in the regional routes may fall on the state owned Air India**. This may undermine the success of this scheme.
- Given the magnitude of the scheme, the issue of providing air traffic control services and air safety has to be taken into consideration as there can be no room for compromise.

## 20 Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)

#### Objectives of the scheme:

- The primary objective of RCS is to facilitate / stimulate **regional air connectivity** by making it cheap and affordable.
- **Promoting affordability** of regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS by supporting airline operators through:
  - Concessions by Central Government, State Governments (reference deemed to include Union Territories as well, unless explicitly specified otherwise) and airport operators to **reduce the cost of airline operations** on regional routes / other support measures and
  - Financial (viability gap funding or VGF) support to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such routes.

#### Highlights of the scheme:

- The subsidy will be provided under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme for three-years so that the route would become viable.
- It will be provided to airlines to fund their losses to enable them to offer airfares at **Rs. 2,500 for an hour's flight on half the seats under the Regional Connectivity Scheme**.
- The subsidy amount for airlines connecting to one regional airport will vary between Rs. 2,350 and Rs. 5,100 per seat depending upon distance covered between two destinations.
- Besides, airlines can also transfer their rights or contract to get subsidy from government and fly on regional routes to another airline operating a similar type of aircraft.
- The scheme seeks to connect unconnected towns with the help of Viability gap funding (VGF). The scheme proposes to offer concessions to the airlines to encourage them to fly on regional routes.
- **Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency of the scheme.**

- The bids for the routes will be on “reverse auction” basis. Accordingly the airlines quoting the lowest amount of subsidy would be given the right to fly on a particular RCS route.
- The government also proposes to exempt airlines from all landing, parking and other charges on the RCS airports.
- The airlines are required to commit around 50% of the seats as RCS seats on RCS flights.

#### **Significance of the scheme:**

- Un-served and underserved airports will have better connectivity.
- Promotes cheap, convenient and affordable flying.
- It will boost tourism, employment opportunities and balanced regional growth.
- It will give impetus to India’s ambition of becoming third largest aviation market by 2020

## **21 National LED Programme**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Power

- **UJALA** stands for **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All**

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- To save energy consumption by distributing LED bulbs which are energy efficient

#### **Salient features:**

- It is **zero-subsidy scheme** that aims to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and preserve environment.
- The scheme is being **implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint **venture of PSUs under the Union Ministry of Power**.
- It is LED based **Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)**.
- Under it, **LED Bulbs are distributed**.
- It wants every home in India to use LED bulbs so that the net power or energy consumption rate comes down and the carbon emission rates can also be checked
- The scheme will not only help **reduce consumers their electricity bills** but also contribute to the energy security of India.
- LED bulbs have a very long life, almost 50 times more than ordinary bulbs, and 8-10 times that of CFLs, and therefore provide both energy and cost savings.

#### **Benefits:**

- The implementation of scheme has **increased penetration of LED** in domestic market to 10% from mere 0.4% earlier.
- It has also **increased India’s share in global LED market** to 12% from a mere 0.1%.
- It has **increased annual LED domestic production** from 30 lakh bulbs to over 6 crore bulbs, simultaneously creating 60,000 jobs.

## **22 Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Power

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- It aims at providing last mile **electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households**.

**Salient features:**

- Under the scheme, government will provide **free electricity connections** to all households identified poor under **Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)** data 2011.
- Electricity connections will be given to **APL families for Rs 500**, which will be payable in 10 equal monthly instalments.
- The **BPL cardholders will get free electricity connections**.
- The total outlay of scheme is Rs. 16, 320 crore while Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) is Rs. 12,320 crore.
- The Central Government will provide largely funds for the Scheme to all States/UTs.
- The States and Union Territories are required to complete works of household electrification by **31st of December 2018**.
- For covering un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible areas, solar power packs of 200 to 300 Wp with battery bank, comprising of 5 LED lights, 1 DC fan, 1 DC power plug.
- It also includes the **Repair and Maintenance (R&M) for 5 years**.
- The **Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC)** will be nodal agency for operationalisation of scheme throughout country.
- **Gram Panchayat/Public institutions** in rural areas will be authorised to collect application forms along with complete documentation, distribute bills and collect revenue in consultation with Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

## 23 North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region

**Salient features:**

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**
- It will be 100% funded by Central Government to **fill up gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors in North east** till March, 2020.
- The scheme will broadly cover creation of infrastructure under following sectors
- Physical infrastructure relating to water supply, power, connectivity and specially the projects promoting tourism.
- Infrastructure of social sectors of education and health.
- The assets to be created under NESIDS will not only strengthen education and health care facilities in northeast region but will also encourage tourism thereby employment opportunities for local youth.
- The scheme will act as catalyst in overall development of north east region in the years to come.

**Benefits of NESIDS:**

- The assets to be created under the new scheme of NESIDS will not only strengthen health care and education facilities in the region but will also encourage tourism thereby the employment opportunities for local youth. The scheme will act as a catalyst in overall development of the region in the years to come.

## 24 Digi Yatra

**Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation

**Aim/Objective:**

- It is an initiative to make boarding pass and security check-ins digital at airports using Aadhaar and mobile phones

**Salient features:**

- In this, a **digital mode for airport entry and verification of passengers** would be used.
- The move is aimed to ease the security and boarding procedure.
- In a sum, the initiative aims to make the whole air travel experience completely digital. The ministry is now working on establishing a uniform set of standards and protocols which can be applied across the system.
- In addition, the ministry is also in the process of coming up with an approach to have a **no-fly list** based on safety.

## 25 Bharat Net

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Communications

**Aim/Objective:**

- Bharat Net seeks to **connect all of India's households, particularly in rural areas, through broadband by 2017**, forming the backbone of the government's ambitious Digital India programme.

**Salient features:**

- Bharat Net is Union Government's ambitious rural internet connectivity programme which is **implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)**.
- Earlier National Optical Fibre Network or NOFN failed due to slow implementation.
- **NOFN is now rebranded as Bharat Net.**
- At present, a special purpose vehicle, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL), under the telecom ministry is handling the roll out of optical fibre network.
- The project is being **executed by BSNL, Railtel and Power Grid**
- It is world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using **Optical fibre**
- The project is being **funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.
- The three-phase implementation under the BharatNet project is:
  - Under the first phase, one lakh gram panchayats would be provided connectivity by laying underground optic fibre cable (OFC) lines by March 2017.
  - Under the second phase, connectivity will be provided to all 2,50,500 gram panchayats in the country.
  - Under the third phase from 2018 to 2023, state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks would be created.

## 26 AMRUT

**Aim/Objective:**

- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) launched in 2015 aims to **establish an infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation.**

**Salient features:**

- Ensure that every household has access to tap with an **assured supply of water and a sewerage connection**

- Increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces (e.g. parks).
- Reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport (e.g. walking and cycling).
- It adopts a project approach to ensure basic infrastructure services relating to water supply, sewerage, storm-water drains, transportation and development of green spaces and parks with special provision for meeting the needs of children.
- Under this mission, **10% of the budget allocation will be given to states** and union territories as incentive based on the achievement of reforms during the previous year.
- AMRUT will be implemented in 500 locations with **a population of one lakh and above**. It would cover some cities situated on stems of main rivers, a few state capitals and important cities located in hilly areas, islands and tourist areas.
- Under this mission, **states get the flexibility of designing schemes** based on the needs of identified cities and in their execution and monitoring. States will only submit state annual action Plans to the centre for broad concurrence based on which funds will be released. But, in a significant departure from JNNURM, the **central government will not appraise individual projects**.
- Central assistance will be to the extent of 50% of project cost for cities and towns with a population of up to 10 lakhs and one-third of the project cost for those with a population of above 10 lakhs.
- Under the mission, states will transfer funds to urban local bodies within 7 days of transfer by central government and no diversion of funds to be made failing which penal interest would be charged besides taking other adverse action by the centre.

## 27 Smart Cities

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Urban Development (in collaboration of states)

**Aim/Objective:**

- To develop **100 cities** all over the country making them citizen friendly and sustainable

**Salient features:**

- Smart cities to be selected through City Challenge Competition
- These cities to be developed as satellite towns of larger cities and by modernizing the existing mid-sized cities.

**Eight critical pillars of India's Smart City Program are:**

- Smart Governance
- Smart Energy
- Smart Environment
- Smart Transportation
- Smart IT & Communications
- Smart Buildings
- Smart Health Hospitals
- Smart Education

The 100 potential smart cities were nominated by all the states

**Four approaches are adopted for development of Smart Cities:**

- **Retrofitting** i.e. city improvement: Introduce planning in an existing built-up area to achieve smart city objectives, along with other objectives, to make the existing area more efficient and

liveable. In retrofitting, an area consisting of more than 500 acres will be identified by the city in consultation with citizens.

- **Redevelopment** i.e. city renewal: Replacement of the existing built-up environment and enable co-creation of a new layout with enhanced infrastructure using mixed land use and increased density. Redevelopment envisages an area of more than 50 acres, identified by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in consultation with citizens.
- **Greenfield development** : Introduce most of the Smart Solutions in a previously vacant area (more than 250 acres) using innovative planning, plan financing and plan implementation tools (e.g. land pooling/ land reconstitution) with provision for affordable housing, especially for the poor. Ex. GIFT City
- **Pan-city development** envisages application of selected Smart Solutions to the existing city-wide infrastructure.

## 28 HRIDAY

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Urban Development

**Aim/Objective:**

- To preserve and revitalize the soul and unique character of the heritage cities in India

**Salient features:**

- It aims to bring urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation together for heritage cities.
- It seeks beautification in an inclusive and integrated manner with focus on cleanliness, livelihoods, skills, safety, security, accessibility and faster service delivery of heritage cities.
- Scheme will be **completely funded by the Central Government** to create infrastructure and provide facilities around the heritage sites to attract more tourists.
- Development initiatives covered it includes improvement of water supply, sanitation, drainage, waste management, footpaths, approach roads, street lights, electricity wiring, tourist conveniences, landscaping and such citizen services.

**Twelve cities under this scheme are :**

- Amaravati(Andhra Pradesh);
- Gaya (Bihar);
- Dwarka (Gujarat),
- Badami(Karnataka);
- Puri (Odisha),
- Amritsar (Punjab);
- Ajmer(Rajasthan);
- Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu);
- Vellankani(Tamil Nadu);
- Warangal (Telangana);
- Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh); and
- Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)

## 29 Urban Reform Incentive Fund

**Ministry:** Ministry of Urban Development

**Aim/Objective:**

- The Urban Reform Incentive Fund (URIF) in India aims to **provide States with incentives to undertake essential urban sector reforms.**

**Salient features:**

- The **Ministry of Urban Development** has proposed to increase Reform Incentive Fund from Rs 500 crore during 2017-18 to over Rs 3,000 crore per year over the next three years.
- The reforms to be undertaken by the States to receive incentives under URIF **improve the responsiveness of local real estate markets, increase resource mobilization** in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), provide rigorous accounting of the management of public funds.
- The incentives given to the states will be on a grant basis.
- URIF receive funds from **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and Government of India.

## 30 Affordable Housing Fund

**CONTEXT:** The Union Cabinet has approved creation of National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) to finance Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) which aims to build 1.2 crore affordable houses in urban areas by 2022.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

**Salient features:**

- NUHF will be placed under aegis of **Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).**
- It will be raised from **non-budgetary sources** and will tap into existing government entities such as Housing and Urban Development Corp. (Hudco).
- NUHF will facilitate raising requisite funds in next four years and plug any budgetary shortfalls.
- It will smoothly sustain construction of houses to address gap in Urban Sector progresses by maintaining flow of Central Assistance under different verticals i.e. Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Beneficiary Linked Construction (BLC), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).

## 31 Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga

**Aim/Objective:**

- The gas pipeline project aims to provide piped cooking (PNG) gas to residents of the eastern region of the country and CNG gas for the vehicles.

**Salient features:**

- It is an ambitious gas pipeline project which aims **to provide piped cooking (PNG) gas to residents of the eastern region** of the country and CNG gas for the vehicles.
- The project is being **implemented by state-run gas utility GAIL.** It envisages laying a 2,050-km pipeline **connecting Jagdishpur (UP) to Haldia (West Bengal) by 2018.**

- The project is considered as a major step towards **collective growth and development** of the Eastern region of India.
- Under it, overall 20 lakh households will get PNG connections

#### **Advantages:**

- From Varanasi's perspective, an 800-km long MDPI pipeline will be laid and 50,000 households and 20,000 vehicles will get PNG and CNG gas respectively.
- The government estimates that around **5 lakh gas cylinders will be sent at rural areas** annually.
- According to GAIL, with the Urja Ganga project, 20 lakh households will get PNG connections.
- GAIL has built a network of trunk pipelines covering the length of around 11,000 km.
- With Urja Ganga project, this number will further increase by 2540 km.
- The project is said to be a major step towards collective growth and development of the Eastern region of India.
- It will **provide clean energy to households and transportation in the cities** en-route the pipeline.
- It will **usher Industrial development in East India** by supplying environmentally clean natural gas to fertilizer and power plant, refineries, steel plants and other industries.
- **Seven big east India** cities viz. Varanasi, Jamshedpur, Patna, Ranchi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack – will be the major beneficiary of this project.

## **32 Rail Safety Fund**

#### **Aim/Objective:**

- The proposed safety fund will be utilised **for track improvement, bridge rehabilitation, rolling stock replacement, human resource development, improved inspection system and safety work at level crossing, among other things.**

#### **Salient features:**

- The **Finance Ministry** is likely to grant a fresh infusion of only Rs. 5,000 crore in the upcoming financial year out of the initial proposed corpus of Rs. 20,000 crore.
- About Rs. 10,000 crore will be earmarked from the **Central Road Fund (CRF)** that is collected by **levying a cess on diesel and petrol at present for safety-related work.**
- Railways may now be asked to fund the remaining Rs. 5,000 crore for the initial corpus from its own resources.
- For this Indian Railway's may either have to bring back a cess on rail tickets to finance its share of Rail Safety Fund or look to fund it from **non-budgetary resources.**

## **33 Operation Swarn**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Railways

**Aim/Objective:** Improving the condition of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains.

#### **Salient features:**

- Under the operation, in the first phase, **Mumbai-Delhi Rajdhani Express and Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express** will be upgraded.

- Under the initiative, Indian Railways will work towards improving 10 aspects, namely, punctuality, cleanliness, linen, coach interiors, toilets, catering, staff behaviour, security, entertainment, housekeeping and regular feedback.
- Under the operation, a sum of Rs 50 lakh would be allotted to Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains on various routes for the purpose of revamping.
- Indian railways will constitute two committees to monitor the revamping work under 'Operation Swarn'

## 34 Nivaran

### Aim/Objective:

- It is the **first IT application on the Rail Cloud**

### Features:

- It serves as a platform for **resolution of service-related grievances** and of serving and former railway employees.
- The existing application hosted on a conventional server was migrated on RailCloud
- It will save significant revenue and improve user experience at same time.

## 35 Bharatmala

**Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

### Aim/Objective:

- Bharatmala Project is the **second largest highways construction project in the country since NHDP**, under which almost 50,000 km or highway roads were targeted across the country.

### Salient features:

- The BharatMala Project envisions **improving the efficiency of the National Corridor including the Golden-Quadrilateral and North, South -East West corridor** by decongesting the choke points through construction of elevated corridors, bypasses, ring roads, lane expansion and logistics parks at identified points.
- The project plan **includes construction of Border Roads** of strategic importance along international boundaries and International Connectivity roads to promote trade with Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.
- The programme has identified around **26,200 km of Economic Corridors** or routes that have heavy freight traffic.
- The programme has planned to **develop the identified Economic Corridors with heavy freight traffic**, end to end to ensure seamless, speedy travel and uniformity in standards.
- **Feeder Corridors** will be developed so as to address the infrastructure asymmetry that exists at many places.
- All projects implemented under Bharatmala are to be technically, financially and economically appraised by an empowered **Project Appraisal & Technical Scrutiny Committee** to be setup in **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.

## 36 Setu Bharatam

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Road, Transport and Highway

**Aim/Objective:**

- Development of bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways.

**Salient features:**

- Aims to make all National Highways free of railway level crossings by 2019
- This is being done to prevent the frequent accidents and loss of lives at level crossings
- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has also established an **Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS)** at the Indian Academy for Highway Engineer in Noida, U.P.
- The aim is to carry out condition survey and inventorization of all bridges on National Highways in India by using Mobile Inspection Units.

## 37 Char Dham Highway Project

**Aim/Objective:**

- The Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna is an ambitious initiative to improve connectivity to the Char Dham pilgrimage centres in the Himalayas.

**Salient features:**

- The project involves developing and widening 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of; **Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri** at an estimated cost of Rs.12,000 crores.
- The highway will be called **Char Dham Mahamarg**(Char Dham Highway) and the highway construction project will be called as **Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana** (Char Dham Highway Development Project).
- The roads will be widened from 12m to 24m and the project will involve construction of tunnels, bypasses, bridges, subways and viaducts.

## 38 Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

**Aim/Objective:**

- To improve India's logistics efficiency

**Salient features:**

- Under Bharatmala Pariyojana**, LEEP is aimed to enhance the freight transportation in India
- The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the **NHAI Technical Assistance Project** and intends to apply part of the proceeds for undertaking a consulting assignment to design the LEEP and VMP programmes
- It has been decided to **use latest technologies** such as LiDAR, Satellite mapping and Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) in preparation of DPRs.

## 39 INFRACON

### Features:

- It is **National Portal for Infrastructure Consultancy Firms and Key Personnel**.
- It will act as a **linking bridge between consultancy firms working in road engineering and construction sector and domain experts and key personnel deployed for project preparation and supervision**.
- The portal will host the credentials of consultancy firms and also of key personnel and shall have linkages to Aadhar and Digi-locker for data validation and purity.

## 40 INAM PRO and INAM-Pro +

### Features:

- It is a web-based application for **Infrastructure and Material Providers** launched in March 2015.
- It is web based single market place that will bring together **material suppliers/providers and the prospective buyers** on a common platform.
- Facilitate cement buyers engaged in executing construction of roads, highways and bridge to order cement online with the registered cement companies at competitive rates.
- It will help the Ministry to track and monitor the activities of buyers and suppliers, and remove impediments of both the parties.
- INAM-Pro+ is an upgraded version of INAM-Pro, the web portal **designed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL)**.
- INAM-Pro has been successful in matching demand with supply, cutting down delays by timely supply of material and providing for online payments, mitigating cost overruns due to price hedging through ceiling price mechanism which allows maximum increment of 10% Year on Year basis and promoting transparency in the market due to publicly visible Prices.

INAM-Pro has been highly acclaimed by the construction industry and IT sector and has also been recognized and listed in the Book-on-Innovations "New Beginning" released on the Civil Services Day.

## 41 O-Smart

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet approved a scheme aimed at stepping up ocean research and setting up early warning weather systems.

### About:

- 'Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)' scheme
- O-SMART scheme encompasses 16 sub-projects related to ocean development activities and science for implementation during 2017-18 and 2019-20.

### Salient features:

- The important deliverables envisaged in the next two years include strengthening of ocean observations, modelling, ocean services for fishermen, setting up marine coastal observatories for tracking marine pollution in 2018, setting up **Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant (OTEC) in Kavaratti in Lakshadweep**.

- The services rendered will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, Defence, Shipping, Ports etc.
- The scheme also includes the **acquisition of two coastal research vessels**, the continuation of ocean survey and exploration of minerals and living resources, technology development for deep ocean mining- and setting up **six desalination Plants in Lakshadweep**
- It will help in reducing the search time for fishermen resulting in savings in the fuel cost.
- This scheme also provides necessary scientific and technological background required for implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy.
- The **State of Art Early Warning Systems established under the O-SMART Scheme** will help in effectively dealing with ocean disasters like Tsunami, storm surges.
- The technologies being developed under this Scheme will help in harnessing the vast ocean resources of both living and non-living resources from the seas around India.

## 42 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin

**CONTEXT:** As per the latest study conducted by the Rural Development Ministry, the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)* is in doldrums with over 12 lakh pending houses and land being provided to only 12 per cent of the beneficiaries even as the March 1 deadline for 1 crore houses fast approaches.

### About:

- Of the total 4.72 lakh beneficiaries identified across the country, only 56,694 have been allotted land.
- Among the best performing states in terms of land allotment are Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- States like Goa, Kerala and West Bengal have drawn a blank in terms of allotment of land to beneficiaries.

### Salient features:

- The erstwhile rural housing scheme Indira Awaas yojana (IAY) has been restructured into Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana –Gramin (PMAY-G) from 01.04.2016.
- PMAY-G aims at providing a **pucca house, with basic amenities**, to all houseless householder and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated house, by 2022.
- **Cost sharing:** The cost of unit assistance in this scheme is shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio **60:40 in plain areas and 90: 10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States**.
- **The scheme envisages** training of Rural Masons with the objective of improving workmanship and quality of construction of houses while at the same time, increasing availability of skilled masons and enhancing employability of such masons.

**Selection of beneficiaries** under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is based on housing deprivation parameters of **Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011**, subject to 13 point exclusion criteria, followed by Gram Sabha verification.

## 43 National Rurban Mission

### Aim/Objective:

- It is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.

**Salient features:**

- There is a funding support of up to 30% of the estimated investment for each Rurban cluster, given as **Critical Gap Funding (CGF)**, while 70% of the funds is mobilized by the States through convergence with synergic State and Central programmes and private investment and institutional funding.
- The CGF is now shared between the Centre and the State in a ratio of 60:40 for Plain area States and 90:10 for Himalayan and NE States.**

**Provision of basic amenities:**

- Provision of 24/7 Water Supply to all households,
- Solid and Liquid Waste Management facilities at the household and cluster level

**Provision of Inter and Intra village roads:**

- Adequate Street Lights and Public Transport facilities using green technologies

**Provision of Economic Amenities:**

- Various thematic areas in the sectors of Agri Services and Processing, Tourism, and Skill development to promote Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

## 44 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Rural Development

**Aim/Objective:**

- To provide all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations.

**Salient features:**

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme

**The programme envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations with :**

- A population of **500 persons** and above in plain areas
- 250 persons** and above in Hill States, Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and 82 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts under Integrated Action Plan (IAP) as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission.
- The programme also has an Upgradation component in order to ensure full farm to market connectivity.
- The Rural Roads is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman
- World Bank has supported PMGSY since its inception.
- For this scheme, 75 paise per litre has been earmarked out of **cess levied on high speed diesel**.
- It considers **habitation as unit** for providing connectivity and not a revenue village.
- The scheme encourages use of "Green Technologies" and non-conventional materials (like waste plastic, geo-textiles, fly-ash, iron and copper slag etc) for constructing rural roads.
- Funding pattern :** In ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State for all States except for 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir) for which it is 90:10.

**45****Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana****Aim/Objective:**

- It is a village development project under which each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in **three villages by 2019**.

**Salient features:**

- The scheme will be implemented through a village development plan that would be prepared for every identified gram panchayat with special focus on enabling every poor household to come out of poverty.
- The constituency fund, **MPLADS, would be available to fill critical financing gaps**.
- The planning process in each village will be a participatory exercise coordinated by the **District Collector**. The MP will play an active facilitating role in this exercise.
- Adoption and adaptation of technology and introduction of innovations are critical to this programme. This will include use of space application and remote sensing for planning, mobile based technology for monitoring, agriculture technology for increasing productivity etc.
- At the national level, a separate, **real time web based monitoring system** will be put in place for the scheme covering all aspects and components. The Ministry will put in place a specially designed capacity building programme for Government functionaries at different levels including Gram Panchayats.
- At the state level there will be an **Empowered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary** consisting of the relevant Departments and including experts, as required with at least two Civil Society representatives.
- The district Collector will be the nodal officer for implementing the SAGY**. He will conduct a monthly review meeting with representatives of the participating Line Departments. The Members of Parliament concerned will chair the review meetings.

**Advantages:**

- SAGY gives focus to **community participation**. Social mobilization of village community can trigger a chain of other development activities in the village. For instance, reducing risk behaviours like alcoholism, smoking, substance abuse (drugs/tobacco/gutkha etc) among all age groups of population. **Women participation in the decision-making** process will be encouraged.

**46****Swadesh Darshan****Ministry:** Tourism Ministry**Aim/Objective:**

- To develop **theme-based tourist circuits** in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

**Salient features:**

- Under this scheme, 13 thematic circuits have been identified for development.
- They are Buddhist Circuit, North-East India Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.
- It is **100% centrally funded scheme** for the project components undertaken for public funding.

- It also has provision for leveraging voluntary funding under **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and corporate sector.
- The funding of projects under this scheme varies from state to state.

It is finalised on basis of detailed project reports prepared by **Programme Management Consultant (PMC)** which is national level consultant for implementing the scheme.

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# Science & Technology and Defence

1

## Science, Technology & Innovation Policy, 2013

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science and Technology.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Producing and nurturing talent in science, to stimulate research in universities, to develop young leaders in the field of science and to reward performance and to meet the governments declared 2010-20 as the “**Decade of Innovation**”.

**Salient Features:**

- Promoting the spread of scientific temper amongst all sections of society.
  - ▶ Enhancing skill for **applications of science** among the young from all social strata.
  - ▶ Making **careers in science**, research and innovation attractive enough for talented and bright minds.
  - ▶ Establishing **world class infrastructure for R&D** for gaining global leadership in some select frontier areas of science.
  - ▶ Positioning **India among the top five global scientific powers** by 2020. Linking contributions of science, research and innovation system with the inclusive economic growth agenda and combining priorities of excellence and relevance.
  - ▶ Creating an environment for **enhanced Private Sector Participation in R&D**.
  - ▶ Enabling conversion of R&D outputs into societal and commercial applications by replicating hitherto successful models as well as establishing of new PPP structures.
  - ▶ Seeding S&T-based high-risk innovations through new mechanisms.
  - ▶ Fostering resource-optimized, cost-effective innovations across size and technology domains.
  - ▶ Triggering changes in the mindset and value systems to recognize, respect and reward performances which create wealth from S&T derived knowledge.
  - ▶ Creating a **robust national innovation system**.

2

## Nuclear Suppliers' Insurance Policy

**CONTEXT:** For 'Right to Recourse' Indian Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) of Rs. 1,500 crore was launched as per the mandatory provision under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND), 2010.

**Department/Ministry:**

- India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) was unveiled by Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

**Aim/Objective:**

- To provides **capacity for insurance coverage to operators and suppliers** for any nuclear liability towards third party.
  - Salient Features:**
    - INIP will offer policies on the nuclear operators liability insurance policy and a nuclear suppliers' special contingency (against right to recourse) insurance policy.
    - It will also **address third-party liability insurance** and later expand into property and other hot zone, i.e. inside reactor areas risk. At present, it only covers cold zones (outside reactor areas).
    - It will also **provide the risk transfer mechanism** to the operators and suppliers to meet their obligations under the CLND Act, 2010.
    - INIP is the **27th global nuclear insurance pool** which was launched by state run General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), in association with non-life insurance companies.
    - New India Assurance Co (NIAC) and INIP** will issue the policy and administer the claims on behalf of the pool.

### 3 National Biotechnology Development Strategy, 2015-2020

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science and Technology

**Aim/Objective:**

- To establish India as a **world-class bio-manufacturing hub**. By building a **skilled workforce** and improve research facilities in basic, disciplinary and inter-disciplinary streams of scientific studies.

**Salient Features:**

- NBDS intends to launch a major mission **under the Make in India** programme backed with significant investments for the creation of new biotech products.
- It also seeks to **create a strong infrastructure for Research and Development** and commercialization and also empower India's human resources scientifically and technologically.
- The key elements of the strategy are building a **skilled workforce and enhance research opportunities** in basic, disciplinary and inter-disciplinary sciences.
- Its major component will be training of work force and this includes dual degree programmes which will **cover both the aspect of core science and business applicability**.
- It will also focus on enhancing research opportunities in basic, disciplinary and inter-disciplinary sciences and also foster global and national alliances.

### 4 Technology Vision Document, 2035

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science and Technology

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **ensure the Security, Enhancing of Prosperity, and Enhancing Identity of every Indian**, this is stated in the document as "Our Aspiration" or "Vision Statement" in all languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

**Salient Features**

- The document has identified **12 sectors for development of technologies**. They are Education, Medical Sciences & Healthcare, Food and Agriculture, Water, Energy, Environment, Habitat, Transportation, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Materials, Information and Communication Technology.
- These 12 Committees are mandated to oversee generation of Scenario Reports for respective sectors.
- **An apex body** comprising of the social scientists, economists, S&T leaders and Chairpersons of Advisory Committees will guide in synthesis of Technology Vision 2035 from scenarios in the Reports from all the sectors put together.
- The draft document is proposed to be put in public domain for **inviting suggestions** before it is formally released.

**5 Space Vision India, 2025**

**Ministry:** Department of Space

**Aim/Objective:**

- To develop and launch of different Missions into the Space with the help of ISRO launch vehicle family. For eg. Mission to - Mars, Venus, Astroids, Chandrayan, Indian human space flight programme, etc. and to set the advancement and updating in the Space Technology up to 2025.

**Salient Features:**

- **Satellite based communication and navigation systems** for rural connectivity, security needs and mobile services.
- **Enhanced imaging capability** for natural resource management, weather and climate change studies.
- Space science missions for better **understanding of solar system and universe**.
- **Planetary exploration**.
- Development of Heavy lift launcher.
- Reusable Launch Vehicles - Technology demonstrator missions leading to Two Stage To Orbit (TSTO).
- **Human Space Flight**.

**6 National Cyber Policy**

**Ministry:** Ministry of communication and IT

**Aim/Objective:**

- Facilitating **creation of secure computing environment** and enabling adequate trust and confidence in electronic transactions and also guiding stakeholder's actions for protection of cyber space.

**Salient Features:**

- A vision and mission statement aimed at building a secure and resilience cyber space for citizens, businesses and Government.
- Enabling goals aimed at **reducing national vulnerability to cyber attacks**, preventing cyber attacks & cyber crimes, minimising response & recover time and effective cyber crime investigation and prosecution.

- Focused actions at the level of Government, public-private partnership arrangements, cyber security related technology actions, **protection of critical information infrastructure** and national alerts and advice mechanism, awareness & capacity building and promoting information sharing and cooperation.
- Enhancing cooperation and coordination between all the stakeholder entities within the country.
- Framework and initiatives that can be pursued at the Government level, sectoral levels as well as in public private partnership mode.
- Facilitating monitoring key trends at the national level such as trends in cyber security compliance, cyber attacks, cyber crime and cyber infrastructure growth.
- The National Cyber Security Policy document outlines a **road-map to create a framework for comprehensive, collaborative and collective response to deal with the issue of cyber security at all levels** within the country.
- The policy recognises the need for objectives and strategies that need to be adopted both at the national level as well as international level.
- Articulate our concerns, understanding, and priorities for action as well as directed efforts.
- **Provide confidence and reasonable assurance to all stakeholders** in the country (Government, business, industry and general public) and global community, about the safety, resiliency and security of cyber space.
- Adopt a suitable posturing that can signal our resolve to make determined **efforts to effectively monitor, deter & deal with cyber crime and cyber attacks.**

## 7 One Time Licensing for Drugs

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **change present rule** of the renewal of licences for each formulation which rests with state regulators and takes around three years.
- **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB):** It is the **highest statutory decision-making body** under the Union Health ministry on technical matters. It is constituted as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

**Salient Features:**

- **Separate rules** for manufacturing, import, sale and distribution of cosmetics.
- It has suggested the **European Union's model**. Making of influenza drugs Oseltamivir and Zanamavir available widely at all pharmacies, by putting it in the Schedule H1 list.
- These two drugs at present have been treated as Schedule X drugs and available at select pharmacies. Retain the four-year approval threshold for 'new drugs'.
- If the definition of a new drug is extended to 10 years, then innovation will take a back seat and **wanting the four-year period to be retained.**

**Advantages:**

Will help in 'ease of doing business' and give fillip to domestic pharmaceutical sector under Union Government's '**Make in India**' initiative at a time when the country is slipping in the competitiveness index. It will also give a boost to pharmaceutical industry and give comfort to our customers.

## 8 New IPR Policy, 2016

**Ministry:** Ministry of Finance

**Aim/Objectives:**

- To **create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies.** It sets in place an institutional mechanism for implementation,

monitoring and review. It aims to incorporate and adapt global best practices to the Indian scenario. The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy will endeavor for a "Creative India; Innovative India".

#### Salient features:

- **IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion** - To create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society.
- **Generation of IPRs** - To stimulate the generation of IPRs.
- **Legal and Legislative Framework** - To have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights of owners with larger public interest.
- **Administration and Management** - To modernize and strengthen service-oriented IPR administration.
- **Commercialization of IPRs** - Get value for IPRs through commercialization.
- **Enforcement and Adjudication** - To strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements.
- **Human Capital Development** - To strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.

#### Advantages:

- It **helps India to well-established TRIPS-compliant legislative**, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPRs, which meets its international obligations while utilizing the flexibilities provided in the international regime to address its developmental concerns.
- It reiterates India's **commitment to the Doha Development Agenda** and the TRIPS agreement.
- While IPRs are becoming increasingly important in the global arena, there is a need to increase awareness on IPRs in India, be it regarding the IPRs owned by oneself or respect for others' IPRs.
- The **importance of IPRs as a marketable financial asset** and economic tool also needs to be recognised. For this, domestic IP filings, as also commercialization of patents granted, need to increase. Innovation and sub-optimal spending on R&D too are issues to be addressed.
- This policy shall weave in the strengths of the Government, research and development organizations, educational institutions, corporate entities including MSMEs, start-ups and other stakeholders in the creation of an innovation-conducive environment, which stimulates creativity and innovation across sectors, as also facilitates a stable, transparent and service-oriented IPR administration in the country.

## 9

### National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy

#### Ministry:

- The Department of Science and Technology, Department of Electronics and Information Technology and National Informatics Centre (NIC).

#### Aim/Objective:

- It aims to provide an **enabling provision and platform for proactive and open access to the data generated** by various Government of India entities.

#### Salient Features:

- The National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy will **apply to all data and information created, generated, collected and archived using public funds** provided by Government of India directly or through authorized agencies by various Ministries/Departments/Organizations/Agencies and Autonomous bodies.

- The policy envisages three types of access to data: **open, registered and restricted**. Access to data in the open category will be “easy, timely, user-friendly and web-based without any process of registration/authorization.”
- But data in the registered access category will be accessible “only through a prescribed process of registration/authorization by respective departments/organizations” and available to “recognized institutions/organizations/public users, through defined procedures.” Data categorized as restricted will be made available only “through and under authorization.”
- Provides for pricing, with the Ministries and Departments being asked to **formulate their norms for data in the registered and restricted access categories** within three months of the notification of the policy.
- Every Department has to identify datasets by the following categories:
  - **Negative List:** The datasets, which are confidential in nature and would compromise to the country's security if made public, are put into this list. The datasets which contain personal information are also included in this list.
  - **Open List:** This list comprises of datasets which don't fall under negative list. These datasets shall be prioritized into high value datasets and non-high values datasets.

## 10 UNNATI Programme

### Aim/Objective:

- It is a capacity building programme on Nanosatellite development.

### Agency:

- It is an initiative by **ISRO** to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE-50).

### Salient features:

- The programme provides opportunities to the participating developing countries **to strengthen in assembling, integrating and testing of Nanosatellite**.
- UNNATI programme is planned to be conducted for 3 years by U.R. Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in 3 batches and will target to benefit officials of 45 countries.
- **About UNISPACE+50:**
- It is an event **marking the 50th year of the first UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**.
- It is an initiative of United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).
- Three such conferences held earlier recognized the potential of space and laid the guidelines for human activities and international cooperation related to outer space. They were:
  - UNISPACE I, Vienna, 1968
  - UNISPACE II, Vienna, 1982 and
  - UNISPACE III, Vienna, 1999

## 11 Young Scientist Programme:

### CONTEXT:

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced Young Scientist Programme.
- **Aim:** Inculcate and **nurture space research** fervour in young minds.

### Salient feature:

- It would be a **one month programme**. The students will be exposed to the practical experience of **building small satellites**.

- **Eligibility:** Mostly 8th standard passed out students will be given lecturers and access to research laboratories. 3 students from each of the 29 States and 7 Union Territories will be selected for the Young Scientist program

## 12 Saksham 2019

**Ministry/Agency:** Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Saksham actively **involves the Oil & Gas PSUs** along with other stakeholders like State Governments,
- To create **focused attention on fuel conservation** through people centric activities and
- To sensitize the masses about the **conservation and efficient use of petroleum products** leading to better health and environment.

**Salient Features:**

**(established in 1978):**

- **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) is a registered society** set up under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.
- **As a non-profit organization, PCRA is a national government agency** engaged in promoting energy efficiency in various sectors of economy.
- **PCRA aims at making oil conservation a national movement.** As part of its mandate, PCRA is entrusted with the task of creating awareness amongst the masses about the importance, methods and benefits of conserving petroleum products & emission reduction.
- It **sponsors R&D activities** for the development of fuel-efficient equipment / devices and organizes multi-media campaigns for creating mass awareness for the conservation of petroleum products.
- To take the message to the people, PCRA uses all possible and effective media for mass communication.
- To give impetus to the oil conservation movement, PCRA utilizes various platforms like the World environment day, World energy day, various festivals etc.
- It functions as a **Think Tank to the Govt. of India** for proposing policies and strategies on petroleum conservation and environment protection aimed at reducing excessive dependence on oil.
- For the benefit of various target groups of petroleum products, PCRA has developed **literature containing simple ready to implement conservation tips** and techniques.
- **Special low cost green leaflets** have also been developed to educate the masses on the ill effects of pollution caused due to incomplete combustion and its impact on health.

## 13 Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)

**Ministry:** The Union Health Ministry

**Salient features:**

- IHIP is **real time, village-wise, case based electronic health information system** with GIS tagging which will help in prompt prevention and control of epidemic prone diseases.
- The initiative will provide near-real-time data to policy makers for detecting outbreaks, **reducing the morbidity and mortality and lessening disease burden** in the populations and better health systems.

- The primary objective of IHIP is to **enable the creation of standards compliant Electronic Health Records (EHRs)** of the citizens on a pan-India basis.
- The EHRs aims to build a comprehensive Health Information Exchange (HIE) as part of this centralized accessible platform.
- The success of this platform will **depend primarily on the quality of data** shared by the states.
- For effective implementation of the platform, 32,000 people at the block level, 13,000 at the district level and 900 at the state level have been trained.

## 14 Atal Innovation Mission

**Ministry/ Department:** NITI Ayog

**Aim/Objective:**

- To promote a culture of **innovation and entrepreneurship**. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

**Salient features:**

- The Atal Innovation Mission shall have two core functions:
- Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs.
- Innovation promotion: to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated

**Salient feature:**

- It aims to **create high-class incubation facilities** with necessary infrastructure in terms of capital equipment and operating facilities, coupled with the availability of sectoral experts for mentoring the start-ups.
- The scheme is known as **Atal Incubation Centre scheme**.
- The scheme focuses on the **establishment of incubation centres** in underserved and unserved areas to support inclusive growth.
- Under the scheme, Atal Incubation Centre can be established either in Publicly funded institutions or Private sector funded institutions or in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- The sub-schemes of AIM include
  - **Establishing Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** and
  - **Atal Incubation Centers (AICs)**, for providing scaling up support to Established Incubation Centres.
  - It also includes finding **ultra-low cost solution to India's most intractable problems** through Atal Grand Challenges and Atal Vikas Challenges.

## 15 Atal Tinkering Labs

**Agency:** NITI Aayog's

**Aim/Objective:**

- To 'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators', Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India.

**Salient features:**

- The objective of this scheme is to **foster curiosity, creativity and imagination** in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc.

- All Schools (minimum Grade VI – X) managed by Government, local body or private trusts/society can set up ATL.
- Atal Tinkering Labs have **evolved as epicenters for imparting these 'skills of the future'** through practical applications based on self-learning.
- **Bridging a crucial social divide**, Atal Tinkering Labs provide equal opportunity to all children across the spectrum by working at the grassroot level, introducing children to the world of innovation and tinkering.

## 16 Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

**Ministry:** Ministry of Defense

**Aim/Objective:**

- Showcases salient inventions and innovations achieved by DRDO, Defence PSUs and Ordnance Factories (OFs).

**Salient features:**

- To **enhance self-reliance in defence**, the Department of Defence Production has instituted a new framework titled 'Mission Raksha GyanShakti' which aims to provide a **boost to the IPR culture in indigenous defence industry**.
- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.
- The event brought out that the end objective of 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' is **to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem**.
- The IPR has emerged as a key ingredient of an ecosystem which stimulates innovation and ingenuity.

**Defense IPRs in India:**

- An IP Facilitation Cell was established in April this year which has worked tirelessly to achieve ambitious targets of training 10,000 personnel of OFB and DPSUs on IPR and to facilitate filing of at least 1,000 new IPR applications.
- This has resulted in **successful filing of Intellectual Property Right (IPR)** applications

## 17 Bharatnet

**Ministry/Department:** Ministry of Communications

**Aim/Objective:**

- Bharat Net seeks **to connect all of India's households, particularly in rural areas, through broadband** by 2017, forming the backbone of the government's ambitious Digital India programme.

**Salient features:**

- BharatNet is Union Government's ambitious rural internet connectivity programme which is **implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)**.
- Earlier National Optical Fibre Network or NOFN failed due to slow implementation.
- NOFN is now **rebranded as Bharat Net**.
- At present, a special purpose vehicle, Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL), under the telecom ministry is handling the roll out of optical fibre network.
- The project is being **executed by BSNL, Railtel and Power Grid**

- It is world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre
- The project is being **funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.
- The three-phase implementation under the BharatNet project is:
- **Under the first phase**, one lakh gram panchayats would be provided connectivity by laying underground optic fibre cable (OFC) lines by March 2017. This phase is nearing its completion.
- **Under the second phase**, connectivity will be provided to all 2,50,500 gram panchayats in the country. It is to be completed by December 2018.
- **Under the third phase** from 2018 to 2023, state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fibre between districts and blocks would be created.

## 18 New India challenge

**Agency:** Niti Ayog

**Aim/Objective:**

- It can give **boost to the innovation** as its structure gives thrust to support innovative ideas and also aims to **transform them to commercially viable ideas**.

**Salient features:**

The components of the New India challenge include:

- Under the **initiative grants** of up to Rs 1 crore and **mentorship** will be given to the winning ideas.
- In collaboration with **five ministries**, AIM will invite prospective innovators to design market-ready products, using cutting edge technologies across 17 identified focus areas such as Smart Mobility, Predictive Maintenance of Rolling Stock and Waste Management.
- It aims to address various challenges haunting India. The Atal new India challenge aims to transform these challenges into opportunities. Thus providing for dual benefits of addressing challenges and scaling the innovations to make them commercially viable models.
- Applicants showing capability, intent and potential to productise technologies will be awarded grants up to Rs 1 crore.
- The grant will be further supplemented by **mentoring, handholding, incubating and other support** as needed at various stages of commercialisation, while generating wider deployment for the product. Indian growing economy and diversity produces numerous opportunities. Atal new India challenge aims to bank on these opportunities to **provide sustainable solutions** to these challenges together with giving a boost to Innovation

## 19 Resource Prospector mission

**Agency:** NASA

**Aim/Objective:**

- A mission to assay the resources that may be available to **humans on the moon**.

**Salient features:**

- The Resource Prospector mission would have sent a rover to the moon's polar regions to **learn about water and other deposits on and just beneath the lunar surface**.
- The Resource Prospector mission consisted of a lander and a solar-powered rover equipped with a drill. The rover would have scouted the lunar surface, digging up soil for analysis.

**Significance of the mission:**

- Scientists know that **water ice exists on the moon**, but the Resource Prospector would have provided scientists with a more **complete understanding of these deposits**.
- Such knowledge is crucial in expanding a human presence on the moon. **Lunar ice can potentially be melted and split into oxygen and hydrogen, providing a local source of water, oxygen and rocket propellant**. Not only would this help make human activities more self-sustaining, but it would also dramatically reduce launch costs, because much of these vital resources could be produced on site.

## 20 Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)

**Agency:** It has been created as a professional body under the aegis of **DIPP**

**Aim/Objective:**

- To take forward the implementation of the National IPR Policy that was approved by the Government in May 2016.

**Salient features:**

- CIPAM is **working towards creating public awareness about IPRs in the country**,
- **Promoting the filing of IPRs through** facilitation,
- Providing inventors with a platform to commercialize their IP assets

## 21 GRACE Mission:

**CONTEXT:** NASA's GRACE mission has confirmed that a massive redistribution of freshwater is occurring across the Earth, with middle-latitude belts drying and the tropics and higher latitudes gaining water supplies.

**Cause & Concern:**

- A combination of the effects of **climate change, vast human withdrawals of groundwater and simple natural changes** are behind this.
- If this continues, it could have profound consequences leading to a situation in which some highly populous regions could struggle to find enough water in the future.

**Key Findings:**

- The resulting map of the findings shows an overall pattern, in which **ice sheets and glaciers lose by far the most mass at the poles**, but at the same time, **middle latitudes show multiple areas of growing dryness** even as higher latitudes and the tropical belt tend to see increases in water.
- The study emphasizes that the 34 separate changes that it detects do not all have the same cause – not even close.
- There's very strong suspicion that the melting of glaciers and ice sheets is tied to **climate change**. On land, it's **possible that some droughts and rainfall** increases may be also, though the study is cautious about that, noting that natural variability can also be a major factor here.
- There are also some major cases of humans increasing water storage in the landscape, particularly in China, where **massive dam construction** has created enormous reservoirs.
- Mainly, though, what's striking about the map is the way that a combination of human-driven water withdrawals and droughts seem to be punishing the central latitudes of the northern hemisphere in particular, but also the southern hemisphere to a significant extent.

**GRACE mission:**

- The GRACE mission was selected as the **second mission under the NASA Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP) Program** in May 1997. Launched in March of 2002, the GRACE mission mapped variations in Earth's gravity field. Designed for a nominal mission lifetime of five years, GRACE operated in an extended mission phase till 2017.
- GRACE is a **joint partnership** between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States and Deutsche Forschungsanstalt für Luft und Raumfahrt (DLR) in Germany.
- GRACE consists of **two identical spacecraft** that fly about 220 kilometers (137 miles) apart in a polar orbit 500 kilometers (310 miles) above Earth. GRACE maps Earth's gravity field by making accurate measurements of the distance between the two satellites, using GPS and a microwave ranging system.

## 22 National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank

**CONTEXT:** National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telanagana. It is *India's first genetic resource bank* where genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals

**Salient features:**

- It is equipped with **sophisticated equipment to preserve the genetic resources** that could be utilised to **virtually resurrect an animal species in case it goes extinct**. It will cryopreserve living cell lines, gametes and embryos of endangered wild animal species in India. For cryogenic preservation, researchers at CCMB-LaCONES will use liquid Nitrogen that is cooled down to as low as minus 195 degrees Celsius.
- It will **aid wild life conservation efforts** by taking up artificial reproduction, conducting studies in evolution biology and wildlife medicine. Thus, it will also help in protecting India's biodiversity and environment. So far this bank has collected and preserved genetic resources of 23 species of Indian wild animals.

**Background:**

- To develop this facility, CCMB researchers had conducted detailed study of Frozen Zoo, San Diego Zoo, US, which is considered as world's largest and most diverse genetic bank of living cell cultures, oocytes, sperms and embryos of extinct and endangered species. **CCMB-LaCONES is only laboratory in India that has developed methods for collection and cryopreservation of semen and oocytes from wild animals** and successfully reproducing blackbuck, spotted deer and pigeons. LaCONES has developed universal DNA based marker for identification of wild animals from parts and remains. It also has DNA banking of more than 250 species of mammals, birds and reptiles.

## 23 NIDHI (National Initiative for Development & Harnessing Innovations)

**Agency:** Department of Science and Technology

**Aim:**

- It works towards **nurturing knowledge-based and technology-driven ideas and innovations** into successful start-ups.
- It also aims to **provide technological solutions** to the pressing needs of the society and create new avenues for wealth and job creation.

**Salient features:**

- NIDHI, by design **connects and strengthens all the links of the innovation** chain- scouting, sustaining, securing, scaling and showcasing.
- The key stakeholders of NIDHI includes various departments and ministries of the central government, state governments, academic and R & D institutions, mentors, financial institutions, angel investors, venture capitalists, industry champions and private sectors.

**Components of NIDHI that support each stage of a budding start-up are:**

- **PRAYAS (Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring Innovators & Start-ups)**, which aims to support innovators to build prototypes of their ideas by providing a grant up to Rs.10 lakhs and an access to Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab).
- The **Seed Support System** which provides up to One Crore rupees per start-up and is implemented through Technology Business Incubators.
- With a view to drive the innovation and start-up centric new initiatives in a scaled up manner for its wider outreach across the country, a 450% increase in allocation (Rs. 180 crores) has been made in the Department's budget.

## 24 VAJRA Faculty Scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science and Technology

- VAJRA stands for Visiting Advanced Joint Research

**Aim:**

- Scheme enables NRIs and overseas scientific community to **participate and contribute to research and development in India.**

**Salient features:**

- The **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body** of the Department of Science and Technology will implement the Scheme.
- Foreign researchers of Indian origin or otherwise can collaborate with faculties in public funded Indian institutions.
- The researchers would receive endowments at par with those in their own countries. They would be given USD 15,000 in the first month of residency and USD 10,000, for the remaining months.
- The scheme would **promote broad areas of research like energy, health, advance material among others.**
- Public funded academic institutions and national laboratories will be eligible for hosting the VAJRA Faculty.
- The VAJRA faculty can **reside in India for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months** a year.
- The applications received from the interested foreign researchers would be evaluated by a Selection Committee of eminent scientists.
- The Committee will **meet twice a year** in January and July and make recommendations.

## 25 Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science and Technology

**Aim/Objective:**

- To formulate and implement appropriate **S&T interventions for sustainable development** through cluster approach in Uttarakhand.

**Scheme:**

- Under the scheme, Department of Science and Technology (DST) will adopt few clusters of villages in Uttarakhand and transform them to **become self-sustainable in time bound manner through tools of S&T**.
- Local resources and locally available skill sets will be utilised** using S&T under the scheme for substantial value addition for local produce and services which can sustain rural population.
- The areas selected under these clusters will **process and add value to milk, honey, horticulture and local crops, herbal tea, mushroom, forest produce, medicinal & aromatic plants and traditional craft and handloom**.
- This project will also ensure, stringent product and process control interventions for **energy and water conservation**.
- The project will also give emphasis to practice of **agriculture, agro-based cottage industries and animal husbandry** in an eco-friendly manner.
- It will mainly undertake post-harvest processing of Kiwi, Cherry, Strawberry, Tulsi, Adrak, Badi Elaichi through solar drying technology, extraction of apricot oil using cold press technology.

## 26 Farmer Zone

**Agency:** The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the Ministry of Science and Technology

**Aim/Objective:**

- To set "FarmerZone" - a collective **open-source data platform for smart agriculture** which will use biological research and data to improve the lives of small and marginal farmers. It is envisaged that "FarmerZone" will help cater to all needs of the farmer, from **dealing with climate change, weather predictions and soil, water, and seed requirements to providing market intelligence**.

**Salient features:**

- The conclave has identified the challenges faced in each agro-climatic region, it has also discussed possible solutions through scientific interventions. The FarmerZone platform will connect farmers and scientists, government officials, thought leaders in agriculture, economists and representatives from global companies who work in the big-data and e-commerce space to bring about technology-based localised agri-solutions.
- The platform will work on getting relevant **quality data related to agriculture into the cloud**, develop sentinel sites to help link with farmers and evolve PPP based enterprises for data delivery. "FarmerZone" that will **focus on solutions in the farming ecosystem**, especially for small and marginal farmers."

## 27 Micro Solar Dome

**Agency:** Department of Science and Technology.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **capture day light and concentrate the same inside a dark room**, particularly in urban slum or rural areas which lack electricity supply, a low cost and energy efficient Micro Solar Dome has been tested and developed.

**Salient features:**

- This project will also **supplement the Green Energy initiatives**.

- The Micro Solar Dome (MSD) is a day and night lighting single device unique in its features, that has a **transparent semi-spherical upper dome made of acrylic material which captures the sunlight and the light passes through a sun-tube having a thin layer of highly reflective coating on the inner wall of the passage.**
- It also contains a lower dome made of acrylic. There is a shutter in the bottom of the lower dome which can be closed, if light is not required in the daytime. It is **leak proof** and works throughout the day and 4 hours continuously after sunset. The entire development activities were taken up by an R&D Organisation under the aegis of the Department of Science & Technology.
- The potential users of this device are the 10 million off-grid households in urban and rural spaces and several folds more that do not have reliable access to electricity. When these Surya Jyoti lamps, giving an illumination equivalent of a 60W incandescent lamp, are installed in 10 million households it would lead to a saving of 1750 million units of energy.
- It would also **lead to an Emission Reduction** of about 12.5 million ton of CO<sub>2</sub>

## 28 LOTUS HR Project

### Agency:

- LOTUS HR — Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse —is a joint effort by top **Indian and Dutch institutions**

### Aim/Objective:

- To **test technologies that target, apart from conventional contaminant parameters** like biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), pH value, etc., “contaminants of emerging concern” such as pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs), the effects of which were until recently only poorly understood

### Additional reading:

- The US Environment Protection Agency defines PPCPs as “**any product used by individuals for personal health or cosmetic reasons or used by agribusiness to enhance growth or health of livestock**”.
- Even a few nanogrammes of PPCPs per litre can disrupt the endocrine systems of animals and plants.
- It can also **increase resistance of certain microbes**, and could even be carcinogenic.
- “A UK study showed oestrogen in rivers that could have come from birth control pills, could have contributed to the feminisation of certain aquatic animals,”
- India does not currently have protocols and treatment standards for emerging contaminants
- LOTUS HR is funded by the **Department of Biotechnology** and NWO, the Dutch science agency.
- The foundation stone for the project was laid a year ago
- goal of LOTUS project is to develop water treatment technologies for **removal of pollutants, such as heavy metals**, as well as new and emerging contaminants which usually go undetected in existing traditional sewage treatment plants.

## 29 Inspire Programme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Science & Technology

### Aim/Objective:

- The basic objective of INSPIRE is to **attract talents and motivate them for studying science from an early age and pursuing career** in research and help to build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the S & T and R & D base in the country.

**Feature:**

- A striking feature of the programme is that it **does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level.**
- It believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for identification of talent.
- It is a program with a **long term foresight.**
- the program has **three components** i.e.,
  - ▶ Scheme for early Attraction of Talent (SEATS) for Science,
  - ▶ Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) and
  - ▶ Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) covering an age-group of 10-32 years of students.
- The INSPIRE Fellowship for pursuing doctoral research is the **first component of “Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)” scheme** of the INSPIRE program.

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# Environment & Ecology

## Schemes & Initiatives

1

### National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2017-2031

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Aim/Objective:**

- **Integration of climate change into wildlife planning**, conservation of coastal and marine ecosystem, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, focus on wildlife health among others. Through special emphasis to **rehabilitation of threatened species** of wildlife while conserving their habitats which include inland aquatic, coastal and marine eco-systems.

**Salient Features:**

- The Plan adopts landscape approach in **conservation of all uncultivated flora and undomesticated fauna** that has ecological value to mankind irrespective of where they occur.
- Encourages **tourism in wild life areas**, it wants restrictions to be placed on the number of tourists and vehicles entering inside a protected area.
- To add emphasis on tourism facilities which are sustainable, eco-friendly, clean and wholesome and moderately priced rather than lavish five star facilities.
- The plan seeks to put all protected areas and wildlife corridors out of bounds for all mining activities and big irrigation projects.
- The plan asks the Environment Ministry to work with Ministry of Steel **to bar mining activities in Protected Areas and wildlife corridors**. Further, it wants proper rehabilitation of degraded and abandoned mining areas. It has classified sand mining as a highly destructive activity in which many stakeholders are involved including politicians.

**Advantages:**

- **Opting for minor irrigation projects instead of big** irrigation projects in the protected areas. It has favoured the use of water harvesting units like ponds, check dams, wells etc.
- It also takes note of concerns relating to climate change on wildlife by **integrating it into Wildlife Management Planning**.
- **Restrictions on number of tourists** and vehicles entering a protected area.
- Setting up of **new regional forensic laboratories**, a special Tiger protection force, special courts to deal with wildlife crimes such as poaching and smuggling.
- It states that while tourism in the wildlife areas needs to be encouraged, it must be strictly monitored and regulated and an emphasis must be placed on tourism facilities that are sustainable, environment-friendly, moderately priced, clean and wholesome, rather than lavish.
- The draft plan calls for new regional forensic laboratories, **a Special Tiger Protection Force, and setting up of special courts to deal with wildlife crime** like poaching and smuggling.

## 2 Fly Ash Utilization Policy

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Aim/Objective:**

- To pave way for prosperity by **generating wealth from waste** and environment protection through environment-friendly construction and reduction of pollution, as dry fly ash being a major air pollutant.

**Salient Features:**

- The policy seeks **100% use of fly ash generated from thermal power plants** and biogas plants for construction activities.
- The ash would also be used in the **production of bricks** and other construction material, besides helping in setting up of ash based construction material production unit within its vicinity.
- The ash is to be used in soil conditioning for improving its quality which would help in **increasing the crop yield**, within the radius of 300 km.
- Facilitates use of fly ash to **make bricks, blocks, tiles, wall panels, cement and other construction materials**.
- The policy extends use of fly ash to 300 kms. radius of power plant from earlier 100 kms radius of power plant. The thermal plants would use the ash in the construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

**Advantages/merits:**

- It will help in **environment protection and save soil excavation**.
- It also will make available **raw material for construction** at low cost to help 'Housing for All' projects.
- It will also help create new **employment opportunities** in the power plant sector and pave way for prosperity by generating Wealth from Waste.

## 3 Landscape-based catchment treatment plan to achieve carbon sink target

**CONTEXT:** A *landscape-based catchment treatment plan* is being worked upon by Union Government to store carbon.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Aim/Objective:**

- To fulfill commitments made under **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)**, of **Paris Agreement** India anticipated that it might not be able to meet that through forests alone. It is now looking at the soil of catchment areas as an additional alternative to create an additional carbon sink the equivalent of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes carbon dioxide by 2030.

**Salient features:**

- A carbon sink is a system that absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- Trees are **natural carbon sinks**, while underground reservoirs in form of underground caves can also be filled artificially and used as carbon sinks. This technique is called **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)**.
- Further, **carbon sequestration** can also be done by storing **atmospheric carbon** in soil in form of **organic carbon**.

**How does this mechanism work?**

- Clay particles and aggregates can reduce losses of Organic Carbon (OC) by physically **protecting organic matter from decomposition**.
  - Particles of organic matter can become **adsorbed to clay surfaces**, coated with clay particles or buried inside small pores or aggregates.
  - All of these processes make it difficult for microorganisms to come in contact with organic matter. Therefore, the **amount of organic carbon stored in soil tends to increase with increasing clay content**.
  - In contrast, in sand soil microorganisms are able to more easily access OC. This causes greater loss of OC by decomposition.
  - **Decomposition leads to release of carbon-di-oxide in atmosphere and increase in greenhouse gases.**
  - Further, loss of organic carbon from soil also deteriorates quality of soil.
- **Landscape-based catchment treatment plan** intends to store carbon in soil by making it porous through various mechanisms which include:
    - It aims to **manage catchment of water** through biological and mechanical means.
    - It intends to **retain rainwater as soil moisture** till next monsoon, force water to flow through by making it more porous and lay forest cover over the catchment area.
    - Mechanical interventions include construction of check dams, underground reservoirs or laying cement slabs that can **channelise the rainwater further into the soil**.
    - Moisture in soil will check soil decomposition and hence will **prevent stored organic carbon to be released** in the form of Carbon-di-oxide into the atmosphere.

**Advantages:**

- It will **reduce greenhouse gas concentration** in atmosphere by trapping them in soil in form of organic carbon.
- By maintaining moisture in soil, **forest fires** will be reduced.
- Maintenance of soil moisture will lead to **service to agriculture sector** and at the same time, **forest cover will increase**.
- Maintenance of natural adobe of wild animals will reduce **man-animal conflict** significantly.

**4****Scheme to support promotion of biomass-based cogeneration in sugar mills and other industries**

**CONTEXT:** To promote sustainable energy generation and idea of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R)** for development and waste management, government launched this program in May 2018.

**Ministry:**

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Biomass Power Division)

**Aim/Objective:**

- To support **Biomass based Cogeneration** Projects in Sugar mills and Other Industries for power generation in the country.

**Target Group:**

- Registered Companies, Partnership Firms, Proprietorship Firms, Cooperatives, Public Sector Companies, Government owned Firms are eligible for financial support available under the scheme.

- To avail financial support the applicant **must have availed term loan from any financial institution** like Public Sector Banks, NBFC, Private Sector Banks, Central or State Cooperative Banks etc.
- CFA (Central Financial assistance) **will not be provided under the scheme to the firms which have not availed term loan.**
- Biomass based cogeneration projects which intend to add capacity to the existing plants will also be considered for grant of CFA.

#### Salient features:

- **Cogeneration** or Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is defined as the sequential **generation of two different forms of useful energy from a single primary energy source**, typically mechanical energy and thermal energy. Usually, heat and electricity are cogenerated.
- There are two types of plants which have been identified under this scheme. They are:
  - **Bagasse Cogeneration Projects**
    - Bagasse is **the dry pulpy fibrous residue that remains after sugarcane or sorghum stalks** are crushed to extract their juice. It is used as a biofuel for the production of heat, energy, and electricity, and in the manufacture of pulp and building materials.
    - **Bagasse is often used as a primary fuel source for sugar mills.** When burned in quantity, it produces sufficient heat energy to supply all the needs of a typical sugar mill, with energy to spare.
    - This can be used for generation of electricity along with heat, if better technology and infrastructure is provided.
    - The power thus generated can be used for meeting the requirements of the sugar mill and the surplus can be fed into the grid.
    - Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will be provided at **the rate of Rs.25 Lakh/MW (for bagasse cogeneration projects)** under the scheme.
  - **Non-bagasse Cogeneration Projects**
    - Industrial sector which consumes **35% of the total electricity generated** in the country, and most of the need is fulfilled by fossil fuel.
    - As fossil fuels are limited, and have adverse environmental impact, it would be appropriate to use non-conventional energy sources including biomass resources such as **crop residues and agro-industrial wastes** for generation of energy in the industries mainly through **biomass gasification technology** for meeting their total/partial requirements for both electrical and thermal energy.
    - Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will be provided at **the rate of Rs.50 Lakh/MW for Non-bagasse Cogeneration projects, under the scheme.**

#### Advantages:

- This scheme will help to **reduce dependence of industries on fossil fuels**, which is used as primary source for power generation. At the same time will help to reduce electricity expenditure.
- It will also help to achieve India's target to produce **10.5 Giga Watt of bio-power** (earlier 10 GW) till 2022.
- This will also help to **reduce greenhouse emission** as cogeneration process is done in controlled environment.

## 5 Ocean Cleanup project

**CONTEXT:** In 2018, a trash collection device to collect plastic litter floating between California and Hawaii in an attempt to clean up the world's largest garbage patch (called the *Great Pacific Garbage Patch*) has been deployed.

Trash accumulates in 5 ocean garbage patches, the largest one being the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, located between Hawaii and California. If left to circulate, the plastic will impact our ecosystems, health and economies. Solving it requires a combination of closing the source, and cleaning up what has already accumulated in the ocean.

**Agency Involved:**

- A **non-government engineering environmental organization** called **The Ocean Cleanup** based in Netherlands.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To **clean-up the Great Pacific Garbage patch** which consists of plastics, used bottles, Fishing nets and gears e.t.c

**Salient features:**

- The project aims to **deploy a trash collection device to collect plastic litter** floating between California and Hawaii.
- The buoyant, U-shaped barrier made of plastic and with a tapered 10-foot deep screen, is intended to act like a coastline, trapping some of the 1.8 trillion pieces of floating plastic that scientists estimate are swirling in that gyre but allowing marine life to safely swim beneath it.
- The main aim is to **stop plastic wastes to go away from the coast line** and in the meantime, collect and recycle them.
- This barrier has been fitted with **solar power lights, cameras, sensors and satellite antennas** through which the cleanup system will communicate its position at all times and thus allowing a support vessel to fish out the collected plastic every few months and transport it to dry land where it will be recycled.
- The free-floating barriers are made to **withstand harsh weather conditions** and constant wear and tear.
- They will stay in the water for two decades and in that time collect 90 percent of the trash in the patch which is present there.
- Apart from it, **7 million tonnes of plastic waste** which is added every year to the garbage patch must be checked to reduce its size.

**The Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GBGP) is located about halfway between Hawaii and California. It's the largest accumulation zone for ocean plastics on Earth. It has a lot of negative effects on Marine and human life.
- **Microplastics** make **up 94 percent of an estimated 1.8 trillion pieces** of plastic in the patch. But that only amounts to eight percent of the total tonnage. As it turns out, of the 79,000 metric tons of plastic in the patch, most of it is abandoned fishing gear.
- It has been found that **fishing nets account for 46 percent** of the trash, with the majority of the rest composed of other fishing industry gear, including ropes, oyster spacers, eel traps, crates, and baskets.
- Apart from harming marine organisms, micro plastics enter the food chain and are harmful for human.
- Abandoned fishing nets and gears often hurt marine organisms and sea birds.

**Advantages:**

- Fishing gears and nets harm marine animals and aquatic birds. Cleanup drive will help to **preserve biodiversity**.
- Plastic Microbeads (tiny bits of plastic) usually stuck in gills of fishes, which leads to a condition called **Hypothermia** (lowering of body temperature) leads to death of fishes. Cleaning drive will reduce the deaths of fishes and other marine organisms.

**Concerns:**

- The cleaning systems could do more harm than good if they attract marine life that eat or get caught up in plastic.
- It may happen that the arrays (which are made of plastics) break apart when facing the extreme waves of the Pacific. This system is so huge that it can cause more **harm to large aquatic animals** and **restrict navigation of ships**.

## 6 ECO Niwas Samhita

**CONTEXT:** ECO Niwas Samhita 2018 an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R) on *National Energy Conservation Day*.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Power

**Aim/Objective:**

- To make **Residential buildings** energy efficient and hence decreasing carbon footprints.

**Salient features:**

- Government has framed an **Energy Conservation Building Code Rules**, which envisages to construct buildings in such a way that it could help to save energy consumption.
- Adoption of ECBC-R could lead to 30%-50% energy savings by residential buildings.

**Significance:**

- About 75% the total electricity consumed in the building sector, is used in residential buildings. This code will help in **optimum utilization of electricity**.
- Rapid urbanization and increasing population has increased the use of electricity with limited resources to generate it. ECBC-R will help to conserve and utilize electricity in a better way.
- It will help to achieve India's **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)**, which aims to reduce the emissions intensity of its gross domestic product (GDP) by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level.
- The building sector in India **consumes over 30% of the total electricity consumed in the country annually** and is second only to the industrial sector as the largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Optimization of use of electricity will help to decrease Greenhouse Gas emission.

### Energy Conservation Building Code, 2018 for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R)

- It was launched by Ministry of Power in association with **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
- ECBC-R 2018 sets parameters for builders, designers and architects to integrate renewable energy sources in building design with the inclusion of passive design strategies.
- The code sets minimum performance standards for building envelope to **limit heat gains** (for cooling dominated climates) and **limit heat loss** (for heating dominated climates) through it.
- The code sets minimum building envelope performance standard for adequate natural ventilation to ensure **efficient air conditioning**.
- The code sets minimum building envelope performance standard for **adequate daylight potential** by specifying minimum visible light transmittance.
- The code applies to (a) 'Residential buildings' built on a plot area  $\geq 500$  m<sup>2</sup> and (b) Residential part of 'Mixed land-use building projects', built on a plot area of  $\geq 500$  m<sup>2</sup>.

## 7

## National Environmental Health Profile Project

**CONTEXT:** A 'National Environmental Health Profile Project' aims to evaluate the *quantum of health effects arising from environmental exposure*, was initiated in November 2018.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)

**Aim/Objective:**

- To assess health effects arising from environmental exposure across the country.

**Salient features:**

- The study is being carried out across **20 cities divided into four zones**.
- Each zone consists of five cities and one city in each zone is taken as **referral city and** one city as **test city**.
- The city where the pollution levels are not very high is taken as the referral city in that zone, and the cities with the higher pollution loads are taken as **test cities** where the study will be conducted.
- All leading medical institutions in the country such as AIIMS Delhi, are part of this project to provide technical edge to it.
- **Principal investigators** have been identified from across all these institutions in these cities who have been provided data related to environment such as **metrological data, health data and data on particulate matter. Particulate matter**.
- The study also considers patients suffering from diseases arising out of environmental problems for study.

**Division of Zones:**

- **North Zone:** Delhi, Ludhiana, Kanpur and Raipur will be test cities while Guwahati will be taken as the referral city.
- **South Zone:** Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Chennai will be taken as test cities and Thiruvananthapuram will serve as the referral city.
- **West Zone:** Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur and Bhopal are test areas while Panjim has been taken as referral city.
- **East Zone:** Patna, Kolkata, and two other cities (not identified yet) will be test cities, and Shillong will serve as the referral city.

**Significance:**

- Almost all recent studies including research by **Lancet, WHO studies, a recent research by IQAir Group and Greenpeace** has concluded that India is a hub of polluted cities.
- However, there is **no indigenous research** regarding state of pollution in major Indian cities. Thus, outcomes of these reports can't be denied.
- Rapid urbanization and unplanned cities are a cause of concern for environmental management. **Environmental Health Profile of cities** will help to manage resources in a better way to combat environment pollution.
- This project which envisages to study across India will give an edge to various programs in health and infrastructure sector.

## 8

## Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has launched afforestation drive in five Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

- The campaign has been initiated **as part of the Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG)** component of Namami Gange programme.
- State Forest Departments of these states have been made the nodal agencies for the smooth and effective execution of the campaign.
- In order to implement the afforestation project in a scientific manner, **Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun** was assigned the project to prepare a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** on the basis of which the State Forest Departments would carry out their plantation activities.
- The FRI report **provides a multi-disciplinary approach** with potential plantation and treatment models. Considering the type of natural ecosystem, identification of native vegetation, soil conditions and agro-climatic zones, potential models of various types have been developed.
- Besides maintenance of the ecological and geological integrities, the implementation plan aims to contribute towards the Clean Ganga Mission, by **improving the base flow and filtration of the ground water pollution**.

#### **Namami Gange Programme:**

- Namami Gange Programme is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the **twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga**.
- The program is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e., State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).

#### **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):**

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the **implementation wing** of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).
- It is a **registered society**, originally formed by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- But now both NGRBA and NMCG are allocated to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR).
- **Main pillars of the programme** include sewerage treatment infrastructure, river-front development, river-surface cleaning, bio-diversity, afforestation, public awareness industrial effluent monitoring, and ganga gram.
- Its implementation has been divided into **Entry-Level Activities** (for immediate visible impact), **Medium-Term Activities** (to be implemented within 5 years of period) and **Long-Term Activities** (to be implemented within 10 years).

#### **Significance of the programme:**

- It aims to bring **greater awareness among people and other stakeholders** regarding the importance of afforestation for the task of Ganga Rejuvenation.
- A number of schools, colleges and departments have been requested to "Adopt a Plant" for turning this campaign into a people's movement.
- Plantation activities are being **carried out with great enthusiasm** all along the banks of the River Ganga with participation of local people.

#### **Why is Afforestation in Ganga Basin important?**

- Forests cause **higher rainfall and raise water level** in the rivers.
- Through their foliage, craggy bark and abundant leaf litter, trees and forests decrease the speed of water dispersion and favour slow but greater infiltration of rainwater to ensure smooth functioning of the hydrological cycle.
- The presence of healthy forest cover along the river **provides self-cleaning ability to the river**.
- Afforestation and augmentation of existing forest along the Ganga can strengthen the riparian ecosystem and contribute to the overarching cause of Ganga Rejuvenation.

## 9

**Solar City Programme**

**CONTEXT:** The under its scheme “Development of Solar Cities” Government has approved 60 Cities including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities.

**Aim/Objective:**

- Minimum 10% **reduction in projected demand of conventional energy** at the end of five years.

**Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

**Salient features:**

- The Ministry provides Central Financial support up to Rs.5 lakh for preparing **Master Plan for development of green campus** in the educational institutions, office complexes, residential and commercial complexes etc.
- Cities selected for the program are required to submit biannual reports on the details given in their master plans. An evaluation of the program’s implementation will be undertaken at the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan, and it will then be decided whether to extend the program further.
- To enable and **empower Urban Local Governments** to address energy challenges at City-level.
- To provide a framework and **support to prepare a Master Plan** including assessment of current energy situation, future demand and action plans.
- To oversee **the implementation of sustainable energy options** through public-private partnerships.
- The program assists Urban Local Governments by **providing financial assistance and technical help**.
- Preparation of a master plan for increasing renewable energy supply and energy efficiency measures in the city.
- Setting-up institutional arrangements for the implementation of the master plan.
- Awareness generation and capacity building activities.
- Implementation of projects as per financial incentives under various programmes of MNRE.

## 10

**‘i-Hariyali’ app’ to increase state’s green cover**

**Agency/Ministry:** Punjab government ‘Mission Tandarust Punjab’.

**Aim/Objective:** To increase the state’s **green cover**

**Salient features:**

- It will enable app users to **order free plant saplings** and help to save the environment from pollution.
- The app aims **to inspire more and more people to plant maximum saplings** during current monsoon season so as to save environment from pollution hazards.
- Using it, users can book sapling of their choice, a maximum of 25 per person, from nearby government nursery.
- It will ensure **clean, green, healthy and robust Punjab** with active participation of people.

11

## Scheme to Promote In-Situ (In The Farm Itself) Management Of Crop Residue

**CONTEXT:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Central Sector Scheme for in-situ management of crop residue in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi.

### Aim/Objective:

- It will promote agricultural mechanization for next two years (2018-20) to **provide cost effective and eco-friendly solution** to farmers to deal with problem of **stubble burning** that result in raising air pollution levels in Delhi and neighbouring states every winter.

### Salient features:

- The proceeds from central fund will be used to **establish Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs)** for Custom Hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery.
- Government will provide **80% financial assistance of project cost to cooperative societies** of farmers, FPOs, SHGs, registered farmers societies or farmers groups, private entrepreneurs and group of women farmers.
- It will provide **50% financial assistance to farmers** for procurement of agriculture machinery and equipment for in-situ crop residue management.
- Beneficiaries will be identified and selected for establishment of Farm Machinery Bank for Custom Hiring and procurement of machines on individual ownership basis by state nodal department/ DLEC.

12

## National Clean Air Programme

**CONTEXT:** Ministry of Environment, forest and climate change launched National clean air programme. It is a pollution control initiative to cut concentration of coarse and fine particles.

### Aim/Objective:

- Reduction of 20-30% in PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentration by 2024 with 2017 as the base year
- NCAP will be a **midterm, five year action plan**. Starting with 2019 as first year. Later it will be further extended after midterm review of outcomes.
- Other policies and programmes, including the **NAPCC (National action plan on climate change)** will be joined together with NCAP.
- For effective implementation of National level project monitoring unit, project implementation unit, state level project monitoring unit, **city level review committee under Municipal Commissioner and DM level committee in districts** would be set up.
- Cities will prepare action plan in consultation with CPCB (central pollution control board).
- NCAP focuses on 102 non attainment cities, whose air quality was found to be of in violation of the national standards during monitoring between 2011-2015.
- Smart cities program will be used to launch the NCAP in 43 smart cities falling in the list of 102 non attainment cities.

13

## Ash track mobile application

**Ministry:** Ministry of Power

**Aim/Objective:**

- Will enable **better management of fly ash** produced by thermal power plants by providing interface between ash producers (thermal power plants) and potential ash users such as –cement plants, road contractors etc.

**Salient features:**

- ASH TRACK App**

- ▶ The app shows coal based power plants situated within radius of 100 km and 300 km from a given location. It will **allow user to select power station from where he wants to take fly ash**.
- ▶ It will also show ash availability, distance from user's location.
- ▶ It will help power plants to see location of prospective fly ash users surrounding it like – cement plants, NHAI, contractors of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects, brick producers, etc. The app will give plant wise, utility wise and state wise fly ash utilization status in the country and also details of ash generation and utilization in real time.,
- ▶ It will allow **effective monitoring and reviewing for increasing fly ash utilization**. It will help in protecting environment in terms of reduction in fugitive emissions, saving of precious top soil and conservation of land for sustainable development.
- ▶ Fly ash is end product of combustion during process of power generation in the coal based thermal power plants.

**Advantages:**

- Fly ash is proven resource material for many **applications of construction industries** and is used in manufacturing of **Portland Cement, road embankment construction, bricks/blocks/tiles manufacturing and low lying area development**, etc.

## 14 National REDD+ Strategy

**Ministry/Agency:** Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.

**Aim/Objective:**

- To achieve climate change mitigation by **incentivizing forest conservation**.

**Salient features:**

- It is one of the tools to further **supplement India's commitment to 2015 Paris agreement**.
- It will support empowerment of youth cadres as community foresters to lead charge at local level.
- Under it, **Green Skill Development Programme** will be launched for imparting forestry-related specialised skills among the youth.
- National REDD+ strategy will help India to **fulfil its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** commitments and will also contribute to livelihood of forest dependent population.
- It will help to enhance efforts for forest conservation and enhance productivity of forest ecosystems.
- It takes into consideration important role played by tribals, other forest dwelling people and society as whole in reiterating India's commitment to Paris Agreement.

**Background:**

- Paris Agreement on Climate Change:**

- ▶ Paris agreement on climate change also recognizes role of forests in climate change mitigation and calls upon country Parties to take action to implement and support REDD+.

- ▶ India has communicated in its Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement, that it will capture 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of Carbon dioxide through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. India's first biennial update report to UNFCCC has revealed that forests in India capture about 12% of India's total GHG emissions. Thus, forestry sector in India is making a positive cost effective contribution for climate change mitigation.

## 15 Ganga Gram Project

**CONTEXT:** Ganga Gram Swachchhata Sammelan was recently organized at Chyavan Rishi Ashram in Chousa Village of Buxar district in Bihar.

**Agency:**

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), and its state counterpart organizations i.e., State Program Management Groups (SPMGs)

**Aim/Objective:** To clean river Ganga through greater coordination among agencies.

**Important Facts about River Ganga**

- The Ganga River Basin is one of the **largest living river systems in the world**, the main stem of the river flows through 5 states of India however the entire catchment provides water to 11 states.
- The mouth of River Ganga forms the world's largest delta, known as **Sunderbans**, and was declared a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO** in 1997.
- The Ganga Basin supports numerous diverse ecosystems, from the alpine forests near Gaumukh to the plains of northern India to the mangrove forests and saline mud flats of West Bengal.
- In order to improve implementation, a **three-tier mechanism** has been proposed for project monitoring comprising of a) High level task force chaired by Cabinet Secretary assisted by NMCG at national level, b) State level committee chaired by Chief Secretary assisted by SPMG at state level and c) District level committee chaired by the District Magistrate.
- The program emphasizes on improved coordination mechanisms between various Ministries/Agencies of Central and State governments.

## 15 Deep Ocean Mission

**Ministry:** Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

**Aim/Objective:** This will improve India's position in **ocean research field**.

**Salient features:**

- The program on Poly metallic nodules was initiated at CSIR-NIO with the collection of the first nodule sample from Arabian Sea on board the first **Research Vessel Gageshoni** on 26 January 1981.
- **India was the first country in the world** to have been given the Pioneer Area for exploration of deep-sea mineral viz. Polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin in 1987.
- Based on the resource evaluation, India has now retained an area of 75,000 sq km with an estimated resource of about 100 million tons of **strategic metals such Copper, Nickel, Cobalt besides Manganese and Iron**.
- A **First Generation Mine-site (FGM)** with an area of 18,000 sq km has been identified. Latest technologies for extraction of metals from the minerals have also been developed under the programme.
- Detailed environmental data has been collected for compliance with International Seabed Authorities requirements.

- Besides identifying the mineral resource and developing technologies for mining and extraction, the programme has also resulted in **high impact research as well as manpower development**.

## 16 Himalayan Research Fellowships scheme

**CONTEXT:** The union environment ministry has decided to start a 'Himalayan Research Fellowships scheme' to create a young pool of trained environmental managers, ecologists, and socio-economists.

- This pool will help generate information on physical, biological, managerial and human aspects of Himalayan environment and development.
- This is among the series of programmes that MoEFCC is running for **conservation and protection of Himalayas**.

### Salient features:

- The fellowship scheme will be executed through various universities and Institutions working in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).
- **Preference will be given to the Institutions from north-eastern states.**
- Fellowships will be awarded for a maximum period of three years.
- The financial support will be provided under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS).

## 17 National Biogas and Manure Management Programme

**CONTEXT:** Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy to set up 65,180 biogas plants under the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP).

### Aim/Objective:

- To set up family type biogas plants for **providing biogas as clean cooking fuel and a source of lighting**.

### Salient features:

- " Under the NBMMP, about **49.6 lakh household size biogas plants have been installed** since the inception of the National Biogas Programme in the country.
- " The programme is being implemented in all the states and Union Territories by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE)and Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC), Biogas Development and Training Centres (BDTCs)**.
- " The MNRE has taken various steps to increase the production of biogas in the country which include introduction of new biogas plant designs under the NBMMP such as floating design Shakti Surabhi Model, Solid-State Deenbandhu design model of biogas plants.
- The biogas plants can **generate biogas from organic substances** like cattle-dung, and other bio-degradable materials such biomass from farms, gardens, kitchens, and night soil.

### Advantages/Benefits:

- It provides clean gaseous fuel for cooking and lighting. The slurry produced from biogas plants as a by-product is an organic bio-manure for **enhancing crop yield and maintaining soil health**.
- It improves sanitation in villages and semi-urban areas by **linking sanitary toilets with biogas plants**.

- Biogas Plants help in **reducing the causes of climate change**.
- Setting up a biogas plant provides the solution to protect the households from the **ill effects of indoor air pollution**.
- Social benefits to rural families by reducing the drudgery of women involved in collecting fuelwood and mitigating health hazards during cooking in smoky kitchens.
- The biogas technology dissemination helps in reducing the environment degradation and prevents the emissions of Green House Gases (GHGs) such as Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Methane into the atmosphere.

## 18 NITI Aayog Urges Plan to Save Springs in Himalayas

**CONTEXT:** Expert group constituted by NITI Aayog urges government to save springs in Himalayan region.

**Aim/Objective:** To save springs in Himalayan region

**Salient features:**

- Report titled “Inventory and revival of springs in Himalayas for water security” has noted that Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is heavily reliant on these water sources. These **springs are in danger due to urbanisation** caused by push given by development and climate change
- It says that half of the **perennial springs have dried up**, as a result thousand of villages faces acute water crisis.
- Almost 60% of low discharge springs that gave water to small habitations have shown decline in last few decades.
- **Microbial content, sulphates and nitrates content was present in spring water** as a result of anthropogenic reasons. Contamination from arsenic, fluoride and iron was from geogenic reasons.
- Presence of Coliform bacteria was from septic tanks, household waste water etc. Sikkim has the highest density, with 94% of its villages having springs. In western Himalayas
- Jammu and Kashmir has highest number of villages with springs.
- Group recommends **multi disciplinary and collaborative approach of managing springs**. This will involve building on the existing body of work on spring water management.
- Demographic pressure on regions water resources is the result of “growing urbanisation”.
- The group recommends 8 year programme to overhaul springs in the region. This includes:-
- Preparing digital atlas of country’s spring sheds
- Training of para hydro geologists who would lead grassroots conservation
- Introduction of spring health cards.

## 19 SECURE Himalaya

- The Centre has launched a six-year project **to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity**, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.
- **Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species** and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime.
- The project has been launched in association with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** on the inaugural day of the Global Wildlife Programme.

- The SECURE - securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems - is meant for specific landscapes. It include Changthang (Jammu and Kashmir), Lahaul - Pangi and Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh), Gangotri-Govind and Darma-Byans Valley in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) and Kanchenjunga - Upper Teesta Valley (Sikkim).
- Enhanced enforcement efforts and monitoring under the project will also **curb illegal trade in some medicinal and aromatic plants** which are among the most threatened species in these landscapes.

## 20 Wood is Good Campaign

- The Government has launched the "Wood is Good" campaign in the "**Partnership for Land Use Science**" conference.
- Wood is a climate-friendly material, as it is a renewable resource, having zero carbon footprint.
- The Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus) is a joint programme by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** to strengthen capacity for REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) implementation in India.
- The programme brings together experts from India and the United States to **develop technologies, tools and methods of forest management** to meet the technical challenges of managing forests for the health of ecosystem, carbon stocks, biodiversity and livelihood.
- Some of the objectives of the conference include – exploring issues and opportunities for ecosystem approach to land management in India; discussing how the approaches and tools developed under the Forest-PLUS programme can be used to improve forest management in India and to document and disseminate that learning with a wider group.

## 21 Policy on Promotion of City Compost

**Ministry:** Ministry of Chemical and Fertiliser

**Aim/Objective:**

- Conversion of urban waste to compost is considered an **optimum solution to meet the objectives of disposal of waste** and providing an organic fertiliser for agriculture.

**Salient Features:**

- For increasing production and consumption of City Compost, provision for Market development assistance of Rs. 1500 per tonne of city compost has been added.
- **Farmers will be benefitted from lower MRP** of city compost as result of Market development assistance.
- To ensure that **environment friendly quality city compost**, eco-Mark standard has been made mandatory.
- Fertilizer companies will co-market City Compost along with chemical fertilizers.
- For promoting the use of compost, these companies will adopt villages.
- It will be **mandatory for Public Sector undertakings and Government Departments** to use City Compost for purpose of their horticulture.
- Concerned Ministries will undertake campaigns to create awareness among farmers about benefits of city compost and its uses.
- Agriculture Universities and other departments will also contribute in demonstration activities related to use of City compost.
- In the initial phase, promotion and marketing of city compost will be done through the existing fertilizer companies, but later, it will be done by compost manufacturers and other marketing entities after the approval from Department of Fertilisers.

**Advantages/merits:**

- Composting is process of **recycling of organic matter or waste into useful fertilizers for soil**.
- Compost obtained from city garbage will provide primary as well as secondary **nutrients to soil improving its productivity**.
- It will play pivotal role municipal waste management especially keeping the city clean and also generate revenue from the waste. It will also generate employment in urban areas.
- Prevent the **production of harmful greenhouse gases (GHGs)** especially methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and toxic material. Thus, keeping environment and groundwater clean.

**22****The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016**

- Act provides for the establishment of **funds under the public accounts of India** and the public accounts of each State which will be used for compensatory afforestation. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Levies are imposed on development projects** that seek land inside a Reserved Forest or a Protected Area (PA) in a sanctuary or a national park. These collected levies are **accrued in the CAMPA Funds** which are to be utilised to plant trees elsewhere in order to compensate the loss of forest due to development projects.

**Salient features:**

- It seeks to **establish the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund** under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.
- The payments into the funds include **compensatory afforestation**, NPV, and any project specific payments. The National Fund will get 10% of funds collected and the remaining 90% will go to respective State Fund.
- The collected **funds will be utilised for afforestation, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wild life protection and infrastructure development**.
- The act also seeks to establish National and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authorities to manage the funds.
- The determination of NPV will be delegated to an expert committee constituted by the central government.
- NPV quantifies the services provided by the forest. It includes goods and services (tourism and timber); regulating services (climate change); and none-material benefits (recreation).
- It seeks to **provide safety, security and transparency in utilization of CAMPA funds which are currently kept in Nationalized Banks** and managed by an ad-hoc body. These funds would be brought under the focus of Parliament and State Legislatures by transferring them to non-lapsable interest bearing funds.

**Advantages:**

- In the absence of the rules, forest departments in at least 15 states are undertaking afforestation as per the state CAF guidelines released by MoEF&CC in 2009, which are silent on the fundamental question of what kind of land—forest or revenue—can be used for carrying out the drives.
- As a result they are using the funds under CAF to take charge of forestlands that are being considered for community ownership and management, under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA).
- At present, the fund under the Act, which makes afforestation compulsory to compensate for the forestland diverted for non-forest purposes, has Rs 42,000 crore of which **10 per cent should be with the National CAMPA and the remaining with the state CAMPAs**.
- For instance, Odisha forest department is using CAF to fence land over which local communities have claimed rights. Then they are using the land for plantations.

- Several hectares were compensated there, but only with patchy outcomes: healthy monoculture plantations having low biodiversity value came up in some places, while others resulted in unhealthy plantations with few trees.
- The **exploitation by the state forest departments could have been avoided** if the ministry had released the rules in time.

## 23 Green Highways Policy, 2015

**Ministry:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

### **Aim/Objective:**

- Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 to **promote greening of National Highway corridors** across the country.

### **Salient features:**

- To **provide dignified employment to local people and communities**, changing the whole process for the avenue plantation and landscape improvement.
- To **reduce the impacts of air pollution** and dust as trees and shrubs along the Highways, as they act as natural sink for air pollutants and arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes. To help in making India pollution free.
- To **evolve a policy frame work for plantation along National Highways**.
- To reduce the impacts of air pollution and dust as trees and shrubs are known to be natural sink for air pollutants.
- To provide much needed **shade on glaring hot roads** during summer.
- To **reduce the impact of ever increasing noise pollution** caused due to increase in number of vehicles.
- To **arrest soil erosion** at the embankment slopes.
- **Prevention of glare from the headlight** of incoming vehicles.
- Moderating the effect of wind and incoming radiation.
- **Employment** to local people.
- Augmenting in maintaining biodiversity.
- **Promote greening and develop eco-friendly National Highway corridors** across the country with participation of farmers, private sector and government institutions including Forest Department.

### **Advantages/Merits:**

- It will address the issues that lie in the road of development and pave the way towards sustainable development.
- Stake holders: Contracts for greening highways will be given to **NGOs, agencies, private companies and government organisations**.
- These stakeholders will be responsible for the survival and health of trees.
- Planting of trees in any particular area will depend on the soil suitability and climatic conditions.
- Monitoring Agency: It will be responsible for monitoring the plantation status on continuous basis by carrying out the site visit for field verification to check survival, growth and size of plantation and maintenance of the same.
- **Performance audit of executing agencies will be regularly conducted by the agency on an Annual basis**. New contracts will be awarded to the agencies based on their past performance audit.

## 24 Schemes for Wetland and Coastal Ecosystem Management

- **Ramsar Convention:** It provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the **conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources**. Montreux Record under the Convention is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
- **'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems:** It aims at holistic conservation and restoration of lakes and wetlands **for achieving desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and the ecosystem**, through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach with a common regulatory framework.
- **Central Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves & Coral Reefs:** Its objectives are **Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation & Restoration of Mangroves**, Regeneration of Corals, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, and Education & Awareness related to mangroves and coral reefs.
- **Mangroves for the Future:** Its objective is to strengthen the environmental sustainability of coastal development. MFF is being coordinated by International Union for Conservation of Nature, (IUCN) covering, initially, six Tsunami affected countries namely India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Srilanka and Thailand.
- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme:** It is an initiative by World Bank to assist Government of India (GoI) in building national capacity for implementation of comprehensive coastal management approach in the country, and piloting the integrated coastal zone management approach in states of Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal.
- **Marine Protected Areas:** Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in India comprise national parks and wildlife sanctuaries declared in coastal wetlands, especially mangroves, coral reefs and lagoons, under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

## 25 Schemes for Water Conservation

- **Namami Gange:** It aims at Ganga Rejuvenation by combining the existing ongoing efforts and planning under it to create a concrete action plan for future.
- **Yamuna Action Plan:** It is a bilateral project between the Government of India and Japan. It aims at sewage treatment and solid waste management along with river front development.
- **Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana:** To achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko Pani), improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies.
- **National Water Mission:** For comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resource and promotion of citizen and state actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation.
- **Integrated Watershed Management Programme:** It aims at harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

## 26 Schemes for Conservation of Wildlife

- **Project Tiger:** To ensure maintenance of a viable population of Tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve for all times, areas of biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people.

- **Project Elephant:** To protect elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of man-animal conflict and welfare of domesticated elephants.
- **Project Snow Leopard:** To safeguard and conserve India's unique natural heritage of high-altitude wildlife populations and their habitats by promoting conservation through participatory policies and actions.
- **Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project:** To develop and promote new models of conservation at the landscape scale through enhanced capacity and institution building for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation outcomes. It is in link with World bank.
- **Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE):** Created to oversee and co-ordinate conservation, campaigning and fundraising activities to help the plight of south Asia's vultures.
- **Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020:** To protect and increase the population of the one-horned rhinoceros. IRV 2020 is a partnership between the Assam Forest Department, the Bodoland Territorial Council, WWF, IRF, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE):** To provide information needed for elephant range States to make appropriate management and enforcement decisions, and to build institutional capacity within the range States for the long-term management of their elephant populations. It is launched by CITES.

## 27 Schemes for Climate Change Management

- **National Solar Mission:** To make solar energy competitive with fossil-based energy options by increasing the share of solar energy in the total energy mix.
- **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency** To address national problems of inefficient energy use.
- **National Mission on Sustainable Habitats:** To make habitats sustainable through improvements in energy efficiency in buildings, management of solid waste and a modal shift to public transport.
- **National Water Mission :** Aims at conserving water, minimizing wastage, and ensuring more equitable distribution and management of water resources.
- **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem :** Calls for empowering local communities especially Panchayats to play a greater role in managing ecological resources.
- **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture:** Aims to make Indian agriculture more resilient to climate change by identifying new varieties of crops.
- **National Mission on Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change:** To work with the global community in research and technology development by collaboration through different mechanisms.
- **National Mission for a Green India Perform, Achieve and Trade:** Aims at enhancing ecosystem services such as carbon sinks. For trading energy-efficiency certificates in large energy-intensive industries under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency.
- **Renewable Purchase Obligations** For creating domestic markets for renewable energy through regulatory interventions at state level.

## 28 Other Schemes

- **National Mission for a Green India:** To Increase forest/tree cover on 5 m ha of forest/non-forest lands and improved quality of forest cover on another 5 m ha (a total of 10 m ha); improve ecosystem services and carbon sequestration as a result of treatment of 10 m ha; increase forest-based livelihood income for 3 million forest dependent households; and enhance annual CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration of 50-60 million tonnes by the year 2020.

- **Nagar Van-Udyan:** To create 200 City Forests in the Country. A City Forest will be developed in each City with Municipal Council.
- **School Nursery Yojana:** To involve children in raising saplings in nurseries created inside their school campuses.
- **Van Mahotsav:**
  - Van Mahotsav festival was started in 1950 by Kulapati Dr. K M Munshi, then the Union Minister for Agriculture and Food to create enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees.
  - It is now a week-long festival, celebrated on different days in different parts of India, but usually between 1 July to 7 July.
  - It began after a flourishing tree planting drive which was undertaken in Delhi, in which national leaders participated.
  - The festival raises the awareness of trees among people, and highlights the need for planting and tending of trees as one of the best ways to prevent global warming and reduce pollution. Tree planting during the festival serves various purposes, such as providing alternative fuel, increasing production of food resources, creating shelter-belts around fields to increase productivity, providing food for cattle, offering shade and decorative landscapes, reducing drought and helping to prevent soil erosion, etc.
- **Blue Flag Pilot Project:**
  - With prime objective of enhancing standards of cleanliness, upkeep and basic amenities at beaches, this Ministry has launched a pilot project for beach cleanup and development, also striving for the "Blue Flag" Certification for such identified beaches.
  - Under the pilot programme, each of the coastal State/UT was requested to identify/nominate a beach, to be funded through the ongoing Integrated Coastal Management Programme.
  - All the coastal States have nominated the pilot beaches in their receptive territories including Goa. Formal nominations are, however, awaited from the coastal UTs viz., Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar".
- **Red Alert on the Green Index:**
  - India ranks low in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018, slipping from rank 141 in 2016, to 177 in 2018.
  - The EPI is produced jointly by Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. In comparison, emerging peer economies, Brazil and China, rank 69 and 120, respectively. The EPI ranks countries on 24 performance indicators across 10 issue categories.
  - Top 5 countries are Switzerland, France, Denmark, Malta and Sweden.
  - The countries at the bottom of index are Nepal, India, Congo, Bangladesh, and Burundi.
  - The report has ranked India as fourth worst country worldwide in curbing environmental pollution.

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## Others Schemes & Initiatives

### 1 Niti Forum for North-East

**Ministry:** Ministry for Development of North-East Region

**Feature:**

- The NITI Forum for Northeast is tasked to **identify various constraints on the way of accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth** in the North East Region of the country and to recommend suitable interventions for addressing identified constraints. It will also review the development status in the NER.
- The Forum may **examine and address any other issues** which are of importance but not specifically spelt out in its Terms of Reference.
- It may devise its own procedure to conduct its business/meetings/fields visits or constitution of Sub-Groups etc.

### 2 Blue Aadhaar Card/Baal Aadhaar

**Feature:**

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the nodal authority for issuing Aadhaar cards has rollout '**Bal Aadhaar**', **meant for kids under 5 years of age**.
- Bal Aadhaar literally means **Kid's Aadhaar**. It will have **blue colour** to differentiate it with regular Aadhaar. It will be **linked with one of parent's Aadhaar card**.
- Blue coloured Aadhaar **does not include child's biometric information**.
- The first mandatory biometric update is required at the age of five to include child's biometric information like fingerprints and iris scan.
- The second mandatory biometric update is required at the age of 15.
- **Besides school photo ID card, child's birth certificate and a mobile number will also be required for enrolment.**

**Aadhaar:**

- Aadhaar is **12-digit number** which acts as **proof of identity and address** anywhere in the country. It is considered as world's largest national identification project.
- It's collects biometric and demographic data of residents and stores them in a centralised database.
- It is **issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.

### 3 e-Shodh Sindhu

- Based on the recommendation of an Expert Committee, the **MHRD** has formed e-ShodhSindhu merging three consortia initiatives, namely **UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium**.
- The e-ShodhSindhu will continue to **provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases** in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act.

#### Aim/Objective:

- Setting-up e-Shodh Sindhu: **Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources** by augmenting and strengthening activities and services offered by three MHRD-funded Consortia;
- Develop a **formidable collection of e-journals**, e-journal archives and e-books on perpetual access basis;
- Monitor and promote usage of e-resources** in member universities, colleges and technical institutions in India through awareness and training programmes;
- Provide access to subscription-based scholarly information** (e-books and e-journals) to all educational institutions;
- Provide access to scholarly content available in open access through subject portals and subject gateways;
- Bridge digital divide** and move towards an information-rich society;
- Provide access to selected e-resources** to additional institutions including open universities and MHRD-funded institutions that are not covered under existing consortia;
- Take-up additional activities and services that require collaborative platform and are not being performed by existing Consortia; and
- Moving towards developing a National Electronic Library with electronic journals and electronic books as its major building blocks.

### 4 Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme

#### Feature:

- The programme envisages rapid development of selected districts on basis of composite index based on **five parameters health and nutrition, education, financial inclusion, skill development, agriculture and water resources and basic infrastructure**.
- The programme launched in January 2018 aims to quickly and effectively transform some of most underdeveloped districts of the country.
- It focuses closely on **improving people's ability to participate fully in burgeoning economy**.
- It seeks to bring these indicators in selected districts at par with the better performing districts in the country.
- Broad contours of the programme are **Convergence of Central and State Schemes; Collaboration of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers and District Collectors and Competition among districts driven by Mass Movement or Jan Andolan**.

### 5 Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC)

**Ministry:** Ministry for Development of North-East Region

**Feature:**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the following schemes of M/o DONER for continuation till March, 2020
- Under the Schemes of NEC - Special Development Projects, with the existing **funding pattern (90:10 basis)** for ongoing projects and on 100% Central funding for new projects;
- For other projects funded by NEC - both Revenue and Capital - as 100% Central funding basis, to continue with existing pattern;
- Extension of **100% centrally funded North Eastern Road Sector** Development Scheme (NERSDS);
- Proposal to ensure optimization of resources through convergence of efforts of various Ministries/Departments.
- The projects under the existing Schemes of NEC, NLCPR (Central) and NERSDS will **accrue socio-economic benefits to the people of North Eastern Region** enhancing their capabilities and livelihood.
- The Scheme of NEC - Special Development Project will be changed to be a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% grant, instead of the earlier block grant on 90:10 basis. The remaining component will continue to be funded on 100% Central funding basis as at present.
- Apart from the above, NEC is also implementing "North Eastern Road Sector Development Scheme - Programme Component" for **upgradation of the important and strategic inter-state roads**. Transferred from DONER to NEC for implementation, the scheme is 100% Centrally funded. A sum of Rs. 1000 crore has been allocated under the scheme.
- Another Scheme namely "Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources-Central [NLCPR (Central)], presently funded by M/o DoNER, provides resources to the concerned line Ministries/their agencies for projects like Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link, checking erosion in Majuli Island. This Scheme will also be transferred to NEC for implementation.
- **Previously, there was no fixed arrangement for distributing the funds into State or Central component.**
- Now, the total funds available to NEC are proposed to be bifurcated in **two components (State component - 60% and Central component - 40%)**. The State component would be utilised for the projects in each State as per their share on normative allocation basis.
- For the Central component, the projects having regional character, requiring Inter-Ministerial intervention are to be taken up.
- **Priority sectors have been identified** such as bamboo; piggery; regional tourism; higher education, tertiary healthcare & special intervention in backward areas; livelihood project; Science & Technology Interventions in NER; Survey & Investigation and NER Promotion.
- By the above, a clear apportionment or **division of sectors is ensured between DoNER and NEC to avoid duplication.**
- In order to give a boost to the Tourism in NE Region, amongst other things, the outstanding liabilities in tourism sector under Product Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits (PIDDC) may also be addressed.
- Further, a mechanism on the pattern of Standing Finance Committee (SFC) with representatives from the concerned line Ministries and from Ministry of DoNER would be constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, NEC for approval of the projects costing between Rs. 5-15 crore. This is aimed at **bringing synergy with programmes of other Union Ministries and avoiding of duplication through process of SFC.**

**6****Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar****Ministry:**

- The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched 'Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar', an engagement programme with regional media in **Hyderabad, Telangana.**

**Aim/Objective:**

- The initiative aims **enhance public diplomacy outreach of MEA** and its commitment to take objectives of foreign policy to people at grassroot-level.

**Feature:**

- The initiative involves MEA's engagement with regional media based in different cities across the country to communicate foreign policy priorities in simple terms.
- It seeks to **highlight benefits accruing to common people through its diplomatic efforts** and bring domain of foreign policy closer to people.
- It is also intends to **create pool of media professionals interested in foreign policy** and guide them on connecting with MEA.

**7****Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Minority Affairs

**Aim/Objective:**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister approved the proposal for **renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**.
- CCEA has also approved its continuation during the remaining period of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.

**Impact:**

- The restructured programme would **provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to the minority communities** particularly in the field of education, health & skill development as compared to the present situation, which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.
- The flexibility introduced in the programme will enable addressing important issues that would result in speedier implementation leading to greater inclusiveness of the minority communities.
- The criteria for identification of Minority Concentration Towns and Clusters of Villages have been rationalized by **lowering the population percentage criteria of Minority Communities** and fulfilment of backwardness parameters in the following manners:
  - Earlier only those Towns which were found backward in terms of both in **Basic Amenities and Socio-economic parameters were taken up as MCTs. Now, the Towns which were found backward in either or both of the criteria have been taken up as MCT.**
  - Earlier only those Cluster of Villages which were having at-least 50% population of Minority Community were taken. **Now the population criteria has been lowered to 25%.**
  - These rationalization of criteria would **facilitate the inclusive growth of communities and social harmony**
  - The area to be covered under PMJVK would be 57% more as compared to the existing MsDP.

**8****Seva Bhoj Yojna**

**Ministry:** Ministry of Culture

**Aim/Objective:**

- A new scheme to **provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.**

**Feature:**

- Under this scheme, Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) charged on the raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.
- The scheme aims reimburse Central Government share of CGST and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) of Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) who **provide food, prasada, langar (Community Kitchen), Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to public and devotees**. This will help to lessen the financial burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions.
- CRIs such as Temples, Gurudwara, Mosque, Church, Dharmik Ashram, Dargah, Matth, Monasteries etc. having existence for at least five years and serve free food to at least 5000 people in month.
- Such institutions will be **given grant under the scheme if they are covered under Section 10 (23BBA) of Income Tax (IT) Act** or are institutions registered as Society under Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) or as Public Trust under any law for time being in force of statutory religious bodies or institutions registered under Section 12AA of IT Act
- **All eligible institutions must registered with Darpan portal of Ministry of Culture.** The applications will be examined by committee constituted for purpose. On basis of the recommendation of committee, competent authority in Ministry of Culture will register CRIs for reimbursing claim of CGST and Central Government share of IGST paid on mentioned specific items.

**9****Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS)****Aim/Objective:**

- **To support Indian Entities** bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.

**Feature:**

- Under the CFS, the Govt. of India has been supporting Indian Entities bidding **for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad** since 2015-16. Since the objectives of the Scheme continue to be relevant, it is proposed to extend the Scheme for another five years from 2018 to 2023.
- Prior to the introduction of CFS, Indian entities were not able to bid for large projects abroad since **the cost of financing was very high for them and bidders from other countries such as China, Japan, Europe and US were able to provide credit at superior terms**, i.e., lower interest rate and longer tenures which works to the advantage of bidders from those countries.
- Also, by having projects of strategic interest to India executed by Indian entities, the CFS **enables India to generate substantial backward linkage induced jobs**, demand for material and machinery in India and also a lot of goodwill for India.

**Background:**

- The scheme envisages Government of India to **provide counter guarantee and interest equalization of 2 % to EXIM Bank** to offer concessional finance to any foreign Government or foreign Government owned or controlled entity, if any Indian entity, succeeds in getting contract for the execution of a project.
- Under the Scheme, EXIM Bank extends credit at a rate not exceeding LIBOR (avg. of six months) + 100 bps. **The repayment of the loan is guaranteed by the foreign govt.**

**10****Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Terrorist Travel Initiative**

**CONTEXT:** United States and Morocco launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under auspices of Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF).

**Aim/Objective:**

- The new initiative will **strengthen UNSC Resolution 2396 aiming to stop terrorist travel altogether**. It will improve capabilities for detecting and interdicting terrorist travel through enhanced terrorist screening and information sharing.

**Feature:**

- The initiative brings together stakeholders to **share expertise on developing and implementing effective counter-terrorism watch listing and screening tools**. It was launched on sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.
- It will **bring together national and local governments, law enforcement and border screening practitioners and international organizations to share expertise** to develop and implement effective counterterrorism watch listing and screening tools.
- Under this initiative, series of **four regional workshops** in 2018 and 2019 will be convened to develop set of good practices that will be endorsed at 2019 GCTF Ministerial. The resulting document will reinforce countries and organizations to use border security tools prescribed in UNSC Resolution 2396 to stop terrorist travel.

**Background**

- UN Security Council (UNSC) had unanimously adopted resolution 2396 (UNSCR 2396) in December 2017 requiring all member states to use various tools, including by **implementing systems to collect traveller data and develop watch lists of known and suspected terrorists**.
- One of the most effective tools to counter terrorist travel was through traveller data such as **Advanced Passenger Information (API), Passenger Name Record (PNR), and biometrics**.

**Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)**

- GCTF's is **international apolitical, multilateral counter-terrorism (CT) platform of 29 countries and European Union (EU)** with overarching mission of reducing vulnerability of people worldwide to terrorism by preventing, combating, and prosecuting terrorist acts and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism. It was launched officially in New York on 22 September 2011.
- GCTF's goal is to **strengthen capabilities to develop strategic, long-term approach to counter terrorism** and prevent violent extremist ideologies that underpin it.
- Its mission is to **diminish terrorist recruitment** and increase countries' civilian capabilities for dealing with terrorist threats within their borders and regions.

**11 Safe City project****Feature:**

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has approved a Safe City project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs.194.44 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.
- The Safe City project for Lucknow also **envisages gender sensitization awareness campaigns** and capacity building in collaboration with community and civil society organizations.
- The project would be implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with Centre and State sharing the funding in 60:40 ratio.
- This approval is a part of MHA's plans to implement Safe City projects in 8 selected cities, namely, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow under Nirbhaya Fund with the purpose of strengthening safety and security of women in public places.
- The Safe city proposal for Lucknow will be implemented by Uttar Pradesh Police, assisted by the Municipal bodies and city transport authorities.

**The major components of the Safe City project in Lucknow include :**

- Setting up an **Integrated Smart Control Room**;
- Setting up **Pink Out-posts** (exclusively administered by Women police) for facilitating ease of filing complaint by women;
- **Pink Patrols of Women police**;
- Setting up Women Help Desks in all Police Stations with Counsellors;
- Augmentation of existing **Asha Jyoti Kendra**;
- Implementing Safety measures in buses, including Cameras;
- Improving Street Lighting in identified Hot Spot areas;
- Setting up Pink Toilets;
- Integration of Women power-help line with single **Emergency number '112'**.

## 12 Coal Swapping Scheme

**Ministry:** Ministry of Coal of Coal

**Feature:**

- The Coal Mitra Web Portal aims at **optimum utilisation by private as well as public power companies of the coal**.
- It facilitates **transfer of the coal reserves** to more cost efficient State/Centre owned or Private sector generating stations.
- The portal allows **coal swapping between PSUs and the Private Sector** in transparent manner and also helps to reduce operational and logistic costs, bringing power tariffs down for the consumers.
- It facilitates state/Central Gencos **to display information about normative fixed and variable charges of electricity for the previous month**.
- They can also display margin available for additional generation so as to enable the utilities identify stations for transfer of coal.
- It will host data on Quantity and source of supply coal to the power plant, Operational and Financial parameters of each coal based station and Distance of Power plant from the Coal mine.

## 12 Coal Swapping Scheme

**Ministry:** Government Of Jharkhand

**Aim/Objective:**

- The primary objective of the scheme is to **reduce the dependency of farmers on non-institutional loans/private lenders** State is targeting around 22.76 lakh farmers in a planned manner during the financial year 2019-20 covering a Kharif cropped area of about 45 lakh acres.

**Feature:**

- Mukhya Mantri Krishi Aashirwad Yojna is an ambitious scheme of the state government **aimed at improving the financial situation of farmers and provide them with timely investment support before the start of the Kharif season**.
- The scheme is aligned with the vision of Honorable Prime Minister of Doubling Farmers Income by Year 2022.

- Marginal and small farmers will be given Rs 5000 per acre per year (maximum up to 5 Acres) through DBT in their bank account.
- Rs 2250 crore has been earmarked for this scheme for the Financial Year 2019-20.
- Farmers can utilize the funds for following purposes:
  - Purchase of **Seed**
  - Purchase of **Fertilizers**
  - **Labour and land** preparation
  - Hiring of **Farm Equipment**
  - Any other Agriculture related work

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