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An Institute for Civil Services

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GIST OF
INDIA
YEARBOOK
2023

for CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

CONTENTS

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Best Practices to Combat the Pandemic

INTRODUCTION

➤ The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has turned the world upside down. Everything has been impacted. The virus has infected and killed millions of people around the world.

➤ The pandemic that brought the "modern world" to standstill, made us realize the unpredictability of life.

➤ However, the government made great strides to control the spread of the virus

➤ The following brief deals with the important best practices followed by the government in fighting and overcoming the virus.

EFFORTS BY DIFFERENT MINISTRIES/ DEPARTMENTS & INSTITUTION

Supreme Court of India

➤ **Issues faced:** disruption of normalcy on its forever evolving journey of protecting the rights of the citizenry.

➤ **VIDYO App:** SC started court proceedings through video conferencing using the VIDYO App in prominent cases.

➤ **Video Conferencing:** Hearing of cases were started through video conferencing.

> **Challenges faced**
> ◉ Lack of digital literacy
> ◉ Infrastructural issues
> ◉ Privacy and safety issues
> ◉ Delay in transmission of orders

➤ **FASTER** was formally launched by the Chief Justice of India along with the Computerisation Committee in 2022 to resolve issue related with delay in release of prisoners.

➤ **Others:** e-courts, online hearings via video conferencing, the standard operating procedure for urgent hearings, live streaming, and e-filing.

Election Commission of India

➤ **Issues faced:** Safety of votes and voters, security and fairness of the election process (General Elections of legislative assemblies of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, West Bengal and Puducherry were conducted during pandemic)

➤ **DM Act**: It is the duty of the Commission under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 to extend support as per legal and institutional framework to steer elections even during unprecedented pandemic.

➤ **Mandated behavior**: No roadshow, physical yatra, pad yatra and procession.

➤ **Physical Voting:** As far as practical, the distribution of voting materials was to be organized in a decentralized manner and the physical handling of the **EVM/VVPAT (voting machines)** was strictly to be while wearing gloves.

➤ **Systematic Voter Education for Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme:** ECI improved the Systematic Voter Education for Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, which allowed digital confirmation of voter registration.

Ministry of Finance

➤ **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme:** The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** was launched in 2020 as part of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan** to support eligible Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and business enterprises in meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their businesses in context of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

➤ **Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid affected Sectors (LGSCAS):** Launched in 2021 for providing credit guarantee coverage to lending institutions for loans to projects under healthcare sector.

➤ **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions:** The Credit Guarantee Scheme for MF Is (CGSMF I) was launched in 2021 to support the economy during the pandemic, to benefit the smallest of borrowers of micro finance institutions by providing 75 per cent guarantee coverage through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).

➤ **Special Liquidity Facility:** With a view to augmenting lending resources during the pandemic, a front-loaded Special Liquidity Facility (SLF-I) was provided by RBI to NABARD for on-lending to cooperatives banks, Regional Rural Banks and smaller Non-Banking Finance Companies-Micro Finance Institutions**.**

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package:** It was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in through New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL). 50 lakh insurance cover has been provided to 22.12 lakh public healthcare providers on loss of life due to the disease, and accidental death on account of Covid related duty.

➤ **Corona Kavach Policy:** It was a standard product to address the basic health insurance needs of the public with health insurance cover ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5,00,000.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

➤ **Covid Containment and Management:** Owing to government's strategy of test-track-treat-vaccinate and Covid appropriate behaviour, India has been able to limit its cases and deaths which is one of the lowest in the world as compared to similarly affected countries.

➤ **National Policy:** The National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme, the largest vaccination programme more than 220 crore doses had been administered across the country.

Ministry of Commerce

➤ **The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) extended the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-2020:** Foreign trade policy are a set of guidelines and instructions which are established by **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** related to import and export of goods in India. This is announced after every 5 years.

Ministry of Civil Aviation

➤ **Vande Bharat Mission:** It was aimed at repatriation of Indian nationals by air, sea and land routes. The VBM also enabled individuals of various nationalities stuck in India to return to their respective homeland.

  • This landmark mission was carried out with the active support and cooperation of Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad, Ministry of Home Affairs, MoH&FW and state governments. The Air India group (Air India and Air India Express) were the backbone of the VBM while the private Indian carriers viz., GoAir, IndiGo, SpiceJet and Vistara as active participants

➤ **Assistance to Other Countries: Mission Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** was India's initiative to deliver **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** and Covid related assistance

to the countries in the Indian Ocean Region, over three phases. It saw the deployment of **Indian Naval Ship, Kesari** to deliver assistance to maritime neighbors: **Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles.**

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

➤ **Aarogyasetu app:** To identify, monitoring and mitigating the spread of the virus.

➤ **Scheme for Accelerating Startups for Utilizing Post-Covid Technology Opportunities (SASACT):** To support electronics hardware/ICT based tech entrepreneurial initiatives of startups for developing or re-purposing technologies, tools, systems, solutions to respond to the post Covid-19 scenario emerging in the near horizon.

➤ **e-Hospital** is aimed at the implementation of Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) for internal processes and workflows of hospitals.

➤ C-DAC's Telemedicine Solution (**eSanjeevaniOPD**) is basically a patient-to-doctor tele-consultation system which is operational since April 2020 for video-based clinical consultations between doctors in a hospital and patients in the confines of their home.

➤ **Teleconsultation Software for Tri Services (SeHAT)** is web-based telemedicine technology with in-built video conferencing for personnel (and their dependents) serving in three services of Armed Forces of India.

➤ **UMANG** is integrated with various health related services, viz., CoWIN, e-Raktkosh, Pharma Sahi Dham, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), etc. thus providing convenience to citizens in availing health services during COVID-19 pandemic.

➤ **Digilocker:** Storage and production of contactless documents/ID of citizens and they authenticity is validated by the agency.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

➤ **Medical Oxygen Management and Support:** DPIIT with **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO)** facilitated steps to enhance the availability of liquid oxygen, as well as, storage capacity of **liquid medical oxygen (LMO)** in hospitals and gaseous oxygen in cylinders

➤ Domestic manufacturing was promoted leveraging private and public sector technologies India became a producer and net exporter of PPE kits.

➤ The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** launched **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)** as a sub-scheme under **PMAY-U** in order to provide dignified living to the urban migrants at affordable cost near their workplaces

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

➤ The Ministry launched the **Affordable and Rental Housing Complexes** (ARHCs) as a sub-scheme under **PMAY-U.**

> **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U),** a flagship Mission of Government of India being implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), was launched on 25th June 2015. The Mission addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households

Department of Posts
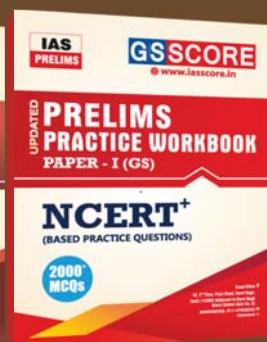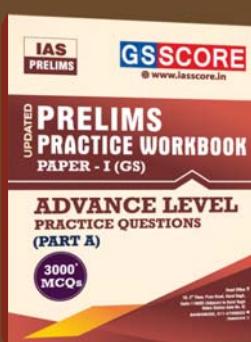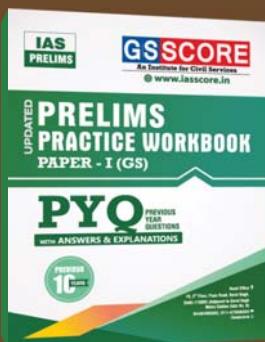
➤ **Road Transport Network:** RTN was a dedicated nationwide network for shipment of essential items.

➤ **Parcel network:** To create reliability and greater control over movement of parcels, a new and dedicated All India Mail and Parcel Road Transport Network was operationalized.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

➤ **NSD:** AIR and its 46 RNUs remained on the frontline, creating awareness about Covid-19 pandemic, urging citizens to follow Covid

➤ **Corona Jagrukta Series** — was launched in which eminent doctors answer listeners' queries. Similar programmes were mounted on DD from time to time to create awareness about the infection and later about the safety of the vaccination.

➤ Initiatives like **Covid Pe Charcha, Covid Gurukool and Zara Sochiye** were undertaken on social/ digital media. Print, electronic and social media were used in tandem. Content disseminated through multiple channels across national and state agencies, both government and through development partners.

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The Land and People

India at a Glance

- INDIA being one of the oldest and greatest civilizations of the world is also a melting pot of culture. Its culture and socio economy is shaped by its diverse geographical features.

- It **covers an area of 32,87,263 sq.km** ranging from the **snow-capped Himalayas** in the north to the sun-drenched **coastal villages of the south** and the humid tropical forests on the south-west coast, from the **fertile Brahmaputra valley** on its east to the **Thar Desert in the west**.

- India is the **seventh largest country** in the world and ranks second in population. Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, **it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer tapers** off into the **Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea** on the west.

- **Latitude & Longitude:** The mainland extends between latitudes 8°4' and 37°6' north, longitudes 68°7' and 97°25' east. Distance: from north to south: about 3,214 km between the extreme latitudes and about 2,933 km from east to west between the extreme longitudes.

- **Land frontier** of about 15,200 km. The total length of the coastline of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 7,516.6 km.

- **Divided into six zones** mainly north, south, east, west, central and northeast zone and It has 28 states and Eight union territories

- **Bordering Countries:** Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west, China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Myanmar to the far East and Bangladesh to the east.

- Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

Physical Features

- **The mainland comprises four regions**, namely, the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region and the southern peninsula. The Himalayas comprise three almost parallel ranges interspersed with large plateaus and valleys, some of which, like the Kashmir and Kullu valleys are fertile and scenic beauty.

- **Home to some of the highest peaks in the world**, the high altitudes allow travel only through a few passes, notably the Jelep La and Nathu La on the main Indo-Tibet trade route through the Chumbi valley, north-east of Darjeeling and Shipki La in the Satluj valley, north-east of Kalpa (Kinnaur).

- **The mountain wall extends over a distance of about 2,400 km** with a varying depth of 240 to 320 km. In the east, between India and Myanmar and India and Bangladesh, hill ranges are much lower. Garo, Khasi, Jaintia and Naga Hills, running almost east to west, join the chain to Mizo and Rakhine Hills running north to south.

Plains

- ► The plains of the Ganga and the Indus, about 2,400 km long and 240 to 320 km broad, are formed by basins of three distinct river systems—the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- ► They are one of the world's greatest stretches of flat alluvium and also one of the most densely populated areas.

The Desert region

- ► The 'Great Desert' extends from the edge of the Rann of Kutch beyond the Luni river northward. The whole of the Rajasthan-Sind frontier runs through this.
- ► The 'little desert' extends from the Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur up to the northern west. Between the great and the little deserts lies a barren zone, consisting of rocky land, cut up by limestone ridges.

The Peninsular Plateau

- ► It is marked off from the plains of the Ganga and the Indus by mountains and hill ranges. Prominent among these are the Ara vali, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta.
- ► It is flanked on the one side by the Eastern Ghats where average elevation is about 610 metres and on the other by the Western Ghats where it is generally from 915 to 1,220 metres, rising in places to over 2,440 metres. Between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea lies a narrow coastal strip.
- ► The southern point of the plateau is formed by the Nilgiri Hills where the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet. The Cardamom Hills lying beyond may be regarded as a continuation of the Western Ghats.

Geological Structure

- ► The geological regions broadly follow the physical features and are grouped into three regions: the Himalayas and their associated group of mountains, the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the Peninsular Shield.
- ► The present configuration of India is attributed to the collision of the Indian plate with the Eurasian plate around 4-5 crore years ago. Collision and later subduction of the Indian plate has resulted in the formation of Himalayan mountain chain in the world.
- ► In the south of the Himalayas, there is a foreland basin known as Indo-Gangetic plains. These plains are youngest in age, highly fertile in nature and mainly consist of alluvium deposited by the rivers draining from the Himalayas and the peninsular regions.
- ► These are a great alluvial tract that separates the Himalayas in the north from the Peninsula in the south.
- ► The peninsular region is shaped like an inverted triangle and is relatively stable and consists of rock units of earliest periods. The rest is being covered by the Gondwana Super group, igneous, metamorphic and Deccan Trap formation.

River Systems

- ► Himalayan rivers
- ► Deccan Rivers
- ► Coastal rivers
- ► Rivers of the inland drainage basin.

The Himalayan Rivers

- ► Formed by melting snow and glaciers, it continuously flows throughout the year. During monsoon the Himalayas receive very heavy rainfall leading to swelling in rivers and frequent floods.

- The main Himalayan river systems are those of the Indus and the Ganga Brahmaputra-Meghna system.

- **The Ganga-Brahmaputra Meghna system-** Principal sub-basins are those of the Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda, which join at Dev Prayag to form the Ganga.

- It traverses through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Below Rajmahal Hills.

- **The Yamuna**, the Ramganga, the Ghaghra, the Gandak, the Kosi, the Mahananda and the Sone are the important tributaries of the Ganga.

- **Rivers Chambal and Betwa** are the important sub-tributaries, which join the Yamuna before it meets the Ganga. The Padma and the Brahmaputra join at Bangladesh and continue to flow as the Padma or Ganga.

- **Brahmaputra rises in Tibet**, where it is **known as Tsangpo.** It crosses over into India in Arunachal Pradesh under the name of Dihang. Near Passighat, the Debang and the Lohit join the river Brahmaputra and the combined river runs all along the Assam valley. It crosses into Bangladesh downstream of Dhubri.

The principal tributaries of Brahmaputra in India- Subansiri, Jia Bhareli, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Pagladiya and the Manas.

The Barak river- the head stream of Meghna, rises in the hills in Manipur. The important tributaries of the river are Makku, Trang, Tuivai, Jiri, Sonai, Rukni, Katakhal, Dhaleswari, Langachini, Maduva and Jatinga.

The Deccan rivers

- These are rainfed and therefore fluctuate in volume. Many of these are non-perennial. Most of the major river systems flowing generally in the east fall into Bay of Bengal.

- The major east flowing rivers are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Mahanadi. Narmada and Tapti are major west flowing rivers. The Godavari in the southern Peninsula has the second largest river basin covering 10 per cent of the area of India.

The Coastal streams

- Especially on the west coast, are short in length and have limited catchment areas. Most of them are non-perennial.

The Inland drainage:

- The streams of the inland drainage basin of western Rajasthan are few and far apart. Most of them are of an ephemeral character.

- These are Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others.

Drainage Basin

- The entire country has been divided into 20 river basins/group of river basins comprising 12 major basins and eight composite river basins.

- **The 12 major river basins are:** (1) Indus, (2) Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna, (3) Godavari, (4) Krishna, (5) Cauvery, (6) Mahanadi, (7) Pennar, (8) Brahmani Baitarani, (9) Sabarmati, (10) Mahi, (11) Narmada and (12) Tapti. Each of these basins has a drainage area exceeding 20,000 sq. km.

- The eight composite river basins combine suitably together all the other remaining medium (drainage area of 2,000 to 20,000 sq. km) and small river systems (drainage area less than 2000 sq. km) for the purpose of planning and management.

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Climate/Seasons

The climate of India may be broadly described as tropical monsoon type. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) designates four official seasons:

➤ **Winter season:** January and February;

➤ **Pre-monsoon or summer season:** March, April and May;

➤ **South-west monsoon season :** June, July, August, and September;

➤ **Post-monsoon or north-east monsoon season:** October, November and December.

Monsoon

➤ The Southwest Monsoon season is the main rainy season of the country and varies from June to September. Though it is generally taken to be four months (June—September), its actual period at a specific place differs, depending on the date of its onset and withdrawal.

➤ **Monsoon sets in** over the Kerala coast, by 1st June and then advances in early June and extends over the entire country by the end of July.

➤ **Duration-** varies from less than 75 days in western Rajasthan to more than 120 days over the south-western regions of the peninsular India.

➤ Within a season, the monsoon rainfall oscillates between active spells associated with widespread rains over most parts of the country and "breaks" with little rainfall activity over the plains and heavy rains across the foothills of the Himalayas.

➤ Based on data of 1971-2020, India receives about 868.6 mm rainfall during the southwest monsoon season.

➤ The India monsoon blows from the southwest during the warmest months of the year and reverses direction to blow from northeast during cooler months. This process brings large amounts of rainfall to the region during June to September and is regarded as the principal rainy season.

Prevalence of cyclones

➤ **Tropical cyclones are** originate over the warm oceans of the world and develop into massive vortices composed of swirling winds, intense clouds and torrential rains by drawing energy from the oceans.

➤ The **east and west coasts of India are prone** to the destructive features of Tropical cyclone activity.

➤ **Its Development is seasonal in nature**, with **most tropical ocean basins** having maximum frequency of formation during the late summer-to-early autumn period.

➤ The tropical cyclones in monsoon season usually occurs during the onset phase **(month of June) and withdrawal phase (month of September)** of south-west monsoon.

Flora

➤ India is rich in flora. Available data places India at the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity.

➤ From about 70 per cent of the geographical area surveyed so far, over 46,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI). The vascular flora, which forms the conspicuous vegetation cover, comprises 15,000 species.

➤ India can be divided into eight distinct floristic regions: the western Himalayas, the eastern Himalayas, Assam, and the Indus plain, the Ganga plain, the Deccan, the Malabar and the Andamans.

➤ **The western Himalayan region-** extends from Kashmir to Kumaon. Its temperate zone is rich in forests of chir, pine, other conifers and broad-leaved temperate trees. Higher up, we find forests of deodar, blue pine, and spruce and silver fir. The characteristic trees of this zone are high level silver fir, silver birch and junipers.

- **The eastern Himalayan region** extends from Sikkim eastwards and embraces Darjeeling, Kurseong and the adjacent tracts. The temperate zone has forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch. Conifers, junipers and dwarf willow also grow here.

- **The Indus plain region comprises** the plains of Punjab, western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat. It is dry, hot and supports natural vegetation.

- **The Ganga plain region** covers the area which is alluvial plain and is under cultivation for wheat, sugarcane and rice.

- **The Deccan region** comprises the entire table land of the Indian Peninsula and supports vegetation of various kinds from shrub jungles to mixed deciduous forests.

- **The Malabar region** covers the excessively humid belt of mountain country parallel to the west coast of the Peninsula. The region produces important commercial crops, such as coconut, betelnut, pepper, coffee, tea, rubber and cashew nut.

- **The Andaman region** abounds in evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests.

- Owing to destruction of forests for agricultural, industrial and urban development, several Indian plants are facing threat of extinction.

- About 1,336 plant species are considered vulnerable and endangered. BSI brings out an inventory of endangered plants in the form of a publication titled 'Red Data Book.

Faunal Resources

- **India is very rich in terms of biological diversity** due to its unique biogeographical location, diversified climate conditions and enormous Eco diversity and geodiversity.

- India's **immense biological diversity encompasses ecosystems, populations**, species and their genetic make-up.

- According to **world biogeographic classification**, India represents **two of the major realms** (the Palearctic and Indo-Malayan) **a**nd **three biomes** (Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry/Deciduous Forests and Warm Deserts/Semi-Deserts).

- The **Wildlife Institute of India has proposed** a modified classification which divides the country into ten biogeographic regions: **Trans- Himalayan, Himalayan, Indian Desert, Semi-Arid, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plain, North-East India, Islands and Coasts.**

- Within only **about 2.4 per cent of** world's total land surface, India is known to have over 7.50 per cent of the **species of animals that the world** holds. India contributes **to 6.52 per cent of the** global faunal diversity with an endemism of about **28 per cent.**

- India is one of the countries with **high marine biodiversity** that has been accounted with **20,444 species.** Besides these, 9,457 species from **freshwater,** 3,939 species from e**stuarine** and 5,747 species from **mangrove ecosystems** have been recorded from the country.

- Under the Man and Biosphere concept of **UNESCO, 18 Biosphere Reserves** have been designated in India, of which **Sunderban Biosphere** reserve harbours large number of species to the tune of 2,626 while in **Great Nicobar** – 2,079 species, **Nilgiri –** 1,875 species, **Gulf of Mannar** – 1,086 species, **Manas** - 846 species, **Pachmarhi –** 795 species, **Achanakmar–Amarkantak** – 649 species, **Simlipal –** 539 species, **Nanda Devi** – 427 species and **Nokrek –** 262 species of animals have been reported.

- Out of 35 biodiversity **hotspots** identified in the world, Himalayas, **Indo-Burma**, **Sundaland and Western Ghats** — Sri Lanka are shared by India with a high degree of endemism.

Demographic Background

Census

- A process of **collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating** demographic, social, cultural and economic data relating to all the people in the country at a particular time in a ten years' interval.

➤ **Census 2011 was the 15th Census since 1872**, when the first Census was conducted. It was conducted in two phases with a reference **date of 1 March.**

➤ Census 2021 was proposed to be conducted in two phases, viz., (a) house-**listing and housing** census during April-September, 2020 and (b) **population enumeration** during 9th to 28th February, 2021 followed by a **revision round** from 1e to 5th March, 2021. Due to covid it was postponed until further orders.

Population

➤ As per the **Census of India 2011**, the **population of India stood at 121.09** crore comprising (**62.33 crore males and 58.76 crore females**).

➤ Out of this 83.38 crore (68.9 percent) lived in rural areas and the rest 37.71 crore (**31.1 per cent)** stayed in **urban areas.**

➤ With a population of **102.87 crore in 2001,** the **decadal growth rate** of population in India between **2001 and 2011** was **17.7 per cent**.

➤ The population of the country is e**stimated** to have reached **1,363.0 million in 2021 and is projected to reach 1,522.3 million by 2036.**

➤ India accounts for a **meagre 2.4 per cent of the world surface area of 135.79** million sq.km. Yet, it accounts for a 17.3 percentage of the world population.

Population Density

➤ It is an index of population concentration. It is defined as the number of persons per square kilometre sq.km.

➤ The population density of India in 2011 was 382 per sq.km. with a decadal growth rate of 17.7 per cent.

➤ Among the bigger states, Bihar was the most thickly populated state with a population density of 1,106 persons per sq.km. followed by West Bengal at 1,028 and Kerala at 860 in 2011.

➤ Among smaller states/union territories, the population density of NCT of Delhi was the highest at 11,320 persons per sq.km. in 2011 followed by Chandigarh at 9,258 persons per sq.km.

Sex Ratio

➤ Defined as the number of females per thousand males, is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time.

➤ The sex ratio was 972 at the beginning of the twentieth century (1901) and thereafter showed a continuous decline until 1941 when it reached 945. The sex ratio improved from 933 in 2001 to 943 in 2011.

➤ The child sex ratio (defined as the number of girls aged 0-6 years per thousand boys aged 0-6 years) deteriorated from 927 in 2001 to 919 in 2011.

Literacy

➤ A person aged seven and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language is treated as literate as per the Census of India 2011.

➤ A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate. Prior to 1991, Census of India treated children below five years of age as illiterates.

➤ As per Census 2011, the literacy rate in India stood at 73.0 percent (80.9 percent for males and 64.6 per cent for females), an increase from 64.8 per cent in 2001.

➤ Kerala is in top position with 94.0 per cent (male 96.1 per cent, female 92.1 per cent) followed by Lakshadweep (91.8 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 61.8 percent (male 71.2 percent and female 51.5 percent) ranked the lowest in the country.

Migration

➤ Census of India records migration by two methods: place of last residence and place of birth. In place of last residence method, migrants are defined as people who are currently residing at a place different from their place of last residence.

➤ In terms of place of birth method, people who are currently residing at a place different from their place of birth are treated as migrants.

➤ About 455.8 million people were treated as migrants by place of last residence, 141.9 million were considered to be migrants between the period 2001 and 2011.

➤ Only 15.6 per cent of migrants were inter-state migrants. 64.9 percent of the migration in the period 20012011 happened within the district of enumeration and the rest 35.1 per cent migrants were inter-district migrants.

Fertility and Mortality Rates

➤ The fertility rate (or Total Fertility Rate, TFR) is the average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime.

➤ A TFR of about 2.1 children per woman is called Replacement-level fertility. From a TFR of 2.6 in 2008 to 2.2 in 2018, India has gradually moved towards achieving the replacement level of fertility.

➤ India's total fertility rate drops from 2.2 to 2.0, reveals NFHS-5 report.

Crude Birth Rate

➤ The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is a measure of birth rates and is defined as the total number of live births in a year divided by the total mid-year population and multiplied by 1,000 to express it per 1,000 population.

➤ CBR in India has reached 19.7 per 1,000 population in 2019.

Crude Death Rate

➤ The Crude Death Rate (CDR) is a measure of mortality rates and is defined as the total number of deaths in a year divided by the total mid-year population and multiplied by 1,000 to express it per 1,000 population. The Crude Death

➤ Rate for India in 2019 was 6.0 per 1,000 population, gradually down from 7.3 in 2009.

Infant Mortality Rate

➤ The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is another important indicator of demography and is defined as the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age.

➤ India has been able to drastically reduce the Infant Mortality Rate from 50 in 2009 to 30 in 2019.

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National Symbols

NATIONAL FLAG
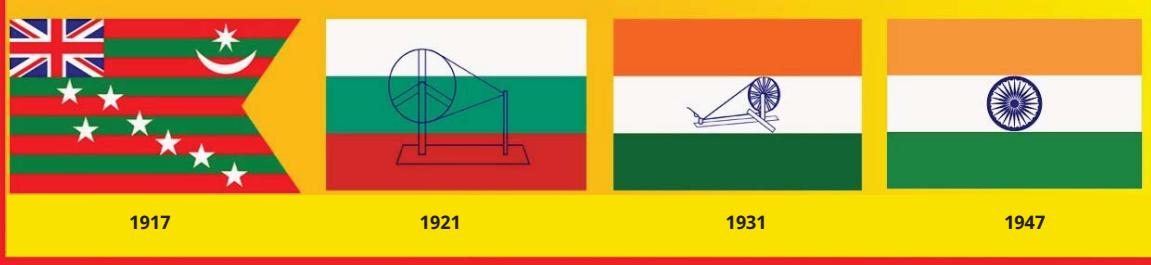
Features

➤ The National Flag is a horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (*kesaria*) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion.

➤ The ratio of width of the flag to its length is 2:3. In the center of the white band is a **navy-blue wheel** which represents the *chakra*.

➤ Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.** Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has **24 spokes.**

➤ The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947. The flag is based on the **Swaraj flag**, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by **Pingali Venkayya.**

The meaning

◉ The saffron color denotes renunciation or disinterestedness.

◉ The white in the center is light, the path of truth to guide our conduct.

◉ The green shows our relation to the soil, our relation to the plant life here, on which all other life depends.

◉ The "Ashoka Chakra" is the wheel of the law of dharma.

HISTORY OF INDIAN FLAG

| 1857 | 1904 | 1907 | 1908 |
| 1917 | 1921 | 1931 | 1947 |

➤ **Constitutional & Statutory Provisions Related to National Flag**: Article 51A (a) - To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

➤ Display of the National Flag is governed by the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

➤ The Flag Code of India, 2002 is an attempt to bring together all such laws, conventions, practices and instructions for the guidance of all concerned.

Flag Code of India 2002:

⊚ According to the **Flag Code of India**, paragraph 2.2, (effective from January 26, 2002) any person, organisation, private or public, or educational institution can hoist or display the Tricolour on "all days or occasions in accordance with the dignity and honour of the National Flag".

⊚ **Dimension:** The flag can be as big or small as one wants, but the ratio of the length to the height (width) of the National Flag shall be 3:2.

⊚ **Material:** After an amendment on December 30, 2021, the material of the flag has been decided as "hand-spun and handwoven or machine-made, cotton, polyester, wool, silk or khadi bunting".

⊚ If the flag is placed in the open or on the house of a member of the public, it may be flown day and night.

STATE EMBLEM

Features

➤ Adapted from the **Sarnath Lion Capitol of Ashoka**, it is carved out of a single block of polished sandstone. The Capitol is crowned by the **Wheel of the Law.**

➤ In the state emblem, adopted by the Government of India (by **Madhav Sawhney**) in 1950 on January 26, 1950, only 3 lions are visible.

➤ The wheel appears in the center of the abacus with a bull on right and a horse on left.

➤ The outlines of other wheels on extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted.

➤ The words **Satyameva Jayate** from **Mundaka Upanishad**, meaning **'Truth Alone Triumphs'**, are inscribed below the abacus in **Devanagari script.**

➤ The use of the state emblem, as the official seal of the Government of India, is regulated by the **State of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.** No individual or private organization is permitted to use the emblem for official correspondence.

National Anthem

➤ The song **Jana-gana-mana**, composed originally in Bengali by **Rabindranath Tagore**, was adopted in its Hindi version as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950.

➤ First sung on December 27, 1911 at the Kolkata Session of the **Indian National Congress**, the duration of the **National Anthem** is approximately 52 seconds.

GSSCORE

National Song

➤ The song **Vande Mataram**, composed in Sanskrit by **Bankimchandra Chatterji**, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom.

➤ It has an equal status with **Jana-gana-mana**. It was first sung at the 1896 session of the **Indian National Congress.**

National Calendar

➤ The National Calendar based on the **Saka Era**, with **Chaitra** as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from March 22, 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for: **Gazette of India**, News broadcast by **All India Radio**, Calendars issued by the Government of India Government communications addressed to the public.

➤ Dates of the National Calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the **Gregorian calendar**, 1 Chaitra falling on March 22 normally and on March 21 in leap year.

National Calendar of India (Saka Era)	
Month (Hindu)	**Gregorian**
Chaitra	March-April
Vaishaka	April-May
Jyeshta	May-June
Ashada	June-July
Shravan	July-August
Bhadrapada	August-September
Ashvina	September-October
Kartik	October-November
Margashirasha	November-December
Pausha	December- January
Magha	January-February
Phalgun	February- March

Other National Symbols

➤ **National Flower:** Indian Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*)

➤ **National Fruit:** Mango (*Mangifera indica*)

➤ **National River:** Ganga

➤ **National Tree:** Indian banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*)

➤ **National Animal:** Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigristigris*)

➤ **National Aquatic Animal:** Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*)

➤ **National Bird:** Indian peacock (*Pavo cristatus*)

➤ **National Currency:** Indian Rupee (sign: ₹; code: INR)

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Polity

4

Introduction

➤ INDIA, a union of states, is a **Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic** with a parliamentary system of government. The Republic is governed in terms of the Constitution, which was adopted by **Constituent Assembly** on November 26, 1949 and came into force on January 26, 1950.

➤ The Constitution which envisages parliamentary form of government is **federal** in structure with **unitary features**. The President of India is the **constitutional head** of executive of the union.

➤ **Article 74(1)** of the Constitution provides that there shall be a **Council of Ministers** with the **Prime Minister** as its head to aid and advise the **President** who shall in exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice.

➤ The real executive power thus vests in the **Council of Ministers** with the Prime Minister as its head. The **Council of Ministers** is collectively responsible to the **House of the People (Lok Sabha).**

➤ In states, the Governor is the head of executive, but it is the **Council of Ministers** with the **Chief Minister** as its head in whom real executive power vests. The Council of Ministers of a state is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state.

➤ The Constitution distributes legislative power between Parliament and State Legislatures and provides for vesting of residual powers in Parliament. The power to amend the Constitution also vests in Parliament.

➤ The Constitution has provision for independence of Judiciary, **Comptroller and Auditor-General, Public Service Commissions** and **Chief Election Commission.**

Union and its Territory

➤ India comprises 28 states and eight union territories. The **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** was enacted to provide for reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the two union territories

➤ One to be eponymously called **Jammu and Kashmir**, and the other **Ladakh**.

Citizenship

➤ The Constitution of India provides for a '**single citizenship'** for the whole of India.

➤ Every person who was at the commencement of the Constitution (January 26, 1950), domiciled in the territory of India and: (a) who was born in India; or (b) either of whose parents were born in India; or (c) who has been ordinarily resident in India for not less than five years became a citizen of India.

➤ The **Citizenship Act, 1955**, deals with matters relating to acquisition, determination and termination of Indian citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.

Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019

➤ It received the **President's assent** on December 12, 2019. The amended Act makes foreign illegal migrants of six religious communities, i.e., **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan** 'eligible' for Indian citizenship.

➤ It is applicable to those who have taken shelter in India due to persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution in their countries and have entered into India on or before December 31, 2014.

➤ The **Third Schedule** to the Act has been amended to make applicants belonging to the said communities from the three countries eligible for **citizenship by naturalisation**, if they can establish their residency in India for five years instead of the previous requirement of eleven years.

➤ The provisions of the Act, however, do not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura as included in the **Sixth Schedule** to the constitution and the areas where **'The Inner Line Permit'** is applicable including the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

Fundamental Rights

➤ The Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights which are justiciable.

➤ **Articles 12 to 35** contained in **Part III** of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights.

Fundamental Duties

➤ By the **42nd Amendment** of the Constitution, adopted in 1976, Fundamental Duties of the citizens have also been enumerated.

➤ **Article 51A** contained in **Part IV A** of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties.

Directive Principles of State Policy

➤ The Constitution lays down certain **Directive Principles of State Policy**, which though not justiciable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country' and it is the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws.

➤ These have been contained in **Part IV** from **Article 36 to 51** of the Constitution.

➤ These lay down that the state shall strive to promote the welfare of people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice — social, economic and political — shall form the basis in all institutions of national life.

The Union Executive

➤ The Union executive consists of the **President, the Vice-President and the Council of Ministers** with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President.

The President

➤ **Election:** He/she is **elected** by the members of an **electoral college** consisting of elected **members of both Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the states** in accordance with the **system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.**

➤ **Eligibility:** The President must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.

➤ **Term:** His term of office is five years and he is eligible for re-election.

- **Removal:** His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in **Article 61** of the Constitution. He may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice-President, resign his office.
- Power- supreme command of defence forces, summons, prorogues, addresses, sends messages to Parliament and dissolves the Lok Sabha; promulgates Ordinances.
- Also he/she can make recommendations for introducing financial and money bills and gives assent to bills; grants pardons, reprieves, respites or remission of punishment or suspends, remits or commutes sentences in certain cases.

Vice President

- **Election:** Elected by members of an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
- **Eligibility:** Must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age and eligible for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha. His term of office is five years and he is eligible for re-election. His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 67(b).
- He is ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and acts as President when the latter is unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause or till the election of a new President (to be held within six months when a vacancy is caused by death, resignation or removal or otherwise of President).

Council of Ministers

- Headed by the Prime Minister, to aid and advise the President in exercise of his functions.
- The Prime Minister is appointed by the President who also appoints other ministers on the advice of Prime Minister.
- The Council is **collectively responsible** to the Lok Sabha. It is the duty of the **Prime Minister** to communicate to the President all decisions of Council of Ministers relating to administration of affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation and information relating to them.
- The Council of Ministers comprises ministers who are members of Cabinet, Ministers of State (independent charge), Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers.

Legislature

- Legislature of the Union which is called Parliament consists of the President and two Houses, known as Council of States (Rajya Sabha), and House of the People (Lok Sabha).
- Each House has to meet within six months of its previous sitting. A joint sitting of two Houses can be held in certain cases.

Rajya Sabha

- Elections to the Rajya Sabha are indirect; members representing states are elected by the elected members of Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- Representation from union territories is chosen in such a manner as Parliament may by law prescribe. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution; one-third of its members retire every second year.

Lok Sabha

- Composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of adult suffrage. The maximum strength of the House envisaged by the Constitution is now 552 (530 members to

represent the states, 20 members to represent the union territories. (Representation of Anglo-Indian community to be nominated by the President is now removed.)

➤ The total elective membership is distributed in a way that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each state and the population of the state is, same for all states.

➤ The Lok Sabha at present consists of 542 members. Of these, 523 members are directly elected from the states and 19 from union territories.

➤ The term of the Lok Sabha, unless dissolved earlier is five years from the date appointed for its first meeting. If Emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case, beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation is or has ceased to operate.

➤ Seventeen Lok Sabha have been constituted so far.

Functions and Powers of Parliament

➤ It performs cardinal functions of legislation, overseeing of administration, passing of the budget, ventilation of public grievances and discussing various subjects like development plans, national policies and international relations.

➤ It can impeach the President and remove the judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, the Chief Election Commissioner and the Comptroller and Auditor General in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Constitution.

Parliamentary Committees

➤ Owing to the time crunch and huge legislative business, parliament cannot make very detailed scrutiny of all legislative and other matters that come up before it. Therefore a lot of Parliamentary business is transacted in the committees.

➤ Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds—Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees.

Standing committees

➤ The three Financial Committees constitute a distinct group as they keep an unremitting vigil over government expenditure and performance. They are:

- Committees on Estimates

- Public Accounts

- Public Undertakings

➤ While members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with Committees on Public Accounts and Public Undertakings, the members of the Committee on Estimates are drawn from the Lok Sabha.

Leaders of Opposition in Parliament

➤ The Leaders of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha are accorded statutory recognition.

➤ Salary and other suitable facilities are extended to them through a separate legislation brought into force on November 1, 1977.

➤ **Government Business in Parliament-**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is entrusted with coordinating, planning and arranging government business in both Houses of Parliament.

➤ **Nomination of MPs on Government Committees-** The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs nominates Members of Parliament on Committees, Councils, Boards and Commissions, etc., set-up by the Government of India.

➤ **National e-Vidhan Application-** Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has developed 'National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)' for implementation of both the MMPs in all the 39 Houses (Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha + 31 Assemblies+ 6 Councils) to achieve the concept of e-Assembly or "The Paperless Assembly" by providing electronic delivery of information services to the legislators and other stakeholders.

Comptroller and Auditor General

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** is a constitutional authority to ensure accountability of the executive to the Legislature.

- In the states the CAG is represented by **Accountants General**. CAG audits the accounts of the Union and State governments with an extensive mandate.

- **Articles 148 to 151** of the Constitution of India ensure the unique role for the CAG in the chain of legislative accountability. The **CAG's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971** enacted under **Article 148 and 149,** provides for compilation of accounts of the state governments by CAG.

- CAG also ensures that the accounts are submitted to the President, Governors of states and administrators of UTs having legislative assemblies.

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India provides for audit of accounts of District and Regional Councils of autonomous regions. CAG's audit jurisdiction also extends to such bodies and authorities created by law or under a law of the Parliament/state legislature, such as **Damodar Valley Corporation**; Indian Institutes of Technology; etc.

- The CAG's reports after tabling are referred to the relevant Committees of the Parliament/state legislatures. These Committees review the action taken by the executive authorities on audit reports, and recommend further action based on examination.

- **Shri V Narhari Rao (1948 to 1954)** was the **first Indian Comptroller and Auditor General** soon after independence. **Shri Girish Chandra Murmu** is the present CAG of India.

Attorney-General

- **Eligibility:** Any person qualified to be a judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed for the post.

- **Appointment:** Appointed by the President of India.

- The duties of the Attorney-General is to give legal advice to the Government of India and perform such other duties of a legal character, as may be referred or assigned to him by the President.

- In the performance of his duties, the Attorney-General shall have the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India. The **Attorney-General** hold office during the pleasure of the President and receive such remuneration as the President may determine.

Solicitor General of India

- He is the government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. He is the **secondary law officer of the country**, assists the Attorney-General, and is himself assisted by several Additional Solicitors General of India.

- The posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the Solicitor General.

Administrative Set-up

- The **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961** are made by the President of India under Clause (3) of **Article 77 of the Constitution** for the allocation of business of the Government of India. The ministries/departments of the government are created by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister under these rules.

Cabinet Secretariat

- The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the **Prime Minister**. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat is (i) secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and (ii) rules of business

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Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

➤ Objective of accurately targeting the intended beneficiaries and enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability in delivery of benefits/services under government schemes. The mandate of DBT was universalized and extended to cover all central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes having component of cash benefit transfer to individual beneficiaries. The scope of DBT has been further expanded to include in kind transfers to beneficiaries.

National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention

➤ A multilateral international treaty which outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors. The CWC came into force in 1997.

➤ The **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** is an intergovernmental organisation based at The Hague, Netherlands.

➤ The **National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)** was set up as to fulfil, on behalf of the Government of India, the obligations under the CWC and to act as the national focal point for effective liaison with the OPCW and other parties on matters relating to the Convention.

➤ India is an active collaborator with the OPCW and has complied with national implementation measures stated under the Convention.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

➤ In recognition of the importance of **Disaster Management** as a national priority, set up a high-powered committee in 1999 for making recommendations on the preparation of disaster management plans and suggesting effective mitigation mechanisms.

➤ In 2005, the government enacted the **Disaster Management Act,** which envisaged the creation of **National Disaster Management Authority**, headed by the Prime Minister, and **State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs)** headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to disaster management in the country.

➤ NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.

Public Grievances

➤ The **Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG)** was set up in the Cabinet Secretariat in 1988 to entertain grievances from the public after they fail to get satisfactory redress from the ministry/department concerned within a reasonable time.

➤ It is an office of the last resort for redress of grievances relating to sectors in its purview. All cases are handled using the **Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (PGRAMS)** application.

➤ The PGRAMS is integrated with Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System, 'CPGRAMS', the operating system for Public Grievances.

Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

➤ The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for administrative reforms as well as redressal of public grievances relating to the states in general and those pertaining to central government agencies in particular.

➤ The **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** is an autonomous organization with this Department.

Civil Services Day

➤ The PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration is given on 21 April every year which is also known

as civil service day. On this day independent India's **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** addressed the first batch of the Indian Administrative Services Officers.

➤ Celebration of CSD started in 2006. The **15th Civil Services Day** was organized in April, 2022. The Prime Minister conferred 16 awards to the public servants for Excellence in Public Administration 2021.

National Awards for e-Governance

To recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives, DARPG presents National Awards on e-Governance (NAeG) every year.

The award is given in the following categories:

➤ Excellence in government process re-engineering for digital transformation

➤ Excellence in providing citizen centric delivery

➤ Excellence in district level initiative in e-governance

➤ Outstanding research on citizen centric services by academic/research institutions

➤ Excellence in adopting emerging technologies. The awards for 2020-21 also awarded the best project for Use of ICT in the Management of Covid 19.

National Conference on e-Governance

➤ The Department in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, and the host state/ UT governments organizes National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) every year since 1997.

➤ During the Conference the National Awards for e-Governance are also presented to the selected projects of e-Governance. The 25th conference was held in November 2022 in Katra, Jammu.

Bench-Marking Governance

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

➤ **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA)** started in 2019 to boost e-government endeavours and drive digital government excellence. It assesses effectiveness of e-Governance service delivery applications of states/UTs and central ministries.

Good Governance Index

➤ A comprehensive and implementable framework to assess governance across the states and UTs. To create a tool which can be applied uniformly across the states to assess impact of various interventions made by the central and state governments including UTs.

District Good Governance Index (DGGI)

➤ The first DGGI of J&K encompassing 10 governance sectors and 58 indicators was released in January 2022. Ranking of districts are expected to bring about healthy competition amongst districts in the quest to provide citizen-centric administration and governance.

Public Grievances — CPGRAMS

➤ DARPG is responsible for policy, coordination and monitoring of issues relating to redress of public grievances and grievances pertaining to central government agencies.

➤ Towards this end, the Government of India has established the **Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**, An online system for grievance redress to facilitate citizens to lodge their grievances, anywhere and anytime (24x7) to ministries / departments/organisations / state governments/UTs.

Citizen's Charter

➤ The DARPG in its efforts to provide more responsive and citizen- centric governance provides guidelines for formulation and implementation of the Citizen's Charter.

International Exchange and Cooperation

➤ The International Exchange and Cooperation (IE&C) Division of the Department is engaged in matters relating to international cooperation in public administration and governance.

National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

➤ An autonomous institute under the aegis of the **Department of Personnel and Training** by upgrading the erstwhile **National Institution of Administrative Research, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.**

➤ DARPG is the administrative authority for NCGG.

➤ A think tank for governance and policy reforms, cutting across administrative, social, economic and financial spheres.

➤ Function as a national repository on information on best practices, initiatives and methodologies that promote good governance, e-governance, innovation and change management.

➤ Initiate and participate in action research and capacity building on various aspects of regulatory and development administration, public policy, governance and public management at national/state and local levels.

Department of Personnel and Training

➤ It acts as the **formulator of policy** and the **watch-dog** of the government ensuring that certain accepted standards and norms, as laid down by it, are followed by all ministries/departments, in the recruitment, regulation of service conditions, posting/transfers, and deputation of personnel as well as other related issues.

➤ It also advises all organisations of the central government on issues of personnel management. It has the direct responsibility of being the cadre controlling authority for the IAS and the three secretariat services in the **Central Secretariat.**

➤ The Department also operates the **Central Staffing Scheme** under which suitable officers from **All India Services** and Group 'A' Central Services are selected and then placed in posts at the level of Deputy Secretary/Director and Joint Secretary, on the basis of tenure deputation.

➤ It deals with cases of appointment to posts of Chairman, Managing Director, and full-time functional Director/member of the board of management of various public sector undertakings/enterprises, corporations, banks and financial institutions.

➤ It also deals with the assignment of Indian experts to various developing countries. It is also responsible for formulation and coordination of training policies for the All India and Central Services and providing support for the capacity building of state government officials.

Recruitment Agencies

➤ The two organisations through which the Department ensures recruitment of personnel for the government are the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** and the **Staff Selection Commission (SSC).**

➤ There is a mandatory provision for consulting the Commission on all matters relating to methods of recruitment, promotions and transfers from one service to another and on all disciplinary matters.

➤ The SSC is responsible for making recruitment to subordinate staff such as Assistants, Stenographers etc.

National Recruitment Agency (NRA)

➤ To provide the same test platform to all candidates at the nearest district headquarters and with a view to setting a new standard of equity and inclusiveness in recruitments.

➤ NRA is an autonomous and self-reliant body to conduct **Common Eligibility Test (CET)** to shortlist the candidates for vacancies of Group 'B' Non-Gazetted posts.

Right to Information

➤ The **Right to Information Act, 2005** empowers the citizens, promotes transparency and accountability in the working of the government, combat corruption and make the democracy work for people in real sense.

➤ The Act gives all the citizens the right to seek information held by any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted by or under the Constitution; or by any other law made by the Parliament or a state legislature; or by notification issued or order made by the central government or a state government.

➤ The right includes **inspection of work, documents and records, taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records, taking certified samples of material** held by the **public authority** or held under the **control of the public authority.**

➤ It also includes information relating to any private body which can be accessed by the public authority under any law for the time being in force.

➤ The **Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions** are high-powered independent bodies and have penal powers.

• The **Central Information Commission** entertains appeals under the central government and the union territories

• **State Information Commission** deals with the appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc. under the concerned state government.

Official Language

➤ **Article 343 (1)** of the Constitution provides that Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union.

➤ **Article 343 (2)** also provides for continuing the use of English in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years (i.e., up to January 25, 1965) from the date of commencement of the Constitution.

➤ **Article 343 (3)** empowered the Parliament to provide by law for continued use of English for official purposes even after January 25, 1965.

➤ The Act also lays down under Section 3 (3) that both Hindi and English shall compulsorily be used for certain specified purpose such as resolutions, general orders, rules, notifications, administrative and other reports, press communiques; administrative and other reports and official papers to be laid before a House or the Houses of Parliament; and contracts, agreements, licences, permits, tender notices and forms of tender, etc.

Award Schemes

➤ The Department has **Rajbhasha Keerti Puraskar Yojana** for awarding the outstanding achievements in the implementation of Official Language Policy of the Union.

➤ Hindi Book Writing Scheme, cash awards, shields and certificates are awarded to the working/retired employees of the central government, banks, financial institutions, universities, training institutions and autonomous bodies of the central government for writing original books in Hindi.

Inter-State Council

➤ The provision for **Inter-State Council** is under **Article 263** of the Constitution.

➤ In pursuance of the recommendation made by the **Sarkaria Commission** on Centre-State Relations, the Inter-State Council was set up in 1990.

➤ It is a **recommendatory body** assigned the duties of investigating and discussing such subjects, in which some or all of the states or the union territories and one or more of the states have a common interest, for better coordination of policy and action with respect to that subject.

➤ The Prime Minister is the **Chairman** of the Council.

➤ **Members**- CM of all the states and UT's having legislative assemblies; administrators of union territories not having legislative assemblies; and governors of states under President's rule and six ministers of cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers, nominated by the Chairman of the Council, are of the Council.

Zonal Council

➤ With the objectives of bringing out national integration; arresting the growth of acute state consciousness, regionalism, linguist and particularistic tendencies.

➤ **Five zonal councils** viz., Northern Zonal Council, Central Zonal Council, Eastern Zonal Council, Western Zonal Council and Southern Zonal Council were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956.

➤ Enabling the centre and the states to cooperate and exchange ideas and experiences.

➤ **Chairman**- Union Home Minister, Vice Chairman- Chief Minister of the Member State of the respective Zonal Council by annual rotation.

➤ Two other ministers of each member state are also members of each Zonal Council. The Chief Secretary of the Member State function as the Secretary of respective Zonal Council by annual rotation

State

Governor

➤ A **state executive** consists of **Governor** and **Council of Ministers** with Chief Minister as its head.

➤ **Executive power** of the state is vested in Governor.

➤ The Governor is appointed by the President for a term of five years in office. Only Indian citizens above 35 years of age are eligible for appointment to this office.

➤ He appoints Chief Minister of a state, sends a report to the President about failure of constitutional machinery in a state or in respect of matters relating to assent to a bill passed by legislature, exercise their own judgement.

➤ In respect of Nagaland, the Governor has special responsibility under **Article 371 A.**

➤ In Respect of Arunachal Pradesh, the Governor has special responsibility under **Article 371 H** of the Constitution with respect to law and order.

➤ The **Sixth Schedule** vests additional discretionary powers in Governors of Mizoram and Tripura in almost all their functions (except approving regulations for levy of taxes and money lending by non-tribal by district councils) since December 1998.

➤ In **Sikkim,** the Governor has been given special responsibility for peace and social and economic advancement of different sections of population.

Chief Minister

➤ The Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as head, aids and advises Governor in exercise of his functions except in so far as he is by or under the Constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.

Council of Ministers

➤ Appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.

➤ The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the state.

Legislature

➤ There is a legislature in every state which consists of Governor and one House or, two Houses as the case may be.

➤ In **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh** there is **Bicameral** legislatures, Assembly and council.

➤ In the remaining states, there is only one House known as Legislative Assembly. Parliament may, by law, provide for abolition of an existing Legislative Council or for creation of one where it does not exist, if a proposal is supported by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly concerned.

Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)	Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)
◉ Comprises not more than **one-third of total number of members in Legislative Assembly of the state** and in no case less than 40 members. ◉ It's **not subject to dissolution** but one-third of their members retire every second year. ◉ About **one-third of members** are elected by members of Legislative Assembly from amongst persons who are not its members. ◉ **One-third by electorates** consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state ◉ **One-twelfth by electorate** consisting of persons who have been, for at least three years, engaged in teaching in educational institutions within the state not lower in standard than secondary school ◉ **One-twelfth by registered graduates** of more than three years standing. ◉ Remaining are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.	◉ Consists of **not more than 500** and not less than 60 members (Legislative Assembly of Sikkim has 32 members vide **Article 371 F** of the Constitution) chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the state. ◉ **Term of an Assembly** is five years unless it is dissolved earlier.

Powers and Functions

➤ State legislature has exclusive powers over subjects enumerated in **List II** of the **Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution and concurrent powers over those Enumerated in List III.

➤ Financial powers of the legislature include authorisation of all expenditure, taxation and borrowing by the state government.

➤ **Legislative Assembly** alone has power to originate money bills. Legislative Council can make only recommendations in respect of changes it considers necessary. The Assembly can accept or reject these recommendations.

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Reservation of Bills

- The **Governor of a state** may reserve any bill for the consideration of the President.

- Bills relating to subjects like compulsory acquisition of property, measures affecting powers and position of High Courts and imposition of taxes on storage, distribution and sale of water or electricity in **inter-state river** or **river valley development projects** should necessarily be so reserved.

- No bills seeking to impose restrictions on inter-state trade can be introduced in a state legislature without previous sanction of the President.

Union Territories

- Union territories are administrated by the **President** through an administrator appointed by him.

- **Administrators** of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh** are designated as **Lieutenant Governors.**

- The **Governor of Punjab** is concurrently the **administrator of Chandigarh**. Lakshadweep has a separate administrator.

- The National Capital Territory of Delhi, Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry each has a Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers.

- The Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry may make laws with respect to matters enumerated in List II or List III in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution in so far as these matters are applicable in relation to the union territory.

- The **Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi** has also these powers with the exceptions land, police and Public order. Certain categories of bills, require the prior approval of the central government for introduction in the Legislative Assembly.

- Some bills, passed by the Legislative Assembly of the UT of Puducherry and National Capital Territory of Delhi are required to be reserved for consideration and assent of the President.

Local Government Municipalities

- The first Municipal Corporation was set up in the **Presidency Town of Madras in 1688**, and later in **Bombay and Calcutta in 1726.**

- Parliament enacted the **Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 (known as Nagarpalika Act)** relating to municipalities in 1992. It came into effect in 1993.

- A new **Part IX-A** relating to the municipalities added to provide for constitution of three types of municipalities, i.e.,

  - **Nagar Panchayats** for areas in transition from a rural area to urban area

  - **Municipal Councils** for smaller urban areas

  - **Municipal Corporation** for large urban areas

- The act provided for fixed duration of municipalities, appointment of **State Election Commission**, appointment of **State Finance Commission** and constitution of metropolitan and district planning committees.

Panchayats

- **Article 40** of **Directive Principles of State Policy** lays down for organisation village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.

- A new **Part IX** relating to the panchayats was inserted to provide for among other things, Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages; constitution of panchayats at village and other level or levels.

➤ **Direct elections** to all seats in panchayats at the village and intermediate level, and to the offices of Chairpersons of panchayats at such levels.

➤ Reservation of seats for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to their population for membership of panchayats and office of Chairpersons in panchayats at each level.

➤ Reservation of not less than one-third of the seats for women.

➤ A **fix tenure of five years** for panchayats and holding elections within a period of six months in the event of supersession of any panchayat.

Election Commission

➤ The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** constituted in 1950 with its headquarters at **New Delhi.**

➤ It is a **permanent independent constitutional body** with the powers and responsibility of superintendence, direction and control of the elections to Parliament and to legislatures of the states and the union territories and elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under the Constitution.

➤ Elections are conducted according to the constitutional provisions, supplemented by laws made by Parliament.

➤ The major laws are:

- the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952

- the Representation of the People Act, 1950

- the Representation of the People Act, 1951

➤ All political parties may get themselves registered with the **Election Commission**. Based on performance criteria laid down in the **Elections Symbols (reservation & allotment) Order 1968**, the Commission grants recognition to political parties as national or state parties.

➤ It also decides disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

➤ At the state level, the election work is supervised, subject to overall control of the Commission, by the Chief Electoral Officer of the state

➤ He is appointed by the Commission by selection from amongst senior civil servants of the state government.

➤ Election Commission of India launched the **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)**, an advanced resource centre of learning, research, training and extension for electoral democracy and election management.

➤ The Institute presently functions from New Delhi. Courses are conducted in the Institute for ECI's field officials and also for participants from abroad.

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Defence

The Government of India is responsible for ensuring the defence of the country. This is discharged through the Ministry of Defence (MoD) which provides the policy framework and wherewithal to the Armed Forces to discharge their responsibilities towards this.

MoD was created after independence under a Cabinet Minister. Each Service was placed under its own Commander-in-Chief.

In 1955, the Commanders-in-Chief were renamed as the Chief of the Army Staff, the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff.

The Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) is the head of the Ministry of Defence. The post of Chief of Defence Staff was created in 2019.

The Defence Secretary functions as head of the Department of Defence and is additionally responsible for the co-ordinating the activities of the five departments in the Ministry.

Ministry of Defence and its departments

➤ **The Department of Defence Production-** created to deal with **research, development and production of defence equipment**, planning and execution of schemes for import substitution of defence requirements and control of departmental production units of the Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs);

➤ **Department of Defence** deals with **defence policy and planning, defence** cooperation with foreign countries, and various inter-service organisations. It is also responsible for the defence **budget, establishment matters**, matters relating to the Parliament, and co-ordination of all defence related activities.

➤ **The Department of Defence Research and Development** advises the government on scientific aspects of military equipment and logistics and the formulation of research, design and development plans for equipment required by the Services

➤ **The Department of Ex-Servicemen** Welfare deals with all resettlement, welfare and pensionary matters of Ex-Servicemen.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

➤ The post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in the rank of a four star General with salary and perquisites at par with a Service Chief was created in 2019.

➤ The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was also created within the Ministry of Defence with the aim to facilitate optimal utilisation of resources and to promote cross-service cooperation.

➤ It deals with the promotion of jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the services. Facilitation of restructuring of Military commands for optimal utilisation of resources and promotion of use of indigenous equipment is also the mandate of this department.

- This department is headed by the CDS who is the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).
- The CDS is also the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- He acts as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on all tri-Services matters, while the three Chiefs continue to advise RM on matters exclusively concerning their respective Services.
- CDS does not exercise any military command over the three Service Chiefs. As the Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee, CDS is supported by the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff in undertaking assigned functions.

Capability Development and Force Modernisation

- New age warfare, which may take the form and name as diverse as proxy war, asymmetric warfare, hybrid warfare, grey z warfare, etc. exploits every means available, including irregular forces and social media, to its advantage.
- For this, Indian Armed Forces have drawn out a new **Capability Planning Process for building the military capabilities**. The main aim is to enhance integration and ensure major platforms and equipment are indigenously designed and manufactured.
- The highlights of the process include: (a) self-reliance in defence manufacturing; (b) streamline the indigenous defence research and development (R&D) and manufacturing efforts; etc.

Transformation of Defence Services

- Armed Forces need to be structured in a manner that they provide the operational flexibility to pursue wider strategic objectives as well as resource optimisation.
- Kargil Review Committee (KRC) report and the follow-up Group of Ministers (GoM), also highlighted the need to review the national security systems in entirety.
- The appointment of the CDS and raising of the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA), which the CDS heads has given impetus to the desired military reforms.

Integrated Theatre Commands

- It has the potential to unlock critical core strengths within the three Services, to bridge limitations and complement each other's competencies in bottle to realise the full potential of our combat power.
- A consensus based approach has been adopted wherein individual Service concerns are being addressed through mutual discussions at various levels, inducing at the level of Service Chiefs and Vice Chiefs.
- A comprehensive action plan that includes preparation of a study report and roadmap for implementation of Theatre Commands, by nominated Commanders in a time bound manner, has been implemented.

Creation of Tri-Services Agencies

- To include Armed Forces Special Operation Division which ensures effective joint planning, development and employment of Special Forces across land, air and maritime domains.
- Defence Space Agency which is a nodal agency for three Services defence related space activities and Defence Cyber Agency which deals with defence related cyber activities that was created in 2018 to achieve synergy and jointness in the fields of cyber, space and special operations.

Joint Use of Airspace

A joint mechanism has been formed by the Services with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for efficient and joint use of Indian airspace and infrastructure.

Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff

- ► Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) was raised in 2001, based on the recommendations of Group of Ministers to review Higher Defence Management.

- ► HQIDS is headed by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman COSC (CISC) who enjoys a status equivalent to that of a Vice Chief of a Service HQ.

- ► The organisation has representation from all three Services, MEA, DRDO, DoD and Def (Finance).

- ► IDS provides secretariat and general assistance to the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

- ► The function profile of the organisation include: (a) Defence Crisis Management Group (DCMG); (b) long range plans and annual budgetary proposals for the three Services; (c) joint training and joint employment of Forces.

Army

- ► Considering the multitude of threats to India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, both from internal and external sources and the need for a peaceful internal environment permitting socio-economic progress, the 'land' dimension will remain central in the foreseeable future.

- ► Currently, the army is involved in effectively countering both military and non-military facets of asymmetric and sub-conventional threats, emerging from within and outside the country.

- ► Capital procurement for the Army is focused on modernization, building new capabilities such as drones, counter drones and loiter munitions and making up for deficiencies, while promoting indigenization.

- ► Concurrently, due emphasis is being accorded to enhancement of lethality, fighting capability, night enablement, mobility and accuracy. The Indian Army is also in a process of upgrading and enhancing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) systems, air defence systems, etc.

Contribution to UN Peacekeeping

- ► Indian Army has been significantly contributing to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions and is the second largest troops' contributor in various UN missions. Currently, five UN Peacekeeping Missions' contingents of India are deployed around the world.

- ► The most significant contribution of the Indian Army has been to ensure peace and stability in Africa and parts of Asia. India has a well-established training institute in 'Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping' in Delhi, which was established in 2000, training both personnel from India and abroad on UN peacekeeping.

Operation Sadbhavna

- ► Projects like Operation Sadbhavna are being undertaken in UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and in North Eastern states to address the basic needs of the local population, mostly in rural and remote areas. The projects are identified in consultation with the local civil administration, based on the felt needs of the people.

- ► The focus of Operation Sadbhavna is to improve the overall core social indices of education, women and youth empowerment, and health care, with simultaneous thrust on capacity building through implementing community / infrastructure development projects.

Navy

- ► The raison d'etre of navies is to safeguard the nation's use of seas for its legitimate sovereign purpose, whilst concurrently guarding against inimical use of the sea by others.

- The full range of operations ranging from high intensity war fighting at one end and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations at the other end.

- Through the discharge of roles, the **Indian Navy (IN)** acts as the prime enabler and guarantor of the country's maritime sovereignty and myriad use of sea activities. Accordingly, the main roles that IN undertakes are military, diplomatic, constabulary and benign.

Objectives/Roles

- The primary military objective of the IN is to deter any military adventurism against the country, including intervention in India's affairs and subversive strategies against the national interests and the ability to inflict a crushing defeat on the adversary in the event of hostilities.

- The ways and means of deterrence include conventional deterrence by both denial and punishment, by maintaining a robust military capability and posture to convince potential aggressors of high costs and limited gains from any aggression or intervention against India's national interests.

- It has also been designated as the agency responsible for overall Maritime Security including Coastal Security and Offshore Security.

Anti-Piracy Operations

- Large percentage of India's trade, including oil and fertilisers, pass through the Gulf of Aden (GoA). The safety and unhindered continuity of maritime trade, on this route, is a primarily national concern as it directly impacts our economy.

- To protect Indian-flagged ships and Indian citizens employed in sea-faring duties, Indian Navy commenced anti-piracy patrols in the GoA from 2008.

- The Indian Navy also coordinates anti-piracy efforts with other independent deployers and Extra Regional Task Forces through the Shared Awareness and De-Confliction (SHADE) mechanism.

'Operation Sankalp'

- Commenced in the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in 2019, is aimed at protecting Indian Flag Merchant Vessels (IFMVs) and ensuring their safe passage in the region and through the Strait of Hormuz.

- This involves active interaction, and close coordination with the ministries of defence, external affairs, shipping, petroleum and natural gas, and the Director General of Shipping.

Search and Rescue at Sea

Indian Naval ships have on many occasions rendered assistance to vessels at sea. These include Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), providing assistance to mitigate a marine disaster, rescuing the stranded crew and coordinating firefighting and responding to a distress call etc.

Ships	Countries
MV *Eagle Tampa*	Singapore
MV Wakashio	Japan
MV Xpress Pearl	Singapore
'SelathMatha II	India

UN Food Programme Escort Mission

During Covid-19 pandemic, INS Airavat escorted United Nations World Food programme (UNWFP) chartered vessel MV Juist, which carried 3,030 tons of humanitarian food aid from Berbera to Mogadishu in Southern Somalia in 2020.

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Covid relief

- ► Operation Samudra Setu was launched in 2020 by the Navy and around 4,000 Indian citizens stranded in neighbouring countries, amidst Covid-19 outbreak, were successfully repatriated back to India.

- ► As part of Operation 'Samudra Setu II', seven Indian Naval ships viz., Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat were deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.

- ► From medical evacuation on the high seas to transfer of essential medical supplies, Mobile Oxygen Generation Plants, termed 'Oxygen on Wheels' were also developed by the IN.

Mission Sagar

- ► Mission Sagar-I saw the Indian Navy reaching out to its neighbours Mauritius, Maldives, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros in 2020, and assisting them with medical teams, medicines and 580 tonnes of food aid.

- ► As part of Mission Sagar-II, INS Airavat was deployed for providing humanitarian assistance to four East African countries (Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and South Sudan).

- ► INS Kiltanwas was deployed to SE Asia as part of Mission Sagar III to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) aid to Vietnam and Cambodia in the form of flood relief package material kits each.

- ► Mission Sagar IV saw INS Jalashwa deployed to Southern Indian Ocean Region (10R) in 2021 for delivery of humanitarian aid at Comoros and Madagascar.

INS Vikrant

- ► The Indian Navy has a new aircraft carrier warship INS Vikrant. It was dedicated to the nation on September 2, 2022 by the Prime Minister. It is the first aircraft carrier to be built in India.

- ► It is named Vikrant as a tribute to India's first aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant (1961). The name Vikrant means "courageous" in Sanskrit. The motto of the ship, 'I defeat those who fight against me'.

- ► The 262.5 m long and 61.6 m wide Vikrant displaces approx 43,000 T, having a maximum designed speed of 28 knots with endurance of 7,500 nautical miles.

- ► Designed with a very high degree of automation for machinery operations, ship navigation and survivability. The ship is capable of operating air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy).

- ► Using a novel aircraft-operation mode known as Short Take off but Arrested Recovery (STOBAR), INS Vikrant is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of 'arrester wires' for their recovery on-board.

New Ensign of Navy

- ► The White Ensign identified nationwide with the Navy, now comprises two main constituents - the National Flag in the upper left canton, and a Navy Blue - gold Octagon at the centre of the fly side (away from the staff).

- ► The Octagon is with twin golden octagonal borders encompassing the golden National Emblem (Lion Capital of Ashoka — underscribed with 'Satyamev Jayate' in blue Devnagri script) resting atop an anchor; and superimposed on a shield.

- ► Below the shield, within the octagon, in a golden bordered ribbon, on a navy blue background, is inscribed the motto of the Indian Navy 'Sam No Varunah' in golden Devnagri script.

Operation Samudra Setu

➤ The Indian Navy launched Operation 'Samudra Setu' in 2020 in consonance with the Mission `Vande Bharat' to bring home stranded Indians abroad.

Air Force

➤ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has always encouraged development of indigenous defence production capability and capacities.

➤ The Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016 assigned highest preference to 'Make' and Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed and Developed Manufacturer (IDOM)) categories. LCA Mk-1A, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), AWACS (India) and High Frequency Radio set are some of the cases being progressed through the IDDM route.

➤ The latest state-of-the-art aircraft to join the IAF inventory are the Rafale fighter aircraft; the Apache attack helicopter and the Chinook heavy lift helicopter. These potent and versatile platforms have enhanced the operational capabilities of the IAF.

➤ Network centric capability of the fighter aircraft and other platforms are being enhanced by integration of Software Defined Radios.

Make in India

➤ Light Combat Aircraft, Akash Missile, Advance Light Helicopters (ALH) have already been inducted, thus giving impetus to indigenisation. IAF plans to induct more capable and potent LCA Mk-1A in the future. I

➤ It is also actively supporting DoD of LCH, Medium Power Radars, Low Level Tracking Radars and other systems. Modernisation plan is being pursued to beef up the defence manufacturing base and the ecosystem.

➤ MoD has been striving to include the private sector in production of defence equipment. Various projects under 'Strategic Partner' model is giving impetus to 'Make in India' initiative.

Digital India Initiative

➤ IAF has been a front-runner in establishing a secure and reliable optical fibre cable (OFC) based network over a decade ago, connecting all IAF bases including remote advanced landing ground (ALG) locations in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

➤ Multiple automation applications have been rolled over secure network covering entire functioning of IAF i.e., operations, techno-logistics and administration.

➤ Air defence, imagery, operational planning, flight safety, etc., have been fully automated to enable net-centric operational capability of IAF. Maintenance and logistics applications such as e-Maintenance and Integrated Material Management On-Line System (IMMOLS) have made entire maintenance activities faster and accurate.

Operational Airlift

➤ The heavy airlift assets of the transport fleet proved their mettle by mobilising huge quantum of war waging machinery along with battle ready troops in the northern sector in quick time frames in last one year, thereby altering the dynamics of the force posturing.

➤ The enormity of the airlift can be gauged by the fact that total of 11064 tonnes of load were airlifted within a short span of time.

Force Modernisation

➤ The IAF remains seized of the need to remain abreast with the emerging threat scenario in the neighbourhood, as also meet the challenges of fighting an integrated battle in a high technology, network centric, future battlespace.

- The latest state-of-the-art aircrafts to join the IAF inventory are the Rafale fighter aircraft, the Apache attack helicopter and the Chinook heavy lift helicopter. These potent and versatile platforms inject tremendous operational capabilities for the IAF.

Commissioned Ranks

General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal
Major General	Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal
Brigadier	Commodore	Air Commodore
Colonel	Captain	Group Captain
Lieutenant Colonel	Commander	Wing Commander
Major	Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader
Captain	Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Sub Lieutenant	Flying Officer

Indian Coast Guard

- In the early 1970s, three important factors contributed to the rationale for the institution of a 'Coast Guard' service. These were:
- Sea-borne smuggling was rampant which threatened the nation's economy. The existing maritime agencies such as the Customs and the Fisheries Department did not have the capability to contain this large-scale smuggling activity and intercept illegal vessels even within territorial waters.
- In the seventies, the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) awarded Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) to all coastal states. Thereafter, the government enacted the Maritime Zones of India Act 1976 and acquired sovereign rights over 2.01 million sqm area as the Exclusive Economic Zone.
- The discovery of oil in Mumbai (then Bombay) High and subsequent development of high-value offshore installations, also necessitated measures of protection and disaster response in this extremely vital area of India's industrial and economic interests.

The Coast Guard Act, 1978 spells out its broad duties and functions:

- Ensuring the safety and protection of the artificial islands, offshore terminals, installation and other structures and devices in any maritime zone;
- Providing protection to the fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress;
- Taking measures as are necessary to preserve and protect the marine environment, and to prevent and control marine pollution;
- Assisting the Customs and other authorities in Anti-Smuggling Operations;
- Enforcing the provision of such enactments as are for the time being in force in the maritime zones;
- Other matter, including measures for the safety of life and property at sea and collection of scientific data, as may be prescribed, etc.
- The challenging round-the-clock fire-fighting operation, named as Operation Sagar Aaraksha 2, underlined maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

Agnipath - Scheme for Recruitment

➤ A recruitment scheme for youth to serve in the Armed Forces called Agnipath and the youth selected under this scheme will be known as *Agniveers.*

➤ The scheme allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.

➤ It is envisaged that average age profile of Indian Armed forces would come down by about 4-5 years by implementation of this scheme.The policy, which is in operation, will hereafter govern the enrolment for the three Services.

➤ *Agniveers* will be given an attractive customised monthly package along with risk and hardship allowances as applicable in the three Services.

➤ On completion of the engagement period of four years, they will be paid one time 'SevaNidhil package which shall comprise their contribution including accrued interest thereon and matching contribution from the government equal to the accumulated amount of their contribution including interest.

➤ The 'Seva Nidhi' will be exempt from Income Tax. There shall be no entitlement to gratuity and pensionary benefits. *Agniveers will* be provided non-contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakh for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces.

➤ *Agniveers* will be imparted with various military skills and experience, discipline, physical fitness, leadership qualities, courage and patriotism.

➤ The skills gained will be recognised in a certificate to form part of his/her unique resume.

➤ The individuals, selected for enrolment in the Armed Forces as regular cadre, would be required to serve for a further engagement period of minimum 15 years and would be governed by the existing terms and conditions of service of Junior Commissioned Officers/ Other Ranks in Indian Army and their equivalent in Indian Navy and Indian Air Force and that of Non Combatant enrolled in the Indian Air Force.

Terms and Conditions

➤ *Agniveers* will be enrolled in the Forces under respective Service Acts for a period of four years. They would form a distinct rank, different from any other existing ranks.

➤ Upon the completion of four years of service, based on organisational requirement and policies promulgated by the Armed Forces, *Agniveers* will be offered an opportunity to apply for permanent enrolment.

➤ These applications will be considered in a centralised manner based on objective criteria including performance during their four-year engagement period and up to 25 percent of each specific batch of *Agniveers* will be enrolled in regular cadre of the Armed Forces.

➤ Enrolment will be based on 'All India All Class' basis and the eligible age will be in range from 17.5 to 21 years.

Recruitment

Commissioned Officers in the Armed Forces are recruited mainly through UPSC which conducts the following two All India Competitive Examinations:

➤ **National Defence Academy (NDA) and Naval Academy (NA):** Candidates, on completion of 10+2 examination or while in the 12th standard, are eligible to compete. Having cleared UPSC written examination, eligible candidates undergo Service Selection Board (SSB) interview, which lasts for five days.

➤ On being medically fit and coming in NDA merit list, successful candidates join the NDA or NA as per their option of service exercised at the time of applying. On completion of the course, they are sent to the respective Service Academies for their pre-commissioning training.

➤ **Combined Defence Services Examination (CDSE):** CDSE is conducted by the UPSC twice a year. University graduates or those in final year of graduation are eligible to appear in the examination.

➤ They become Short Service Commissioned Officers (SSCOs). SSCOs can serve for a duration of 10 years extendable up to 14 years. However, they can opt for permanent commission after completion of 10 years or seek release after completion of five years of service.

Recruitment in the Indian Army

➤ **University Entry Scheme (UES):** Pre-Final year students in the notified engineering disciplines are eligible to apply for Permanent Commission in the Technical Arms of the Army as Commissioned Officers under the UES.

➤ **Technical Graduates Course (TGC):** Engineering graduates from notified discipline of engineering, postgraduates with minimum second division aggregate marks in notified discipline for Army Education Corps and M.Sc. in Agriculture/ Dairy for Military Farm are eligible to apply for Permanent Commission through this entry.

➤ **Short Service Commission (Technical) Entry:** The Short Service Commission (Technical) Entry Scheme provides avenue for recruitment to eligible technical graduates/postgraduates into Technical Arms.

➤ **Short Service Commission (Women):** Eligible women candidates are recruited in the Army as Short Service Commission Officers. Commission is granted in Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Corps of Engineers, Signals, Army Educational Corps, Military Intelligence Corps, Judge Advocate General's Branch, Army Supply Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Army Air Defence.

➤ Women are offered Short Service Commission in three streams viz. Non-Technical Graduate, Technical and Post Graduate/Specialist for a period of ten years, extendable by additional four years purely on voluntary basis.

➤ Recently, the Government of India had granted an option for permanent commission for officers in Army Education Corps and Judge Advocate General Branch after completion of 10 years of service.

➤ **NCC (Special Entry Scheme):** University graduates possessing NCC 'C' Certificate with minimum 'B' grade and 50 per cent aggregate marks in graduation examination are eligible to apply for Short Service Commission through this entry.

➤ **Judge Advocate General Entry:** Law graduates with minimum 55 per cent aggregate marks in LLB, aged between 21 to 27 years, can apply for Judge Advocate General Branch. Eligible candidates are called for direct SSB interview and medical test, thereafter, It is a Short Service Commission Entry wherein suitable candidates can opt for Permanent Commission.

➤ **Recruitment of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks (JCOs and ORs):** In the army, there are eleven Zonal Recruiting Offices, two Gorkha Recruiting Depots, one Independent Recruiting Office and 59 Army Recruiting Offices in addition to 48 Regimental Centres, which carry out recruitment through rallies in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Recruitment in the Indian Navy

The Method of Recruitment: There are two modes of induction in the IN, viz. UPSC Entry and Non-UPSC Entry.

➤ **UPSC Entry:** The UPSC holds an examination, twice a year, for entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Indian Naval Academy (INA) as Permanent Commission (PC) entries. Candidates are eligible to compete on completion of the 10+2 (PCM) Examination or while in the 12th standard. UPSC shortlists candidates after written examinations.

➤ For the Graduate Special Entry, the UPSC holds the Combined Defence Services Examination (CDSE), twice a year. Graduates with B. Tech. degree are also eligible to appear in the examination.

➤ **Non-UPSC Entry:** *The* Non-UPSC entries cater for both Permanent Commission (PC) and Short Service Commission (SSC). In this case the applications are invited and shortlisted at IHQ MoD (Navy). Subsequently the shortlisted candidates are then sent for Service Selection Boards (SSW interviews. It is for the Executive, Engineering including Naval Architects, Electrical Engineering and the Education Branches/cadres of Navy.

- **10+2 (Cadet Entry Scheme):** This scheme is for permanent commission in the Executive, Engineering and Electrical branches of the IN.

- Candidates with 10+2 (PCM) qualifications, after selection through the Services Selection Board, are sent to the Indian Naval Academy for the B. Tech. course.

- On successful completion of the course they are granted Permanent Commission in the Executive, Electrical and Engineering branches of the Indian Navy.

- **University Entry Scheme (UES):** The UES has been re-launched as a Short Service Commission Scheme. Seventh and eighth semester engineering college students are eligible for induction into the Executive and Technical Branches of the IN.

- **Women Officers:** Women are being inducted into the Navy, as Short Service Commission (SSC) officers in the Executive Branch (Observer, ATC, Law and Logistic), Education Branch and the Naval Architecture cadre of the Engineering Branch.

- **Permanent Commission to SSC Officers:** Grant of Permanent Commission prospectively to the Short Service Commission officers, for both men and women, of the Executive Branch (Law Cadre), Education Branch and Engineering Branch (Naval Architecture) w.e.f. 2008.

- **Recruitment through NCC:** University graduates possessing Naval Wing NCC 'C' certificate with minimum 'B' grading and 50 per cent marks in the graduation degree examination are inducted in the Navy as regular commissioned officers. These graduates are exempted from appearing in the CDSE conducted by the UPSC and are selected through the SSB interview only.

- **Special Naval Architecture Entry Scheme:** The government has approved the induction of Naval Architect officers into the Engineering Branch of the Indian Navy, as Short Service Commissioned Officers, under a 'Special Naval Architects Entry Scheme' (SNAES).

- **Recruitment of Sailors:** Recruitment into the Navy is carried out on all India basis on state-wise merit of the eligible recruitable male population, as per the number of vacancies available.There is no quota of vacancies based on caste/creed or religion. Advertisements in all leading national and regional newspapers and Employment News are published, inviting applications from eligible volunteers.

Recruitment in the Indian Air Force

Selection of Officers

- **Induction of Officers:** Induction to National Defence Academy (NDA) and Combined Defence Service Examination (CDSE) entries are through UPSC. The non-UPSC entries for induction into the officer's cadre are: SSC (Men and Women) Flying, NCC Entry (PC for men), ASC (PC for men), GDOC(Non Tech) (PC for Men), Airmen Entry (PC for Air Warriors), 555 (Technical) (Men and Women) and SSC (Non Tech) (Men and Women).

- **Recruitment through Service Selection:** For the Flying (Pilot), Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics), Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical), and Education, Administration, Logistics, Accounts and Meteorology branches for the Air Force.

- **University Entry Scheme:** Final/pre-final year students in engineering disciplines are eligible for induction into the technical branches of the Air Force as permanent commissioned officers under the University Entry Scheme.

- **Recruitment of Women Officers:** Eligible women are recruited as Short Service Commissioned Officers in the Flying, Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics), Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical), Education, Administration, Logistics, Accounts and Meteorology branches of the IAF.

- **Recruitment through National Cadet Corps (NCC):** University graduates possessing NCC 'C' Certificate with minimum 'B' grading and 50 per cent marks in graduation are inducted. Flying Branch Cadets should have Maths and Physics as main subjects in 10+2 level.

GSSCORE

Women –Empowerment

- Armed forces aim to provide women a professionally enriching career filled with challenges while ensuring adequate freedom and safety while executing their assigned tasks.

- Women are now serving in various branches/trades and based on eligibility conditions and vacancies; permanent commission has also been granted.

- **Indian Army** provides opportunity to women to serve in various roles in branches like education, law, EME, ASC, ordnance, etc. The combat support arms of Engineers and Army Air Defence (AAD) also have sizeable number of women officers serving along with their male counterparts.

- **Indian Navy** taken concrete steps to provide maximum support and empower women in various roles. To enhance opportunities to women, IN has started appointing onboard ships and two women have been selected for deck based helicopter flights as Observers. Women officers are serving abroad at military mission at Moscow and also on deputation to Maldives for Observer duties as part of Dornier aircraft crew.

- **IAF** has opened all roles and branches for induction of women officers and now women are being commissioned even as fighter pilots. There are 12 women fighter pilots in IAF.

Territorial Army

- The Territorial Army (TA) was raised by C Rajagopalachari, the first Governor General of free India in 1949. It is a voluntary, part-time Citizen's Army, consisting of persons who are not professional soldiers but civilians eager to do their bit towards the country's defence.

- Role is to relieve the regular army of their static duties and to aid the civil power in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations where life of the community is affected or the security of the country is threatened.

- It also provides units for the regular army, when required. Its personnel are required to attend annual training for only two months every year as compared to regular army units, which are at full strength throughout the year.

- TA is a vital adjunct of the regular army. No other Para or quasi-military force is capable of such instantaneous dovetailing of roles as the TA.

Training of Tri-Services

National Defence College

- The National Defence College is a premier training institution of the Ministry of Defence, which has established a name for itself as a centre of excellence on matters pertaining to National Security and Strategic Studies.

- Selected armed forces' officers of the rank of Brigadier/equivalent from Indian and Foreign Armed Forces and Civil Services officers of equivalent status of Director and above are nominated for training at the college.

- The officers undergo an eleven months' programme with focus on national security, covering all dimensions of domestic, regional and international issues to equip future policy-makers with background necessary to get a broad understanding of the multifarious economic, political, military, scientific and organisational aspects that are essential for planning of national strategy.

College of Defence Management

- The only tri-service training institution in the country which imparts defence management education to senior officers of the three services, paramilitary forces, officers of the Ministry of Defence and international participants at the conceptual, directional and the functional levels.

- The College also hosts a number of civilian and foreign delegations on defence management training.

➤ CDM has also developed tailor-made capsule courses/ Management Development Programmes (MDPs) for management education at all levels in the Indian Armed Forces.

Defence Services Staff College

➤ Is an Armed Forces Training Institute (AFT!) which conducts staff course for the selected officers of the three services and also the officers from the central civil services.

➤ The officers passing out from DSSC are awarded Master of Science (MSc) in Defence and Strategic Studies from Chennai University.

National Defence Academy

➤ National Defence Academy (N DA) is a premier tri-service institution which trains cadets of all three services before inducting them into their respective pre-commissioning training academies.

➤ Intake to NDA is organized through UPSC examination which is conducted twice in a year in the month of April and September.

➤ On conclusion of this training, the cadets proceed to their respective Service Academies for further service specific training before being commissioned as officers in the Armed Forces.

Military Institute of Technology

Is a tri-services training establishment since 1952 which conducts courses for Indian and international military officers and DRDO scientists. The institute is located in Pune.

Indian Military Academy (IMA)

➤ Founded in 1932, Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun aims at the fullest development of intellectual, moral and physical qualities of persons joining the Army as officers.

➤ The various modes of entry into IMA are: (a) on graduation from NDA; (b) on graduation from Army Cadet College, which is a wing of the IMA itself; (c) direct entry graduate cadets, who qualify the Union Public Service Commission Exam and get through the Service Selection Board; (d) for Technical Graduate's Course (TGC); and (e) under University Entry Scheme (UES) for engineering college students in Final/ Pre-Final year of studies.

➤ The IMA also imparts training to gentlemen cadets from friendly countries.

Officers Training Academy

➤ Established in 1963, the Officers Training School (OTS) was re-designated as Officers Training Academy (OTA) from 1988 on completion of 25 years of its existence.

➤ Its main task, before 1965, was to train gentlemen cadets for grant of Emergency Commission.

➤ From 1965 onwards, the Academy trains cadets for Short Service Commission. With the entry of women officers in the Army since 1992, around 100 lady officers now get commissioned from OTA every year in Army Service Corps, Judge Advocate General's Department, Corps of Engineers, Signals and Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

National Cadet Corps

➤ Established in 1948 as an Indian military cadet corps. It is a tri-services organisation open to school and college students.

➤ The motto of NCC is "Unity and Discipline". The total sanctioned strength of NCC cadets is 171akh, which includes one lakh cadets sanctioned for expansion of NCC to coastal and border talukas as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech in 2020.

➤ The enrolment policy of Senior Division/Senior Wing cadets has been changed from 2 years to 3 years. UGC has approved the introduction of NCC as a 'General Elective Credit Course' in universities/ colleges across the country under Choice Based Credit System, in line with NEP 2020.

Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan

➤ NCC initiated a nationwide flagship campaign Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan to clean sea shores of plastic and other waste, and increase awareness about importance of cleanliness.

➤ The Abhiyaan was launched in 2021 initially as a one-month campaign which has been subsequently extended.

Sainik Schools

➤ Established as a joint venture of the central and state government. These are under the overall governance of Sainik Schools Society. At present, there are 33 Sainik Schools located in various parts of the country.

➤ The objectives include bringing quality public school education within the reach of the common man, all-round development of a child's personality and to remove regional imbalance in the officer's cadre of the Armed Forces.

➤ After the success of the pilot project for admission of girl cadets in Sainik School Chhingchhip, Mizoram, the Government has decided to admit girl cadets along with boys in all 33 Sainik Schools in the country from the academic session 2021-22. 27 per cent reservation for OBCs (non creamy layer) in admissions to Sainik Schools has also been approved from academic session 2021-22.

➤ The government has approved the proposal for launching of affiliated Sainik Schools under Sainik Schools Society, Ministry of Defence. These schools will function as an exclusive vertical distinct and different from existing Sainik Schools.

Rashtriya Military Schools

➤ There are five Rashtriya Military Schools in the country at Belgaum and Bengaluru in Karnataka, Chail in Himachal Pradesh and Ajmer and Dholpur in Rajasthan. These schools are CBSE affiliated fully residential public schools which function under the aegis of Ministry of Defence.

➤ Candidates are admitted in Class VI and Class IX based on the results of Common Entrance Test.

➤ About 70 per cent seats are reserved for wards of JCOs/ORs of Army, Navy and Air Force (including ex-servicemen) and balance 30 per cent for wards of officers of Army, Navy and Air Force (including retired officers) and wards of civilians.

Rashtriya Indian Military College

➤ Established in 1922 with the objective of providing necessary preliminary training for boys of Indian birth or domicile, wishing to become officers in the Armed Forces of India.

➤ Selection for RIMC is through an All India Entrance Examination comprising a written examination and viva voce. Seats for different states are reserved based on their population.

➤ Ministry of Defence has proposed to allow girl students to be admitted to Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) and Rashtriya Military Schools (RMS).

College of Military Engineering

➤ The College of Military Engineering (CME) at Pune is a premier technical institution conducting training for personnel of the Corps of Engineers, other Arms and Services, Navy, Air Force, Para Military Forces, Police and Civilians, besides, personnel from friendly foreign countries.

➤ CME is affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for the award of B.Tech. and M.Tech. degrees. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) also recognises the graduate and postgraduate courses run by the CME.

Defence Production

➤ Set up in 1962 with the objective of developing and promoting the industrial base for production of weapons, equipment, platforms and materials required by armed forces for defence of the country.

➤ Over the years, the Department has established wide range of production facilities for various defence equipment through the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

➤ The products manufactured include arms and ammunition, tanks, armoured vehicles, heavy vehicles, fighter aircraft and helicopters, warships, submarines, missiles, ammunition, electronic equipment, earth moving equipment, special alloys and special purpose steels.

Ordnance Factories

➤ The Indian Ordnance Factories organisation under the aegis of its corporate headquarters Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Kolkata — possesses the unique distinction of over 200-year experience in defence production. The organisation is engaged in production, testing, logistics, research, development and marketing of a comprehensive product range in the area of land, sea and air systems.

➤ **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** consisting of the Indian Ordnance Factories. OFB forms a hub for modern manufacturing industry to meet the armament needs of the Armed Forces.

➤ The organization is headed by the Director General of Ordnance Factories who is also the Chairman of the OFB.

Defence Undertakings

➤ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:** Established in 1940, is a premier aeronautical company of Asia. HAL, a Navratna DPSU with 20 production divisions and 11 R&D centers, spread across the country in nine geographical locations. HAL's expertise encompasses design and development, production, repair, overhaul and upgrade of aircraft helicopters, aero-engines, accessories, avionics and systems.

➤ **Bharat Electronics Limited:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna PSU, established in 1954. It has nine manufacturing units across India. The company has core competency in areas of Defence Communications, Radars & Missile Systems, Sonars & Fire Control Systems, Electronic Warfare and Avionics Systems, Network Centric Systems, Electro-Optics, Tank Electronics, HomeLand Security etc.

➤ **BEML Limited:** Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), incorporated in 1964, is a Mini-Ratna (Category-0 Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence. BEML operates in three business segments— mining and construction, defence and aerospace, rail and metro and international business division for export activities.

➤ **Bharat Dynamics Limited:** Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a Mini-Ratna Category-I Company, was incorporated in 1970 under the Ministry of Defence. A pioneer in the manufacture of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM).

➤ **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited:** a leading Defence PSU established as public limited company in 1934. The company was taken over by the Government of India in 1960 with the aim of building indigenous warships.

➤ **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), a Mini-Ratna Category-I Company, was incorporated as a Defence PSU in 1960. Apart from shipbuilding and ship repair, GRSE has also diversified into engineering business with product profile of diesel engines, various deck machinery and pre-fabricated steel bridges. The shipyard has modernised its diesel engine plant recently and has tied up with MR/ Germany to indigenise manufacturing of marine engines.

➤ **Goa Shipyard Limited:** Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) is a Mini-Ratna Group - I status company and is capable of indigenously designing and building high technology and sophisticated ships to meet the crucial maritime security needs of the country.

➤ **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd:** Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) was set up originally in 1941 by Seth Walchand Herachand to promote indigenous shipbuilding industry. The shipyard was transferred to the Ministry of Defence in 2010. HSL is located on the east coast of the country and is the nation's premium shipbuilding and ship submarine repair organisation.

➤ **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd:** Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) was set up in the early 1970s initially to manufacture critical materials required in the strategic sectors of India's defence industry. As part of its CSR activity, it also manufactures biomedical implants for the needy patients.

Directorate General of Quality Assurance

Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is responsible for quality assurance of all defence stores and equipment, both indigenous as well as imported for the army, navy (excluding Naval Armaments).

Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) is the quality assurance (QA) regulatory authority for military aviation stores for IAF, army aviation, naval aviation and Indian Coast Guard. DGAQA also plays a vital role in technical evaluation, field trials, pre-dispatch inspection (PDI) during foreign procurement of military aviation stores.

The Directorate of Standardisation (DoS) came into existence in 1962 to contain proliferation of defence inventory of the three services and to reduce it to optimum level.

The Directorate of Planning and Coordination

➤ An attached office of Department of Defence Production, was established in 1964. The Directorate is primarily mandated to promote indigenisation in defence sector through various enabling policies viz.

➤ 'Make in India' initiative; liberalisation of FDI Policy; Industrial licensing policy; providing level playing field to private sector, and giving preference to procurement from the indigenous route.

National Institute for Research and Development in Defence Shipbuilding (NIRDESH)

➤ It has been a Society of the Ministry of Defence / Department of Defence Production since 2010. It has been set up with a vision of achieving self-reliance in warship and submarine building with a head office at Calicut.

➤ It is guided by a general body and board of governors and the functioning is under the directions of an executive committee.

➤ The member organizations are Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, DRDO and four DPSU Shipyards. It has commenced the training and R&D activities.

Research and Development

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

➤ Is the research and development arm of the Ministry of Defence. It was created in 1958 by merging the units of Defence Science Organisation, which was set up in 1948 to advise and assist the Defence Services on scientific problems and to undertake research in areas related to defence.

➤ DRDO's mandate is to provide assessment and advice on scientific aspects of weapons, platforms and surveillance sensors; to carry out research and to develop cutting-edge technologies, leading to the production of state-of-the-art sensors, weapon systems, platforms and allied equipment for our Defence Services.

➤ The mandate has been widened to support national cyber security architecture which includes testing capabilities, security solutions, networking systems and cyber defence tools.

Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen

➤ The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) formulates various policies and programmes for the welfare and resettlement of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in the country.

➤ The Department has two divisions viz.: Resettlement and Pension, and 3 Attached Offices namely Kendriya Sainik Board Sectt (KSB Sectt), Directorate General (Resettlement) (DGR) and Central Organisation, and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (CO, ECHS).

Kendriya Sainik Board

➤ Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) Secretariat is the apex body of Government of India, which is responsible for implementing government policies for welfare of war-widows/disabled soldiers, ESM and their dependents.

➤ The Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) is the major source for providing financial assistance to needy war widows/disabled, ESM and their dependents.

Employment Opportunities

➤ **Reservation in Government Jobs:** The central government provides for reservation for ESM for vacancies in the posts to be filled by direct recruitment

➤ **Jobs in the Corporate/Private Sector:** Substantial employment for ESM can be generated in the private/corporate sector. DGR has signed a MoU with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) towards this end.

Schemes for Self Employment

➤ Coal Transportation Schemes and Tipper Attachment

➤ Company Owned Company Operated Retail Outlets.

➤ Gopaljee Dairy and Fresh Farm

➤ Management of CNG Stations by ESM in NCR

➤ Allotment of Army Surplus Class V 'B' Vehicles

➤ Oil Product Agencies Scheme

Healthcare

➤ *Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme:* Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) was launched in 2003.

➤ The scheme was expanded in October 2010. ECHS aims to provide quality healthcare to Ex-Servicemen (ESM) and their dependents through a network of ECHS polyclinics, service medical facilities and civil empanelled/government hospitals spread across the country.

➤ The scheme has been structured on the lines of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and is financed by the Government of India.

➤ Endeavour is to ensure cashless treatment by utilising the empanelled hospitals for the veterans and their dependents.

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Law and Justice

6

INTRODUCTION

- ➤ **MINISTRY of Law and Justice** is the **oldest limb** of the Government of India dating back to 1833 when the **Charter Act, 1833** was enacted by the British Parliament.
  - The said Act vested for the first time **legislative power** in a single authority, namely the **Governor General of Council.**
  - By virtue of this authority and the authority vested under him under **Section 22** of the **Indian Councils Act, 1861**, the **Governor General in Council** enacted laws for the country from 1834 to 1920.
- ➤ After the commencement of the **Government of India Act, 1919**, the legislative power was exercised by the Indian Legislature constituted thereunder.
- ➤ The **Government of India Act, 1919** was followed by the **Government of India Act, 1935.**
- ➤ With the passing of the **Indian Independence Act, 1947**, India became a **Dominion** and the **Dominion Legislature** made laws from 1947 to 1949 under the provisions of **Section 100 of the Government of India Act, 1935,** as adapted by the **India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947**.
- ➤ Under the Constitution of India which came into force on January 26, 1950, the **legislative power is vested in the Parliament.**

Ministry of Law and Justice

- ➤ The Ministry comprises three departments namely the-
  - **Department of Legal Affairs**: The department is assigned legal functions including the interpretation of the Constitution and laws, litigation, legal profession, law reforms, treaties and agreements with foreign countries in the matters of the civil law, legal services including Indian Legal Service, etc.
  - **Legislative Department:** The Legislative Department is concerned with the drafting of the principal legislation for the central government.
  - **Department of Justice**: This department is concerned with the appointment, resignation and the removal of the Chief Justice of India, the judges of the Supreme Court/High Courts, etc.

Indian Legal System

- ➤ The Indian Legal System comprises four components, namely the-
  - basic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution
  - Rights and obligations conferred by ordinary statutes
  - organisational set-up to enforce these rights and obligations within the Constitutional norms
  - the legal and judicial personnel

Sources of Law

- The main sources of law in India are the **Constitution, Statutes (legislation), Customary Law and Case Law.**

- Statutes are enacted by the Parliament, state legislatures and union territory legislatures.

- **Subordinate legislation**- there is a **vast body of laws known as subordinate legislation** in the form of rules, regulations as well as bye- laws made by central/state governments and local authorities like municipal corporations, municipalities, gram panchayats and other local bodies made under the authority conferred or delegated either by the Parliament or state or union territory legislatures concerned.

- **Judicial decisions** of superior courts like Supreme Court and High Courts are important sources of law. Decisions of the Supreme Court are binding in all courts within the territory of India.

- **Local customs and conventions** which are not against statute, morality, etc., are also recognised and taken into account by courts while administering justice in certain spheres.

Enactment of Law

- The Parliament is competent to make laws on matters enumerated in the **Union List.**

- State legislatures are competent to make laws on matters enumerated in the **State List.**

- The Parliament alone has power to make laws on matters not included in the **State List or Concurrent List.**

- On matters enumerated in the **Concurrent List**, laws can be made by both the **Parliament and the state legislature.**

- But in the **event of repugnancy**, law made by the Parliament shall prevail over law made by state legislature, to the extent of repugnancy, be void unless the latter law having been reserved for consideration of President, has received his assent and in that event shall prevail in that state.

Judiciary

- At the apex of the entire judicial system exists the **Supreme Court of India** with a **High Court** for each state or group of states and under the **High Courts** there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts.

- **Panchayat Courts** also function in some states under various names like **Nyaya Panchayat, Panchayat Adalat, Gram Kachehri**, etc., to decide civil and criminal disputes of petty and local nature. Different state laws provide for jurisdiction of these courts.

- The highest court in each district is that of **District and Sessions Judge**. This district court is the principal court of civil jurisdiction and can try all offences including those punishable with death. He is the highest judicial authority in a district.

- Below him, there are **courts of civil jurisdiction**, known in different states as **Munsifs, Sub-Judges, Civil Judges** and the like. Similarly, criminal courts comprise **Chief Judicial Magistrate and Judicial Magistrate** of First and Second class.

Supreme Court

- During the British regime, the **King in Council, or Privy Council** as it was generally called, the **highest forum** to entertain appeals from the judgements and orders passed by the courts in India.

- **Government of India Act, 1935** introduced a **federal constitution**, involving distribution of powers between the Centre and the constituent units.

- After independence from 1949 appeals to the **Privy Council** were abolished altogether and the entire **appellate jurisdiction** was vested in the **Federal Court**. On January 26, 1950, Federal Court gave way to the Supreme Court of India under the new Constitution.

- **Strength:** Parliament increased the number of Judges from 7 in 1950 to 10 in 1956, 13 in 1960, 17 in 1977, 25 in 1986, 30 in 2009 and 33 in 2019.

GSSCORE

- **Composition:** The **Supreme Court of India** comprises the Chief Justice and 33 other Judges appointed by the President of India. Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the age of 65 years.

- **Eligibility for judges:** In order to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court, a person must be a citizen of India and must have been, for at least five years, a judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or an Advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession for at least 10 years or he must be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

The Constitution ensure the independence of apex court Judges in following ways:

- **No so easy removal:** A judge of the Supreme Court cannot be removed from office **except by an order of the President** passed after an address in each House of Parliament supported by a **majority of the total membership of that House** and **by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting**, and presented to the President in the same Session for such removal on the **ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity.**

- **Debarred from practicing anywhere else:** A person who has been a judge of the Supreme Court is **debarred** from practicing in any court of law or before any other authority in India.

  > - **Justice Dr. Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud** is the 50th Chief Justice of India.

- **Fixed language:** The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in English only.

- **Regulation of procedure: Supreme Court Rules, 2013** replacing the **1966 rules,** have been framed under **Article 145** of the Constitution to regulate the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court.

High Courts

- High Court stands at **the head of the state's judicial administration.** There are **25 High Courts** in the country, three having jurisdiction over more than one state.

  - Amongst the union territories (UTs), **Delhi** has its own High Court while **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** have a common High Court with Principal Seat at Jammu in winters and Srinagar in summers.

  - Other UTs come under the jurisdiction of different state High Courts.

- **Composition:** Each High Court comprises a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may, from time to time, appoint.

- **Appointment:** The **Chief Justice of a High Court** is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state.

- **Appointment procedure:** The procedure for appointing the **High Court judges** is the same except that the recommendation for the appointment of judges in the High Court is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.

- **Eligibility:** To be eligible for appointment as a judge, one must be a **citizen of India** and should have **held a judicial office in India for 10 years** or **must have practiced as an advocate** of a High Court or two or more such courts in succession for a similar period. They hold office up to **62 years of age.**

Jurisdiction and Seat of High Courts

- Each high court has **powers of superintendence** over all courts and tribunals within its jurisdiction.

- It can call for returns from such courts, make and issue general rules and prescribe forms to regulate their practices and proceedings and determine the manner and form in which book entries and accounts shall be kept.

Power of Supreme Court and High Courts

➤ Supreme Court has power to issue any person or authority and government within its jurisdiction (original, appellate, special leave petition), direction, order or writs, including writs which are in the nature of enforcement of Fundamental Rights and for any other purpose.

➤ This power may also be exercised by any High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to territories within which the cause of action, wholly or in part arises for exercise of such power, even if the seat of such government or authority or residence of such person is not within those territories.

Subordinate Courts

➤ The structure and functions of subordinate courts are more or less uniform throughout the country.

➤ **Designations of courts** connote their functions. These courts deal with all disputes of civil or criminal nature as per the powers conferred on them.

➤ **Subordinate courts follow two important codes prescribing procedures:** the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, Cr.P.C. 1973, further strengthened by state level amendments.

➤ **As per direction of the Supreme Court in the All India Judges Association case,** a uniform designation has been brought about in the subordinate judiciary's judicial officers all over the country, viz., District or Additional District Judge, Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division) on the civil side; and on **criminal side**, Sessions Judge, Additional Sessions Judge, Chief Judicial Magistrate and Judicial Magistrate, etc., as laid down in the Cr.P.C.

➤ Under **Article 235** of the **Constitution of India**, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judicial service vests with the concerned High Court.

➤ Further, in the exercise of powers conferred under provision to **Article 309** read with **Articles 233** and **234** of the Constitution, the state government shall frame rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such state. The members of the **State Judicial Services** are governed by these rules and regulations.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms

➤ Set up in 2011 with the twin objective of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.

Development of Infrastructure of Subordinate Courts

➤ The primary responsibility of infrastructure development for the judiciary rests with the state governments. **Department of Justice** has been administering a **centrally sponsored scheme (CSS)** for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary since 1993-94.

➤ It covers construction of court buildings and residential accommodation of judicial officers of district and subordinate courts. Presently, the fund sharing pattern under the scheme is 60:40 (Centre : State) in respect of states other than North-East and Himalayan states where it is 90:10 and 100 per cent assistance is given to UTs.

Gram Nyayalayas

➤ Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 was enacted to provide doorstep justice to citizens and to establish Gram Nyayalayas (GN) for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats.

➤ Gram Nyayalayas are deemed to be a Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class and exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction as per Schedules. Central and state governments have the power to add or omit any item in Schedules.

Enforcement of Contracts and Commercial Courts

➤ To promote faster resolution of commercial disputes the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was enacted.

➤ It provides for setting up of commercial courts at district levels in all jurisdictions, including High Courts having original ordinary civil jurisdiction.

Digitisation Initiatives Through eCourts

➤ eCourts Project is an integrated mission mode project under implementation since 2007 for the ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the 'National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in Indian Judiciary'.

➤ The objective of the eCourts project is to provide designated services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary by universal computerization of district and subordinate courts.

➤ An e-filing system Version 1.0 has been developed and a portal designed for this purpose. The portal enables electronic filing of legal papers.

➤ Online payment of court fees, fines and penalties has been initiated through

➤ To bridge the digital divide, funds were released for setting up eSewa Kendras to facilitate e-filing and virtual hearing of cases in high courts and district courts across the country.

➤ National Service and tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) was developed for process serving and issue of summons and is currently functional in 28 states/UTs.

➤ A new 'Judgment & Order Search' portal has been inaugurated to provide a repository for Judgments and Final Orders of the High Courts.

Access to Justice

➤ **A unified pan-India Scheme** namely 'Designing Innovative Solutions on Holistic Access to Justice in India' (DISHA) for the period 2021-2026 that endeavours to provide comprehensive, integrated, technology-based citizen-centric solutions on Access to Justice.

➤ It consolidates and merges various programmes that include Tele-Law, **Nyaya Bandhu, Nyaya Mara and legal literacy** and awareness being implemented by the Department.

➤ **Tele-Law programme** enables to connect poor and needy through technology (via video conference and telephone) facilities available in their villages, through the Common Service Centres (CSCs), to seek legal advice and consultation from the panel lawyers stationed at the state level.

➤ **A mobile application** for directly connecting the beneficiary with the panel lawyer has also been developed.

➤ **Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services)** programme aims to establish a framework for dispensation of pro bono legal services across the country.

➤ **Pro Bono Club Scheme** was initiated in 2020 to provide assistance to pro bono advocates from competent law students and instil pro bono culture in budding lawyers.

➤ **Nyaya Mitra programme** has been introduced in district courts to facilitate reduction of more than a decade old pending court cases.

➤ Specific, contextualized initiatives on empowering the ordinary people to access their rights and entitlements being implemented in North Eastern States and UT of J&K and Ladakh has been expanded to cover pan India under DISHA.

➤ **Organised by Legal Services Authorities, Lok Adalats** are an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mode wherein pre-litigation and pending cases in the courts are disposed on the basis of amicable settlement without any expense on the part of litigants.

Speedy Justice Delivery for Marginalised

➤ The 14 Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of this Department for establishing 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) to deal with cases of heinous crimes involving senior citizens, women, children,

disabled and litigants affected with HIV/AIDS and other terminal aliments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years.

➤ The Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for speedy trial and disposal of pending rape and POCSO Act cases in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.

➤ This scheme was initially for one year, i.e., up to March 2021. Central share is provided to states/UTs from Nirbhaya Fund to set up 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO courts.

➤ **The Family Courts Act, 1984,** Family Courts are established by the state government in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of Department of Justice for strengthening of the judicial system in states, which included establishing Family Courts. At present 731 Family Courts are operational in 26 states/UTs.

➤ In pursuance to the direction of the Supreme Court of India in A**shwini Kumar Upadhayay Vs Union of India & Others WP (C), Twelve Special Courts** were constituted for expeditious trial of **criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs.** Presently, 10 such Special Courts are functional in 9 states.

Legal Affairs

➤ Department of Legal Affairs is the nodal department for reciprocal arrangement with foreign countries for enforcement of arbitral awards pursuant to the New York Convention under Section 44(b) of the Arbitration and Concilliation Act, 1996.

➤ The Department of Legal Affairs is the Central Authority under the Hague Convention of 1965 for service abroad of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil and commercial matters.

Reforms in Legal Profession

➤ In a democratic polity, the role of the legal fraternity has always been very important. It is the watchdog of democracy and remains ever vigilant in the matters concerning the rule of law as enshrined and guaranteed by our Constitution.

➤ There has been a strong objection on the matter of allowing legal practice in India by foreign lawyers and law firms, inter alia, on the ground of procedural hurdles faced by Indian lawyers in case they want to practice in foreign countries.

Indian Legal Service

➤ The creation of Central Legal Service (the forerunner of the present Indian Legal Service). The Government of India, Indian Legal Service in the Ministry of Law and Justice established under the Indian Legal Service Rules, 1957.

➤ Since its inception the officers of the Indian Legal Service (ILS) have been rendering dedicated service to the nation by giving legal advice in important matters to various ministries/ departments of the Government and drafting bills and ordinances which are introduced in the Parliament. This service is provided to Governors of states, Secretary and Election Commissioners, Judges to High Courts and judicial members to various tribunals like CAT, etc., and Information Commissioner.

National Litigation Policy

There have been several Law Commission reports suggesting for a Litigation Policy to avoid unwarranted litigation by the government and thus bring down load on the court system as well as burden on the public exchequer.

For this purpose, National Litigation Policy was formulated by the Department of Legal Affairs in 2010.

Several initiatives have been taken to reduce litigations. The important ones include:

➤ All the ministries/departments have been requested to launch Special Arrears Clearance Drives to reduce litigations and minimise fresh government litigations; to resolve the disputes through mediation, the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee set up by the Supreme Court has submitted the Draft Mediation Bill which is under consideration of the government;

- To reduce the commercial disputes between Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) inter-se and CPSEs and government departments/organisations, Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of CPSE Disputes (AMRCD) has been evolved by the Department of Public Enterprises in place of Permanent Machinery of Arbitration (PMA)';

- Legal Information and Management Briefing System (LIMBS) Version 2.0 has been launched by Department of Legal Affairs to enhance its features and speed with a view to develop it as a web platform for monitoring government litigation;

- New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Act, 2019 has been based application for monitoring of all court cases where Union of India is one of the parties.

- The Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) is a web to enhance the security and improve the efficiency of the system.

Steps for Strengthening the Arbitration Mechanism

- In order to strengthen institutional arbitration mechanism in the country, Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act 2019 were enacted.

- The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to establish a body called Arbitration Council of India (ACI) which will frame, review and update norms to ensure satisfactory levels of arbitration and conciliation and will also frame policies governing the grading of arbitral institution. It further minimises the court intervention in arbitration matters by empowering the Supreme Court and High Courts to designate ACI graded arbitral institutions for the purpose of appointment of arbitrators under Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Necessary steps for establishment of Arbitration Council of India are underway.

- The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 seeks to establish an institution of national importance, namely the New Delhi

- International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) for creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutional arbitration.

Strengthening the Mechanism of Resolution of Disputes

- Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms like arbitration, conciliation and mediation etc. are aimed at being cost effective and time bound methods for resolution of disputes.

- These ADR mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes.

- Arbitration is a popular mode of resolution of disputes outside the court, wherein the parties refer the dispute to one or more persons appointed as an arbitrator, who renders a decision, which is binding on both the parties.

- The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019, provides for establishment of the Arbitration Council of India (ACI), which would enable accreditation of arbitrators by professional institutes and grading of arbitral institutions.

Strengthening and Promoting Mediation as ADR Mechanism

- Mediation is another efficacious mode of ADR, being a method or process, whereby party or parties, request a third person, referred to as a mediator, to assist them in their attempt to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute.

- It allows parties to look beyond a culture of adversarial litigation and offers a win-win outcome for all the parties.

- The Mediation Bill, 2021, which is a proposed standalone law on mediation, is with the Parliament.

- The salient objectives of Mediation Bill, 2021 are to promote and facilitate mediation, especially institutional mediation, for resolution of disputes, commercial or otherwise, enforce mediated settlement agreements, provide for a body for registration of mediators, to encourage community mediation and to make online mediation as acceptable and cost effective process.

- The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, was enacted, which facilitated establishment of the commercial courts and the commercial appellate courts at district levels and Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division in the High Courts.

- The conferring of such special jurisdiction relating to commercial disputes, is aimed at ensuring timely disposal of commercial disputes without straining the resources and capacities of the stakeholders.

Administration of Other Statutes The Advocates Act, 1961

- The Bar Council of India is a statutory body, established under Section 4 of the Advocates Act, 1961 that regulates the legal practice and legal education in India.

- Its members are elected from amongst the lawyers in the country and as such represents the Indian bar.

- It prescribes standards of professional conduct, etiquettes and exercises disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar.

The Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001

- The Parliament enacted Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2001 applicable to the union territories and the states, which do not have their own enactments enabling them to create Advocates' Welfare Fund. This Act makes it compulsory for every advocate to affix stamps of the requisite value on every Vakalatnama, filed in any court, tribunal or other authority.

- Any practicing advocate may become member of the Fund on payment of an application fee and annual subscription. The Fund shall vest in and be held and applied by the Trustee Committee established by the appropriate Government.

- The Fund shall, inter alia, be used for making ex-gratia grant to a member of the fund in case of a serious health problem, payment of a fixed amount on cessation of practice and in case of death of a member, to his nominee or legal heir, medical and educational facilities for the members and their dependents, purchase of books and for common facilities for advocates.

Law Commission of India

- The Law Commission of India (LCI) is constituted normally every three years with definite terms of reference to work for law reforms. The 22nd Law Commission of India was constituted in 2020.

- The process of appointment of the Chairman and Members of LC1 is under active consideration of the government.

- The Commission consists of law officers of Indian Legal Service. The Commission works on projects based on the references received from the central government and / or from the Supreme Court and high courts.

- Once the Report and summary are finalized, the Commission decides to prepare a draft amendment or a new Bill, which may be appended to its report. Thereafter, the final report is submitted to the Central Government for consideration.

- The Reports of the Law Commission are laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament from time to time by the Department of Legal Affairs. They are acted upon by concerned departments/ministries depending on the government's decision.

Income tax Appellate Tribunal

- Section 252 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 provides that the central government shall constitute an Appellate Tribunal to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on the Appellate Tribunal by the said Act.

- The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) was established on January 25, 1941 in pursuance of a similar provision contained in the erstwhile Indian Income-tax Act, 1922.

➤ The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal deals with second appeals in all matters of direct taxes, including appeals against the revisionary orders of administrative commissioners as well as orders denying registration under Section 12A or under Section 80G of the Income-tax Act 1961, etc.

➤ The Appellate Tribunal also deals with second appeals in all matters of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 including any revisionary order passed by the Principal Commissioner/Commissioner under the 2015 Act.

Border Security Force

➤ International borders of India with Pakistan both east and west were being manned by the respective state police forces till Indo-Pak war in September 1965.

➤ Border Security Force was raised in 1965 with the strength of 25 Battalions and 3 Coys. Over the years, the force has grown in size. The force has its headquarters in New Delhi.

BSF's role during peace time is as follows:

➤ To promote a sense of security among the people living in the border areas;

➤ To prevent trans-border crimes, unauthorised entry into or exit from the territory of India;

➤ To prevent smuggling and any other illegal activities on the border; (iv) anti-infiltration duties;

➤ To collect trans-border intelligence.

Its role during war time is as follows:

➤ Holding ground in assigned sectors; limited aggressive action against central armed police or irregular forces of the enemy;

➤ Maintenance of law and order in enemy territory administered under the army's control;

➤ Guarding of prisoners of war camps;

➤ Acting as guides to the army in border areas;

➤ Assistance in control of refugees; and

➤ performing special tasks connected with intelligence including raids.

Assam Rifles

➤ The Assam Rifles raised as Catchar Levy in 1835 is the oldest Central Para Military Force in India. The force was raised primarily to guard the alluvial plains of Assam from the wild and unruly tribes inhabiting the surrounding hill tracts.

➤ Their long association with the region reflects in the force being fondly called "The Sentinel of the North-East" and "Friends of the Hill People".

➤ It has its headquarters at Shillong and the force is completely deployed in the North East for guarding the Indo-Myanmar Border, spread over 1,631 kilometres. The force comprises a Directorate General headquarter, three Inspectorate General headquarters, 12 sector headquarters, 46 battalions, one training centre.

National Security Guard

➤ The need for creating a special force for executing surgical operations based on tactical intelligence was felt in India when Operation Blue Star was carried out by the Army at the Golden Temple, Amritsar in 1984.

➤ National Security Guard (NSG) was conceptualised and created after studying and analysing Special Force like SAS in the United Kingdom, GIGN in France, GSG-9 in Germany, Shar-et-matkal in Israel and Delta Force in the USA.

➤ NSG was raised in October 1985, as a Federal Contingency Force under the MHA. It consists of selected and highly motivated personnel from the Army as well as the central armed police forces.

➤ About 53 per cent of the personnel are drawn from the Army while the central armed police forces like BSF, CRPF and ITBP contribute 47 per cent.

➤ Since raising, its commandos have been employed in 114 major successful counter terrorist operations, earning numerous awards and rewards including three Ashok Chakras, two Kirti Chakras, three Shaurya Chakras and 10 PPMG. Nine NSG Commandos have also made the supreme sacrifice in living up to the NSG's motto of *Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha.*

Central Reserve Police Force

➤ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was formed in July 1939 at Neemuch as the Crown Representative's Police.

➤ After independence, it was renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force.

➤ The personnels of the force made some supreme sacrifices since its inception. As a tribute to the saga of our brave men, 9th April is now befittingly celebrated as "Valour Day" in the force.

➤ The CRPF has also been deployed internationally. Now, for the first time in the history of UN, a fully formed women's unit is posted in Liberia as a part of United Nations Peacekeeping Mission.

➤ From a single battalion in 1939, the force has now grown to four zones.

➤ It is the only Central Armed Police Force in the country which has 3 Mahila Battalions.

➤ The Cobra battalions have been deployed strategically in the naxal affected areas. CRPF always plays a significant role in times of natural disasters.

➤ We now have two battalions of CRPF designated as Disaster Management battalions and they have been located in Pune and Ahmedabad,

Rapid Action Force

➤ In 1992, 10 Battalions of CRPF were reorganised and converted into 10 battalions of 4 Coys each of Rapid Action Force (RAF).

➤ The personnel in RAF are trained and equipped to be an effective strike force in communal riots and similar situations.

➤ All these battalions are organised on an unattached pattern and are working under the supervision of an Inspector General.

Commando Battalion for Resolute Action

➤ In order to effectively tackle the Maoists, the need for a Special Force, capable of striking at the core of naxal heartland was felt. With this idea, ten

➤ CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) battalions were raised between 2008 and 2011.

➤ Out of the ten CoBRA battalions, nine are deployed in LWE (Left Wing Extremism, i.e., Maoists infested areas) and one in Assam.

Central Industrial Security Force

➤ Raised in 1969, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is providing security cover to over 300 units including domestic and international airports and fire protection cover to industrial undertakings.

➤ With globalisation and liberalisation of the economy, CISF is no longer a PSU-centric organisation. Instead, it has become a premier multi-skilled security agency of the country, mandated to provide security to major critical infrastructure installations of the country in diverse regions including terrorist and naxal affected areas.

➤ CISF Act was amended to enable the force to provide security, on payment basis, to private/ joint venture industrial undertakings, which are vital for the security and economy of the country. After the

Mumbai terrorist attack in November 2008, the mandate of the force has been broadened to provide direct security cover to private sector also.

➤ Infosys Technologies Limited — a multinational information technology services company with headquarter in Bengaluru — became the first private sector company to get the CISF security cover in August 2009.

➤ CISF is a cost reimbursement force, i.e., it is not a burden on the national exchequer.

➤ CISF in October 2009, started a passenger-friendly utility on its official website for the lost and found articles at all airports where CI5F has been deployed.

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

➤ The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is the newest border guarding force of Union of India entrusted with the guarding of Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.

➤ SSB is guarding Indo-Nepal border since 2001 and was also given the additional responsibility of guarding Indo-Bhutan border in 2004.

➤ SSB came into existence under the name Special Service Bureau in early 1963 in the wake of Indo-China conflict.

➤ SSB is now spread along the international border across Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

➤ SSB's present charter of duties is to safeguard the security of assigned borders of India and promote sense of security among the people living in border areas; prevent trans-border crimes, smuggling and any other illegal activities;

➤ Prevent unauthorised entry into or exit from the territory of India; Carry out civic action programme in the area of responsibility; perform any other duty assigned by the central government (SSB is being deployed for law and order, counter insurgency operation and election duty).

Civil Defence

➤ Directorate General of Civil Defence (DGCD) was established in 1962 with its headquarters at New Delhi in the Ministry of Home Affairs to handle all policy and planning matters related to civil defence, home guards and fire services.

➤ Civil Defence is primarily organised on voluntary basis except for a small nucleus of paid staff and establishment which is augmented during emergencies.

➤ The post of Director General, Civil Defence has since been re-designated as Director General (Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards).

➤ The National Civil Defence College, Nagpur has been merged in the National Disaster Response Force Academy and is presently working under the control of National Disaster Response Force.

➤ The Civil Defence Act, 1968, was suitably amended by the Civil Defence (Amendment) Act, 2009 to include the disaster management as an additional role for the Civil Defence Corps, while retaining its primary role.

➤ To help the state governments, the central government reimburses 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred by the state government on the authorised items of Civil Defence for raising, training and equipping of Civil Defence Services, etc., for the north-eastern states excluding Assam and 25 per cent for other states including Assam in the form of grants-in-aid.

➤ Every year, these grants-in-aid are released in the form of reimbursement share of expenditure claims submitted by the states.

Home Guards

➤ Home Guards is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots.

- Subsequently, the concept of the voluntary citizens' force was adopted by several states. In the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962, the centre advised the states

- and union territories to merge their existing voluntary organisations into one uniform voluntary force known as Home Guards.

- The role of Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary to the police in maintenance of internal security, help the community in any kind of emergency such as an air-raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic, etc.;

- Home Guards are of two types—rural and urban. In Border States, Border Wing Home Guard Battalions have also been raised, which serve as an auxiliary to the Border Security Force.

- Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and rules of the states/ union territories. They are recruited from various cross-sections of the people such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, private sector organisations, college and university students, agricultural and industrial workers, etc., who give their spare time to the organisation for betterment of the community.

- All citizens of India who are in the age group of 18-50, are eligible to become members of Home Guards. Normal tenure of membership in Home Guards is 3 to 5 years.

- Home Guards personnel are also awarded President's Medal for gallantry, distinguished and meritorious services. A Home Guard, whenever called out for duty/training, is paid duty/training allowance at prescribed rates to meet out-of-pocket expenses.

- Members of Home Guards in the organisation are trained to assist police in maintenance of law and order; prevention of crime; anti-dacoity measures; border patrolling; prohibition; flood relief; fire-fighting; election duties; and social welfare activities.

- In the event of national emergency, some portion of Civil Defence work is also entrusted to the Home Guards.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs formulates the policy in respect of role, target, raising, training, equipping, establishment and other important matters of Home Guards Organisation.

- Expenditure on Home Guards is generally shared between centre and state governments as per existing financial policy.

Fire Services

- Fire Services is a state subject and has been included as a municipal function in the XII Schedule of the Constitution of India in terms of Article 243-W.

- As such, it is the primary responsibility of the state governments/municipal bodies to enforce the National Building Code and allocate sufficient resources for strengthening and equipping Fire Services to ensure safety of life and property of citizens within their jurisdiction.

- Fire prevention and firefighting services are organised by the states/union territories.

- Ministry of Home Affairs renders technical advice to states/union territories and central ministries on fire protection, fire prevention, fire legislation and training.

Personal Law

- The people of India are of different religions and faiths. They are governed by different sets of personal laws in respect of matters relating to family affairs, i.e., marriage, divorce, succession, adoption, wills, etc.

- The subject matter of personal laws is relatable to entry 5 of List III-Concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and hence the Union Legislature, namely, the Parliament and subject to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution.

- The state legislatures are also competent to make laws in the field.

Marriage

Laws relating to marriage and divorce has been codified in different enactments applicable to people of different religions. These are:

➤ The Converts Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866;

➤ The Divorce Act, 1869;

➤ The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872;

➤ The Kazis Act, 1880;

➤ The Anand Marriage Act, 1909;

➤ The Indian Succession Act, 1925;

➤ The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936;

➤ The Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939;

➤ The Special Marriage Act, 1954;

➤ The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;

➤ The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969; and

➤ The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides for a special form of marriage and the registration of such marriages, extends to the whole of India except the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, but also applies to the citizens of India domiciled in Jammu and Kashmir.

An attempt has been made to codify customary law which is prevalent among Hindus by enacting the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. This Act, which extends to the whole of India, except the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, applies also to Hindus domiciled in territories to which the Act extends and those who are outside the said territories.

It applies to Hindus (in any of its forms or development) and also to Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and also those who are not Muslims, Christians, Parsis or Jews by religion.

However, the Act does not apply to members of any scheduled tribes unless the central government by notification in the official Gazette otherwise directs. Provisions as regard to divorce are contained in Section 13 of The Hindu Marriage Act and Section 27 of The Special Marriage Act.

Common ground on which divorce can be sought by a husband or a wife under these Acts are: adultery, desertion, cruelty, unsoundness of mind, venereal disease, leprosy, mutual consent and being not heard of as alive for seven years.

As regards Christians, provisions relating to marriage and divorce are contained in the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, and in Section 10 of the Indian Divorce Act, 1869, respectively.

In the Divorce Act, 1869, comprehensive amendments were made through the Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 2001, to remove discriminatory provisions against women in the matter of divorce and to provide for dissolution of marriage by mutual consent.

As regards Muslims, marriages are governed by the Mohammedan Law prevalent in the country. As regards divorce, a Muslim wife had a much restricted right to dissolve her marriage.

Unwritten and traditional law tried to ameliorate her position by permitting her to seek dissolution under the following forms:

➤ This is a form of delegated divorce. According to this the husband delegates his right to divorce in a marriage contract which may stipulate, on his taking another wife, the first wife has a right to divorce him;

➤ This is a dissolution of agreement between the parties to marriage on the wife's giving some consideration to the husband for her release from marriage ties. Terms are a matter of bargain and usually take the form of the wife giving up her or a portion of it; and

➤ This is divorce by mutual consent.

Further, by the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939, a Muslim wife has been given the right to seek dissolution of her marriage on these grounds:

➤ whereabouts of the husband have not been known for a period of four years;

➤ husband is not maintaining her for a period of two years;

➤ imprisonment of husband for a period of seven years or more;

➤ failure on the part of husband to perform his marital obligations, without a reasonable cause, for a period of three years;

➤ impotency of husband;

➤ two-year long insanity;

➤ suffering from leprosy or virulent venereal disease;

➤ marriage took place before she attained the age of 15 years and not consummated;

➤ Cruelty.

Personnel laws of Parsi

➤ The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, governs the matrimonial relations of Parsis. The word 'Parsi' is defined in the Act as a Parsi Zoroastrian.

➤ A Zoroastrian is a person who professes the Zoroastrian religion. It has a racial significance. Every marriage as well as divorce under this Act is required to be registered in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Act.

➤ The provisions of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, have been enlarged so as to bring them in line with the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

➤ As for the matrimonial laws of Jews, there is no codified law in India. Even today, they are governed by their religious laws.

➤ Jews do not regard marriage as a civil contract, but as a relation between two persons involving very sacred duties. Marriage can be dissolved through courts on grounds of adultery or cruelty.

Adoption

➤ Although there is no general law governing adoption, it is permitted by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, amongst Hindus and by custom amongst a few numerically insignificant categories of persons.

➤ Since adoption is legal affiliation of a child, it forms the subject matter of personal law. Muslims, Christians and Parsis have no adoption laws and have to approach the court under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. Foreigners, who want to adopt Indian children, have to approach the court under the aforesaid Act.

➤ The Hindu law relating to adoption has been amended and codified into the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, under which a male or female

➤ A guardian may be a natural guardian, testamentary guardian or a guardian appointed by the court.

➤ In deciding the question of guardianship, two distinct things have to be taken into account—person of the minor and his property.

➤ Through the Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010, the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, was amended, so as to remove the incapacity of married women to take in adoption of a son or a daughter merely on the basis of her marital status and to provide that the mother with the consent of the father and the father with the consent of the mother shall have equal rights to give in adoption of their children.

➤ **The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956**, has codified laws of Hindus relating to minority and guardianship. As in the case of uncodified law, it has upheld the superior right of father.

➤ It lays down that a child is a minor till the age of 18 years. Prior right of mother is recognised only for the custody of children below five.

- In case of illegitimate children, the mother has a better claim than the putative father. The Act makes no distinction between the person of the minor and his property and therefore guardianship implies control over both.
- **Under the Muslim Law (Shariat),** the father enjoys a dominant position. It also makes a distinction between guardianship and custody.
- For guardianship, the father is preferred and in his absence his executor.
- Mother is not recognized as a natural guardian even after the death of the father. As regards rights of a natural guardian, there is no doubt that father's right extends both to the property and person of the child.
- Even when mother has the custody of minor child, the father's general right of supervision and control remains.
- The Muslim law recognizes that mother's right to custody of minor children is an absolute right. Even the father cannot deprive her of it.
- **The general law relating to guardians and wards is contained in the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.**
- The Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010, the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, was amended so as to include the mother along with the father as a fit person to be appointed as a guardian of a child.

Maintenance

- Obligation of a husband to maintain his wife arises out of the status of the marriage; right to maintenance forms a part of the personal law.
- Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, right of maintenance extends not only to the wife and dependent children, but also to indigent parents and divorced wives.
- Claims of the wife, etc., however, depends on the husband having sufficient means.
- Inclusion of the right of maintenance under the Code of Criminal Procedure has the advantage of making the remedy both speedy and cheap.
- Under the Hindu Law, the wife has an absolute right to claim maintenance from her husband. But she loses her right if she deviates from the path of chastity.
- Her right to maintenance is codified in the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956. In assessing the amount of maintenance, the court takes into account various factors like position and liabilities of the husband.
- It also judges whether the wife is justified in living apart from husband. Justifiable reasons are spelt out in the Act.

Under the Muslim Law, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, protects rights of Muslim women who have been divorced by or have obtained divorce from their husbands and provides for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- **This Act provides that a divorced Muslim woman shall be entitled to:**
- Reasonable and fair provision and maintenance to be made and paid to her within the period by her former husband;
- Where she herself maintains children born to her before or after her former husband for a period of two years from the respective dates of birth of such children;
- An amount equal to the sum of or dower agreed to be paid to her at the time of her marriage or at any time thereafter according to the Muslim Law;
- All property given to her before or at the time of marriage or after her marriage by her relatives or friends or by husband or any relatives of the husband or his friends.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019, was enacted as for prevention of divorce by way of talaq-e-biddat by certain Muslim husbands in spite of the same having been set aside by the Supreme Court.

This Act is in force from September 19, 2018, (i.e. the date from which the first Ordinance, namely, the Muslim Woman (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2018.

The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, recognises the right of wife to maintenance both alimony and permanent alimony.

Succession

- ➤ The Indian Succession Act was enacted in 1925 to consolidate the law applicable to intestate and testamentary succession which was in existence at that time.

- ➤ The Act does not apply to the residents of the union territory of Puducherry.

- ➤ While consolidating the law in respect of succession, two schemes, one relating to succession to property of persons like Indian Christians, Jews and

- ➤ persons married under the Special Marriage Act, 1954

- ➤ By the Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1991, the Act was amended to provide equal shares for both sons and daughters in their parental properties, irrespective of the fact that it was that of the father or that of the mother.

- ➤ It also enables the Parsis to bequeath their property to religious or charitable purposes, etc., without any restrictions.

- ➤ The law relating to testamentary succession among Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs or Mins, subject to certain restrictions and modifications is carried in Section 57 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925,

- ➤ The law relating to intestate succession among Hindus is codified in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. It extends to the whole of India except the former state of Jammu and Kashmir.

- ➤ The remarkable features of the Act are the recognition of the right of women to inherit property of an intestate equally with men and abolition of the life estate of female heirs.

- ➤ Further (vide The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005), the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, was amended so as to provide for the equal share to a coparcener daughter in a joint Hindu property.

- ➤ A vast majority of Muslims in India follow Hanafi doctrines of Sunni law. Courts presume that Muslims are governed by Hanafi law unless it is established to be the contrary.

- ➤ Sunni law regards Quranic verses of inheritance as an addendum to pre-Islamic customary law and preserves the superior position of male agnates.

Anand Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2012

- ➤ The Anand Marriage Act, 1909 was enacted to remove doubts as to the validity of the marriage rights of the Sikh called "Anand" and it does not provide for the provisions of registration of marriages.

- ➤ However, vide the Anand Marriage (Amendment), Act, 2012, The Anand Marriage Act, 1909 was amended to provide for registration of Anand marriages commonly known as Anand Karaj.

- ➤ The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, applies to all Hindus, Buddhists, Jains or Sikhs by religion. It also applies to all other persons who are not Muslims, Christians, Parsis or Jews unless they establish that they were not governed by Hindu law, custom or usage prior to the Act.

- ➤ Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, provides for registration of Hindu marriages and as Sikhs were included in the definition of Hindu, under Section 2 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, a Sikh marriage performed according to the Sikh marriage ceremony called "Anand" or other customary ceremonies could be registered here under the provisions of Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Election Laws and Electoral Reforms

The Acts in connection with the conduct of elections to the Parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice President are:

➤ The Representation of the People Act, 1950;

➤ The Representation of the People Act, 1951;

➤ The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952;

➤ The Delimitation Act, 2002.

These are administered by the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

The electoral system of the country, also called the first-past-the-post system of elections has completed more than seventy years.

Reforms and changes

➤ The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 amended in 2019 provides for optional postal ballot facility for the aged persons and for persons with disability.

➤ This facility is also extended to those who are employed in essential services and not in a position to reach the polling station and also for those who are Covid-19 suspect or affected persons.

➤ The Ministry of Law & Justice has amended the relevant provisions of the RP Act 1950, RP Act 1951; the RE rules 1960 and the CE Rules 1961 to provide for use of AADHAAR number for electoral purposes, multiple qualifying dates, gender neutral provision for service/special voters and power to acquire premises for the purpose of conduct of elections.

Delimitation of Constituencies

➤ The periodic readjustment of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies is mandatory in a representative system where single-member constituencies are used for electing political representatives.

➤ The electoral boundaries are drawn on the basis of the last published census figures and are relatively equal in population.

➤ The first Delimitation Commission in India was constituted in 1952, the second in 1962 and the third in the year 1973.

➤ The third delimitation exercise based on 1971 census— was completed in the year 1975.

➤ The present delimitation, based on 2001 census, has been undertaken after 30 years. The population increased by almost 87 per cent and the nature of constituencies in the country, by and large, had become malapportioned.

➤ The government, as part of the National Population Policy strategy, decided to extend the current constitutional freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation up to 2026 as a motivational measure to enable state governments to fearlessly pursue the agenda for population stabilisation.

➤ It has also been decided, however, to simultaneously undertake readjustment and rationalisation of electoral constituencies, including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, based on the population census for the year 1991, without affecting the number of seats allocated to states in the legislative bodies.

➤ The Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2001 enacted in 2002, has effected the aforesaid policy decisions of the government. Pursuant to the enactment of the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2001, which provided for readjustment of electoral constituencies, including those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

➤ The Delimitation Commission had accordingly been constituted in 2002 under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002 with Shri Justice Kuldip Singh, a retired judge of the Supreme Court as its Chairperson and Shri B.B. Tandon, Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissioner as its members.

➤ The main task of the Commission was to readjust the division of territorial constituencies of the seats in the House of the People allocated to each state and the readjustment of the division of territorial constituencies of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each state.

- Subsequent to that the Constitution (Eighty-seventh Amendment) Act, 2003 was enacted and by that Act the basis of the delimitation of territorial constituencies was changed based on the 2001 census in place of 1991.

- The procedure for delimiting the constituencies in India stands clearly spelt out in the Delimitation Act, 2002.

- The final orders of the Commission are not subject to any modification or veto by the government.

- After getting finality of the delimitation exercise, in pursuance of the second proviso to Article 82 and second proviso to clause (3) of Article 170 of the Constitution, a Presidential Order dated February 19, 2008, was issued making new delimitation effective throughout the country.

- However, Section 10(B) of the Delimitation Act, 2002, deferred the legal effect of the 2007 delimitation order in relation to the state of Jharkhand.

- With the issuance of the Presidential Order specifying the date on which the delimitation orders notified by the Delimitation Commission shall take effect, it was necessary to amend the relevant provisions and the First and Second Schedules of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to reflect the changes made by the delimitation orders notified by the Delimitation Commission.

- The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008, amending the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in conformity with the delimitation was enacted and made effective from 2008.

- A new Section 8(A) was inserted in the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which, provided that if the President of India is satisfied that the situation and the conditions prevailing in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland are conducive for the conduct of delimitation exercise, he may, by order, provide for the conduct of delimitation exercise in the states by the Election Commission of India.

Reservation of Seats for Women

- During the years, a consistent demand has been made for giving adequate representation to women in the Parliament and state legislatures.

- Such a demand finds support in the 73 and 74 Amendments to the Constitution made in 1992. There was a proposal to amend the Constitution and to provide for reservation in the Parliament and state legislatures.

Electronic Voting Machine and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

- Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) being used by the ECI to conduct elections to the parliamentary and assembly constituencies are manufactured by two public sector undertakings, namely, Bharat Electronics Limited and Electronics Corporation of India Limited.

- EVMs were first used on pilot basis in 70-Parur Assembly Constituency of Kerala in 1982.

- The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 was amended enabling the ECI to use VVPATs along with EVMs. VVPATs were used first in by-election for

- Noksen Assembly Constituency of Nagaland in 2013.

- VVPAT was introduced to provide even greater transparency to the poll process.

- The design and application of EVMs in the elections are considered a significant achievement in global democracy.

Electors' Photo Identity Cards

- The use of **electors' photo identity cards (EPICs)** by the Election Commission was started in 1993 throughout the country to check bogus voting and impersonation of electors at elections.

- The electoral roll is the basis for issue of EPICs to the registered electors.

- The RP Act 1950 was amended to provide for four qualifying dates, viz., January 1°, April 1°, July 1gand October ls' and every Indian citizen who attains the age of 18 years or above as on any of the qualification dates is eligible for inclusion in the electoral roll and can apply for the same in advance.

- Once she/he is registered in the roll, she/he would be eligible for getting an EPIC.

➤ The scheme of issuing the EPICS is, therefore, a continuous and ongoing process for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed.

Voting Rights to the Citizens of India Living Abroad

➤ Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides that every person who is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is ordinarily a resident in the constituency shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral rolls for that constituency.

➤ The meaning of "ordinarily resident" is laid down in Section 20 of the said Act. There are a large number of Indian citizens

➤ Residing outside the country due to various reasons. They have been persistently demanding for conferring them the voting rights.

➤ The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2010, in August 2010, to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to:

➤ provide that every citizen of India, whose name is not included in the electoral roll and who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education, or otherwise outside India (whether temporarily or not), shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located;

➤ Provide that the Electoral Registration Officer shall make corrections of entries in electoral rolls and inclusion of names in electoral rolls after proper verification;

➤ The central government has issued necessary notification bringing the Act into force from February 2011.

➤ The Indians overseas can now furnish the documents self-attested by them and get their name enrolled in the electoral roll of their respective constituency.

Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

➤ Provision related to the reservation of seats for these communities in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

➤ This provision found place in Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution.

➤ Likewise, provision for nomination of one member each by the Governor, wherever necessary, belonging to this community in the state legislative assemblies was also incorporated.

➤ Recently, through the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2019, extension of the period for a further ten years, for members from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, has been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament and received the assent of the President. The said Bill was enacted as the Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019.

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India and the World

INTRODUCTION

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** is the government agency responsible for the conduct of foreign relations of the country.
- During the year, MEA continued its pragmatic and outcome oriented engagements, to enhance India's security, uphold its territorial integrity, while promoting and facilitating economic transformation.

Indian Foreign Policy: Overview

- India has assumed leadership in various matters concerning the world in **post pandemic recovery** phase. Even the peak of the pandemic, India established its credentials as the **Pharmacy of the World** by supplying medicines and equipment to over 150 countries in the face of daunting logistical challenges.
- Since the beginning of the **hostilities in Ukraine**, India has been proactive to secure its interests while contributing to the peace efforts in the region. India followed the 'whole of Government' approach to evacuate about 22,500 Indians from the war torn country.
- In line with India's principle of **'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam',** foreign nationals were also evacuated from conflict zones and brought to India.
- The Prime Minister participated in several virtual **multilateral and plurilateral summit level meetings** including **BRICS Summit, QUAD Summit, East Asia Summit** and **ASEAN — India Summit, G20 Summit, BIMSTEC Summit, Global Covid Summit, SCO Summit.**
- To mark 75 years of India's independence, the Ministry and Missions and Posts abroad celebrated **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** by showcasing India's glorious history, culture and achievements.

Neighbourhood First

- India shares civilizational bonds of history, culture, language, and geography with its neighbors in the region.
- **Since 2014, Neighbourhood First policy** is an effort to accord institutional priority and centrality across all relevant arms of government to the management of policies towards the immediate neighborhood: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**
- It strives to build **cordial and synergetic relations** with the South Asian neighbours.

Afghanistan

- India and Afghanistan are connected together by centuries of historical, people to people and cultural relations. India has taken up various infrastructure projects including the **Parliament of Afghanistan and the Salma Dam.**

➤ India is concerned about the domestic developments in Afghanistan and its external repercussions after **Taliban takeover**. It started **Operation Devi Shakti** to safely evacuate Indian and Afghan nationals. India also hosted the **Delhi Regional Security Dialogue** on Afghanistan.

➤ India **extended humanitarian support** to Afghanistan which was faced with a severe hunger crises **and acute food insecurity**.

➤ India is the **largest regional donor to** Afghanistan in the last 20 years. India utilized the **Chabahar port** to ship 75,000 MTs of wheat as humanitarian food assistance to Afghanistan in 2020. **Taliban welcomed the development.**

Bangladesh

➤ In 2021 both countries celebrated **50 years of diplomatic relations**. The relations between the two countries have been characterised as a special relationship. Both are the members of **SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA** and the Commonwealth.

➤ India and Bangladesh celebrated 6 December 2021 as **Maitri Diwas (Friendship Day)** in to commemorate the day on which India extended diplomatic recognition to Bangladesh in 1971.

➤ Bangladesh is India's largest development partner also largest trade partner in the region.

➤ Enhancing connectivity has been a common objective of both sides. **The Maitri Sethu Bridge** over **river Feni** in Tripura was completed and inaugurated in 2021, thus providing enhanced road connectivity between India's North Eastern Region and Bangladesh.

Bhutan

➤ **Hydropower cooperation** forms an important pillar of Indo- Bhutan cooperation and this area saw steady progress in 2021. Bilateral meetings for the **Punatsangchhu-II Hydro Project** and **Mangdechhu Hydro Project** were held in September 2021.

➤ **Bhim UPI** was launched in Bhutan in July 2021 fulfilling a commitment made in the Joint Statement issued during Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan in August 2019.

Maldives

➤ For India, Maldives has always been a close and important maritime neighbour**.** India is building the **Greater Malé Connectivity Project (GMCP)** which is the largest civilian infrastructure project in the Maldives.

➤ Bilateral security cooperation includes maritime security; connectivity and people to people exchanges.

➤ India's **Neighbourhood First policy** and Maldives's India First policy work in tandem to tackle shared concerns and advance mutual interests.

Nepal

➤ **India and Nepal** share close and friendly relations characterized by age-old historical and cultural linkages, an open border and deep-rooted **people-to-people** contacts.

➤ Both countries initiated their relationship with the **1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship.**

➤ In a historic milestone, the first broad-gauge passenger railway service connecting India and Nepal in **the Jayanagar-Kurtha** section was flagged off.

➤ The use of **Indian RuPay card** in Nepal was launched by the Prime Ministers of the countries. India remains Nepal's largest trade partner. India provides transit for almost the entire third **country trade of Nepal.**

Pakistan

➤ India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. India's consistent position is that issues, if any, between both the countries should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence.

➤ In view of the improved Covid situation, India re-opened the **Kartarpur Corridor** in November 2021. More than 1500 pilgrims have used the Kartarpur Corridor to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan since the re-opening of the Corridor.

Sri Lanka

➤ Sri Lanka occupies a central place in India's Neighbourhood First policy and the **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** policy. Joint Military exercise**- Mitra Shakti** took place in October 2021.

➤ In the face of the **acute financial and economic crisis of Sri Lanka**, India has extended help worth **USD 3.8 billion** to help Sri Lanka.

➤ Humanitarian assistance was also provided to Sri Lanka by gifting essential medicines, kerosene oil and Line of Credit for **procurement of Urea fertilizer**.

INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

United States of America

➤ The India and the US have shared interests in promoting **global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity.**

➤ India-U.S. bilateral relations have developed into a **"global strategic partnership".**

➤ People-to-people ties maintained their vibrancy with the US continuing to be a favored destination for Indian students and professionals.

➤ Prime Minister visited in September, 2021 for his first in-person bilateral meeting with President Biden. He also participated in the **Quad Leaders Summits** convened by President Biden.

➤ **People-to-people ties** maintained their vibrancy with the US continuing to be a favored destination for Indian students and professionals.

Russia

➤ India-Russia special and privileged strategic partnership was strengthened further by the successful visit of the Russian President, to India for **the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit** and the holding of the **first India-Russia 2+2 Dialogue** of Foreign and Defence Ministers.

➤ During the year, there were regular high-level exchanges between the two countries at the ministerial and senior official levels, including a number of virtual meetings.

Europe and the European Union

➤ India's relations with European countries and the European Union (EU) witnessed a renewed momentum with a number of high-level meetings and summits taking place including the **G20 and COP26 Summits in Rome and Glasgow.**

➤ EU countries are important for issues related to climate change, sustainable development, innovation, digitalization, and green and clean growth.

➤ The **EU is India's third largest trading partner**, accounting for €88 billion worth of trade in goods in 2021 or 10.8% of total Indian trade.

➤ In May 2022, Prime Minister visited **Germany, Denmark and France** where extensive discussions on a range of issues of bilateral, regional and global importance were held.

Japan

- India and Japan further strengthened the cooperation by signing the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.**

- India and Japan are members of **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** along with US and Australia. On economic front both countries are working together to decrease their dependence on China. **Along with Australia**, the countries launched **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative**.

- Prime Minister visited Japan in May 2022 to participate in the third Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo.

Australia

- India-Australia bilateral relations have witnessed transformational growth after its elevation to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020.

- Both countries have signed **Joint Declaration on a Shared Vision** for Cooperation in Indo-Pacific.

- A milestone in the relations has been the signing of **the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**.

Pacific region

- Platforms for cooperation for the pacific region include various regional and multilateral fora such as the **Asia Europe Meeting**, the **Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** related mechanisms including **East Asia Summit (EAS),** ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Quad

- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD)**, commonly known as the Quad, is a strategic security dialogue between **Australia, India, Japan and the United States**.

- In a joint statement in March 2021, **"The Spirit of the Quad,"** the Quad members described "a shared vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and a "rules-based maritime order in the East and South China seas.

- A **Quad Partnership on HADR** for the Indo-Pacific was announced by the leaders to enable more effective and timely responses to disasters in the region.

Act East Policy

- Act East Policy places an emphasis on **India-ASEAN cooperation** in domestic agenda on infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, skills etc.

- India **hosted ASEAN Foreign Ministers** to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India relations. The 13th ASEM Summit with the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth" was held virtually in 2021.

- India's engagement in the region continued to be directed by the Indo-Pacific vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules- based region.

Think West

- The historic and fraternal ties between India and the Gulf countries have continued to deepen and strengthen in all areas in consonance with India's **'Think West' Policy**.

- The policy is aligned to India's interests in the Persian Gulf: security of oil and gas supply lines, remittances and employment for the roughly seven million-**strong Indian diaspora**, trade and investment relations, and some deep defense and security ties.

Development Partnerships

➤ For India, the most fundamental principle in cooperation is respecting development partners and be guided by their development priorities.

➤ In recent years, India has substantially expanded its development programmes in various countries which include grant assistance, Lines of Credit (LOC), disaster relief, humanitarian aid etc.

➤ India's economic cooperation through development partnership is consultative, demand driven and outcome oriented.

➤ Most of the development aid has gone to the neighboring countries of India. Major developmental projects identified by the neighbouring governments as priority areas are in the field of infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health etc.

➤ Under **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation** (ITEC) students and professionals from 158 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and several Pacific and Caribbean nations have benefitted.

Multilateralism

➤ India has **assumed the G20 Presidency** since December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time.

➤ This is recognition of **India's enhanced global standing** and also an opportunity to convey its perceptions, expectations and priorities.

➤ Prime Minister participated in the Guest Sessions of the G7 Summit held in June 2021 in virtual format. India, as the IBSA Chair, focused this year on revival of IBSA mechanisms.

➤ India also led the foundation of **International Solar Alliance (ISA).** Till now, 106 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA, while 86 of these countries have also ratified the Framework Agreement.

Overseas Indian affairs

➤ The first ever **Girmitiya Conference 2021** was organised virtually in September 2021 by India Foundation and the Ministry. The Pravasiya Bharatiya Divas conferences were organised on the themes of **Leveraging the Soft Power of India and Future of Natural Resources** in October 2021.

South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

➤ India has taken various initiatives to enhance its cooperation with neighbours through SAARC.

➤ Some such recent initiatives include extension of India's **National Knowledge Network** to the countries in the region.

➤ India launched a dedicated **South Asia satellite** for the countries in the region which is currently being utilized by Bhutan, Maldives and Bangladesh.

Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation

➤ It is a cooperation initiative of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations, housing 1.73 billion people and having a combined gross domestic product of US$4.4 trillion acting as a **bridge between India and ASEAN.**

➤ India hosted the **Second Agriculture Ministerial-level meeting** of BIMSTEC in November 2022**.**

Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

➤ Region is important for India, as it is **the net security provider** in the region. **Active presence of China** in India's backyard through its security cooperation and economic aid to the regional countries has forced India into action.

GSSCORE

➤ India has expanded its cooperation with countries like Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles etc. through development cooperation and multilateral platforms like **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).**

Southeast Asia and Indo-Pacific

➤ India's engagement with Southeast Asian countries and Oceania takes place under the framework of the **Act East Policy**.

➤ India's cooperation in the region is based on political, defence, security and strategic, economic and cultural issues with the vision of **SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region**.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

➤ In accordance with its Act East Policy, India has boosted ties with the **ASEAN** member states across political, security, economic and cultural spheres.

➤ There is increasing emphasis from both India and ASEAN to deal with traditional and non- traditional security issues like terrorism, cyber-security, and environmental threats.

EAST ASIA

China

➤ India and China have somewhat cold relations since April-May 2020's conflict in Ladakh.

➤ Military and diplomatic officials of the two sides are meeting regularly to continue their discussions on resolving the remaining issues at the earliest but progress remains far from satisfactory.

➤ India's **bilateral trade** with China reached a record $135.98 billion in 2022 with India having a deficit of more than $100bn.

Republic of Korea

➤ India and the Republic of Korea (ROK), as **Special Strategic Partners**, continued to have high level engagements. India-Republic of Korea Consultations on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation were held at New Delhi in March 2022.

West Asia and North Africa

➤ West Asia and North Africa (WANA) continues to remain important for **energy security, food security and for global peace and security**.

➤ India participated in the first ever leaders' summit of I2U2 which was held in July 2022.

➤ **I2U2** is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

➤ India enhanced its **bilateral cooperation with Iran** in the field of regional connectivity and reviewed the progress made at the **Shahid Beheshti** terminal**, Chabahar port**.

Africa

➤ India provided Anti TB drugs to **Zimbabwe** and **Botswana** as humanitarian assistance. 500 MT of rice and Covid related aid was sent to Mozambique as humanitarian assistance.

➤ India continued to deepen its relation with the countries of **Central and West Africa**. All 25 West African countries continuously extended support to India's candidature at the UN.

➤ India's **bilateral trade** with Africa has now reached **$89.5 billion in 2021-22**.

THE AMERICAS

United States of America

➤ The India-US strategic partnership was further consolidated and strengthened through regular and wide-ranging dialogues, interactions and collaboration across diverse sectors.

➤ In 2021-22, the **bilateral trade** between India and the USA stood at a record US$ 119.42 billion as against US$ 80.51 billion in 2020-21.

➤ Both countries signed U.S.-**India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)** in May 2022 to elevate and expand our strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation.

Canada

➤ The **India and Canada strategic partnership** is underpinned by a shared commitment to democratic values, pluralism and rule of law.

➤ Flow of knowledge and talent is robust between both countries, with India poised to become the top source of foreign students, with 2,30,000 Indian students studying in Canada.

➤ Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with his Canadian counterpart in June 2022 on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau, Germany.

Latin America and the Caribbean

➤ The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region remained an important area of focus for India foreign policy during the year.

➤ India continued its efforts to strengthen and diversify its relationship with the LAC countries despite the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic.

India and Peacekeeping

➤ India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 2,60,000 troops since 1950s.

➤ **Indian Army** continues to play a lead role in **United Nations Peacekeeping** with presence in eight out of 14 (current) **United Nations Missions** worldwide.

Counter-terrorism

➤ India holds various counter terrorism exercise with many of the **partner countries**.

➤ India held structured consultations through the mechanism of J**oint Working Group on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT)** with partner countries such as the EU, Italy, the US, Australia, the UK, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Canada and Russia.

Disarmament & International Security Affairs

➤ India has been a long-time supporter of nuclear disarmament much before other countries supported these measures**.**

➤ India participated in and contributed to **the Conference on Disarmament (CD)** sessions from January to September 2022, presenting its positions on all the core agenda items including **nuclear disarmament, prevention of an arms race in outer space**, etc.

➤ In August 2022, India amended **Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005**, in order to fulfill international obligations relating to financing of weapons of mass destruction.

GSSCORE

Cyber Diplomacy

➤ The **Cyber Diplomacy** division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has given significant impetus to India's bilateral engagements in the area of cyber security. India held **cyber dialogue with Japan** in 2022.

➤ India has taken various initiatives like **National Security Council Secretariat** (NSCS), **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team** (CERT-In), and **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre** (NCIIPC) to strengthen the cyber security in the country.

Economic Diplomacy

➤ Economic Diplomacy (ED) division of the MEA aims to facilitate foreign investment flows and to promote bilateral trade, tourism, education and traditional Indian medicine, in coordination with Indian missions/posts abroad.

➤ Efforts were made to promote India as a reliable, dependable and open location for industry that requires risk-controlled and **resilient supply chains**.

➤ India's diplomatic missions have become actively engaged in organising trade shows and **"Make in India" events**, pursuing market access and contesting non-tariff barriers, wooing MNCs, private equity firms and sovereign funds to invest in the country.

➤ India is currently working with the UK and the EU to finalize **Free Trade Agreements**.

➤ MEA has also facilitated external **economic engagement of States** through the network of Indian missions and posts abroad. Several MoUs between state governments and cities with their foreign counterparts to establish sister-state and city partnerships were facilitated by the **States Division**.

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Basic Economic Data

8

INTRODUCTION

- **Background:** Originated after the merger of the Department of Statistics and Department of Programme Implementation.
- **Wing:** The Department has two wings
  - **National Statistics Office (NSO):** It consists of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
  - **Programme Implementation Wing:** It has three divisions:
    - Twenty Point Programme
    - Infrastructure and project monitoring
    - Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

National Statistical Commission

- The National Statistical Commission (NSC) was set up in 2005.
- The NSC was constituted to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country, to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical coordination.

Central Statistics Office

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards.
- Its activities inter-alia, include compilation of national accounts, index of industrial production, consumer price indices (urban/rural/combined), human development statistics, including gender statistics in the states and union territories, and dissemination energy statistics, social and environment statistics and preparation of the National Industrial Classification.
- The CSO, started releasing state/UT-wise data as well as All India Consumer Price Indices (CPI) separately for rural, urban and combined (rural plus urban) for the purpose of temporal price comparison with effect from January 2011 with 2010 as the base year.
- Accordingly, the annual inflation rates, based on these indices were made available since January 2012. CSO revised the base year of CPI form 2010 to 2012 and the revised series was launched in 2015.

Annual Survey of industries

- The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of industrial statistics in India.

➤ It provides statistical information to assess and evaluate, objectively and realistically, the changes in the growth, composition and structure of the organised manufacturing sector comprising activities related to manufacturing processes, repair services, generation, transmission, etc., of electricity, gas and water supply and cold storage.

➤ The survey is **statutory** in nature and extends to the entire country.

➤ **Coverage:** Factories registered under Sections 2m(i) and 2m(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

➤ **Compiled by:** NSO using secondary data received from 14 source agencies in various ministries/ departments or their attached/subordinate offices.

➤ IIP is **released every month** in the form of **Quick Estimates** with a time-lag of 6 weeks as per the **Special Data Dissemination Standard norms of IMF.**

➤ Apart from breakup of the index for mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors, the estimates are also simultaneously being released as peruse-based classification viz., primary goods, capital goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure/construction goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables.

➤ The major source of data for IIP is, however, the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade that supplies data for 322 out of 407 item groups with a weight of 47.54 per cent in overall IIP.

National Sample Survey Office

➤ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), in the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation,** is responsible for conducting of large-scale sample surveys, in diverse fields, on all India basis.

➤ **Collection of primary data:** It is done through nationwide household surveys on various socio-economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) under the Collection of Statistics Act and Enterprise Surveys, as a follow up of the economic census.

➤ Besides these surveys, NSSO collects data on rural and urban prices; plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the state agencies.

Surveys undertaken	
Socio-Economic Surveys	◉ NSO regularly conducts these surveys. ◉ It is regarded as one of the most important sources of statistical data on household expenditure and income as well as other data on the status of housing, individual and household characteristics and living conditions.
Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)	◉ It gives estimates of Key employment and unemployment Indicators like, the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), etc.
Time Use Surveys (TUS)	◉ The primary objective of TUS is to measure participation of men, women and other groups of persons in paid and unpaid activities.
Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES)	◉ The HCES is traditionally a quinquennial (recurring every five years) survey conducted by the government's National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). ◉ It is designed to collect information on the consumer spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.

> **Other major surveys include:**
> * Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)
> * Annual Survey of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE)
> * Urban Frame Survey (UFS)
> * Rural Price Collection (RPC)

Seventh Economic Census

➤ Economic Census (EC) is an **ongoing sub scheme** under capacity development scheme of the Ministry.

➤ It gives a complete count of all non-farm economic establishments located within the geographical boundary of the country.

➤ It provides disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all such establishments of the country.

➤ Economic Census also provides valuable insight into geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged, etc., of all economic establishments in the country.

Price Statistics

➤ NSO under MoSPI started compiling Consumer Price Index (CPI) separately for rural, urban, and combined sectors on monthly basis with base year (2010=100) for all India and states/UTs with effect from January 2011.

➤ It revised the base year of the CPI from 2010=100 to 2012=100, incorporating many methodological improvements in consonance with the international practices.

➤ The basket of items and weighing diagrams for the revised series has been prepared using the Modified Methodology.

➤ In addition, Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) is also being released as weighted average of the indices of ten sub-groups: cereals and products; meat and fish; egg; milk and products; oils and fats; fruits; vegetables; pulses and products; sugar and confectionery; and spices.

➤ It does not include nonalcoholic beverages and prepared meals, snacks, sweets, etc.

Consumer Price Index (Urban)

➤ It measures the changes over time in general level of retail prices of goods and services for the purpose of consumption relevant to the entire urban population in the country that households acquire.

➤ The current base year for CPI (U) is 2012=100.

Consumer Price Index (Rural)

➤ The base year of CPI (Rural) is same as that of CPI (Urban), i.e., 2012=100.

Wholesale Price Index

> **Statistics Day**
>
> In recognition of the notable contributions made by **(Late) Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis** in the field of economic planning and statistical development, **29th June** is dedicated as the Statistics Day.

➤ Wholesale Price Index (WPI) captures wholesale price movement of goods traded at various stage of production.

➤ The overall annual rate of inflation increased from 1.31 per cent in 2020-21 to 12.97 per cent in 2021-22 mainly due to sensitivity of WPI to imported commodities.

GSSCORE

➤ Items like crude petroleum and petroleum products, basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, and edible oils whose prices were heavily dependent on global factors, significantly contributed to the rise in WPI-based inflation.

➤ Ukraine-Russia conflict further aggravated the already distressed global supply-chain.

➤ As result, inflation rate escalated to about 14.2 per cent till Q2 of 2022-23.

Twenty Point Programme

➤ Initiated in 1975, the thrust of this Programme is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and the under privileged people all over the country.

➤ The programme covers various socio economic aspects like poverty, employment, education, housing, agriculture, drinking water, afforestation and environment protection, energy to rural areas; welfare of weaker sections of the society, etc.

Project Monitoring Group (PMG)

➤ **Background:** Set up as a special cell in the Cabinet Secretariat in 2013.

➤ **Objective:** to remove bottlenecks in setting up of major infrastructure projects and accelerating the pace of projects executions.

➤ **Since 2019, PMG has been merged with DPIIT.**

➤ Any investor having issues delaying or likely to delay the execution of a project with an anticipated investment of Rs 500 crore or more can upload them on the portal of PMG, which takes them up with the concerned authority in the central or state governments.

Infrastructure Performance Monitoring

➤ In addition to the infrastructure monitoring, the Ministry takes stock of the performance of 11 key infrastructure sectors which include **power, coal, steel, railways, shipping and ports, fertilisers, petroleum and natural gas, civil aviation and roads, telecommunication.**

➤ Infrastructure performance is regularly reported through the monthly report "Review Report on Infrastructure Performance"

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

➤ The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched in 1993.

➤ This scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

➤ The objective of MPLADS is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on creation of durable community assets in the areas of national priorities.

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9

Finance

INTRODUCTION

THE **Ministry of Finance** is responsible for:

➤ Administration of finances of the government

➤ All economic and financial matters affecting the country as a whole, including mobilisation of resources for development and other purposes.

➤ Regulation of expenditure of the government including transfer of resources to the states

The Ministry consists of five departments, namely,

⊙ Economic Affairs
⊙ Expenditure
⊙ Revenue
⊙ Investment
⊙ Public Asset Management; and Financial Services

Department of Economic Affairs

➤ The Department of Economic Affairs is the nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor country's economic policies and programmes having a bearing on domestic and international aspects of economic management.

➤ **Major Functions:**

• Preparation and presentation of the **Union Budget** (including Railway Budget) to the Parliament

• Preparation and presentation of the Budget for the state governments under President's Rule and union territory administrations

• Formulation and monitoring of macro-economic policies

• Production of bank notes and coins

• Cadre management, career planning and training of the Indian Economic Service (IES)

Annual Financial Statement:

➤ The Annual Financial Statement is popularly known as the Budget. It is presented to Parliament by the Finance Minister each year on the first working day of February.

➤ Under Article 112 of the Constitution, a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India has to be laid beParliament in respect of every financial year. This statement titled "Annual Financial Statement" is the main Budget document.

➤ The Annual Financial Statement shows the receipts and payments of government under the three parts in which government accounts are kept:

Consolidated Fund	Contingency Fund	Public Account
◉ This fund was constituted under **Article 266 (1)** of the Constitution of India. All revenues received by the government by way of direct taxes and indirect taxes, money borrowed and receipts from loans given by the government flow into the Consolidated Fund of India. ◉ All government expenditure is made from this fund, except exceptional items which are met from the Contingency Fund or the Public Account. Importantly, no money can be withdrawn from this fund without the Parliament's approval.	◉ This fund was constituted by the government under Article 267 of the Constitution of India. This fund is at the disposal of the President. ◉ Any expenditure incurred from this fund requires a subsequent approval from the Parliament and the amount withdrawn is returned to the fund from the Consolidated Fund.	◉ This fund was constituted under Article 266 (2) of the Constitution. It accounts for flows for those transactions where the government is merely acting as a banker.

Demands for Grants

➤ The estimates of expenditure from the **Consolidated Fund** included in the **Annual Financial Statement** and required to be voted by the Lok Sabha are submitted in the form of Demands for Grants in pursuance of **Article 113 of the Constitution**.

➤ Generally, one Demand for Grant is presented in respect of each ministry or department. However, in respect of large ministries or departments more than one demand is presented.

➤ In regard to union territories (UTs) without legislatures, a separate Demand is presented for each of the UTs.

Finance Bill

At the time of presentation of the Annual Financial Statement before Parliament, a Finance Bill is also presented in fulfilment of the requirement of Article 110(1)(a) of the Constitution, detailing the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of taxes proposed in the Budget.

A Finance Bill is a Money Bill as defined in Article 110 of the Constitution.

Appropriation Bills

➤ After the Demands for Grants are voted by the Lok Sabha, Parliament's approval to the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the amounts so voted and of the amount required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

➤ Fund is sought through the Appropriation Bill.

Sources of Revenue

➤ **Tax revenue:** consists of customs duties; union excise duties, service tax, corporate and income taxes.

➤ **Non-tax revenues:** largely comprising of interest receipts, dividends/profits, fines and miscellaneous receipts collected in the exercise of sovereign functions; regulatory charges; and license fees and user charges for publicly provided goods and services.

Public Debt and Other Liabilities

The Public Debt of India is classified into three categories of Union Government liabilities--**internal debt, external debt and other liabilities.**

➤ **Internal debt** for Government of India largely consists of **fixed tenure and fixed rate government papers** (dated securities and treasury bills), which are issued through auctions.

   ● **These include:** market loans (dated securities); treasury bills (91, 182 and 364 days) and 14-day treasury bills (issued to state governments only); cash management bills; special securities issued to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI); compensation and other bonds; and non-negotiable and non-interest bearing rupee securities issued to international financial institutions and securities, issued under market stabilisation scheme with a view to reduce dependency on physical gold and reduce imports.

➤ **External debt** represents loans received from foreign governments and multilateral institutions. The union government does not borrow directly from international capital markets. Its foreign currency borrowing takes place from multilateral agencies and bilateral sources, and is a part of official development assistance (ODA). At present, the Government of India does not borrow in the international capital markets.

➤ **"Other" liabilities**, not a part of public debt, includes other interest bearing obligations of the government, such as post office saving deposits, deposits under small savings schemes, loans raised through post office cash certificates, provident funds and certain other deposits. RBI manages the public debt of the central and the state governments and also acts as a banker to them.

Social Sector Programmes

Direct Benefit Transfer: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is a major reform initiative launched by the Government of India to provide an overarching vision and direction to enable direct cash transfer of benefits under various government schemes and programmes to individuals.

➤ Leveraging the gains in the Aadhaar Project, DBT was conceived with the objective of accurately targeting the intended beneficiaries and enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability in delivery of benefits/ services under government schemes.

➤ The mandate of DBT was universalised and extended to cover all central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes that have any component of cash benefit transfer to individual beneficiaries.

Atmanirbhar Bharat: Atmanirbhar Bharat, which translates to 'self-reliant India' or 'self-sufficient India', is a policy for making India a bigger and more important part of the global economy, pursuing policies that are efficient, competitive and resilient.

➤ Under the policy not only should products be 'made in India', but the promotion of those products should take place so as to make those products competitive.

➤ As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, numerous government decisions were taken such as changing the definition of MSMEs, boosting scope for private participation in numerous sectors, increasing FDI in the defence sector, etc.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

➤ Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) which was launched by the Government of India in 2016 was a voluntary disclosure scheme to declare unaccounted for wealth and jewellery.

➤ The government stressed on the issue to divert the excess wealth of some to the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged. Social benefits under the PMGKY was extended to economically vulnerable households till March 2021 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdowns.

➤ Under the scheme, 81 crore individuals are being provided with 5 kilos of rice or wheat and 1 kilo of chana every month. The fresh stimulus includes cash transfers to 20 crore Jan Dhan accounts.

Public Debt

► **Public debt includes:** internal debt comprising borrowings inside the country; and

► External debt comprising loans from foreign countries, international financial institutions, etc.

Economic Growth

► Indian economy in 2021-22 fully recovered from the pre-pandemic real GDP level of 2019-20.

► The real GDP growth in 2021-22 stands at 8.7 per cent, 1.5 per cent higher than the real GDP of 2019-20.

► The industrial sector witnessed significant growth of 10.3 per cent in FY 2021-22 compared to negative growth of 3.3 per cent in FY 2020-21.

► Services sector which was worst hit during the pandemic, registered year on-year (YoY) growth of 8.4 per cent during FY 2021-22 compared to negative growth in FY 2020-21 with real Gross Value Added in services fully recovering the pre-pandemic output level of FY 2019-20.

Credit Growth:

► The bank credit registered a year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 14.5 per cent in July 2022, driven by the growth in non-food credit.

► Credit growth to agriculture and allied activities improved to 13.2 per cent in July 2022 from 11.1 per cent a year ago.

► Credit growth to industry accelerated to 10.5 per cent in July 2022 from 0.4 per cent in July 2021.

► Size-wise, credit to large industry grew by 5.2 per cent against a contraction of 3.8 per cent a year ago.

► Medium industries recorded credit growth of 36.8 per cent in July 2022 as compared with 59.0 per cent last year, while credit growth to micro and small industries accelerated to 28.3 per cent from 10.5 per cent during the same period.

Banking Sector Performance:

► Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) maintained robust capital positions, with the Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) and Common Equity Tier 1 (CET-1) Ratio of SCBs as high as 16.7 per cent and 13.6 per cent.

► Asset Quality of Scheduled Commercial banks continued to improve steadily through 2021-22, with gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio declining from 7.4 per cent in March 2021 to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March 2022.

► The Net non-Performing Assets (NNPA) ratio also fell by 70 bps during 2021-22 and stood at 1.7 per cent at the year-end.

Prices:

► Headline inflation based on Consumer Price Index Combined (CPI-C) fell continuously from 5.93 per cent in 2014-15 to 3.41 per cent in 2018-19 before rising to 5.51 per cent in 2021-22.

► WPI inflation averaged 15.27 per cent during April-July, 2022-23 and stood at 13.93 per cent in July 2022.

Balance of Payments:

► The current account balance recorded a deficit of 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2021-22 as against a surplus of 0.9 per cent in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to USD 189.5 billion from USD 102.2 billion a year ago.

► In 2021-22, there was an accretion of USD 47.5 billion to foreign exchange reserves (on a BoP basis).

Foreign Exchange Reserves:

➤ India's Foreign Exchange Reserves stood at USD 607.3 billion as on 202122 (end-March) as compared to USD 577.0 billion as on 2020-21 (end-March).

Climate Change Finance

➤ Climate Change is one of the most compelling global challenges. To counter it India submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement on a "best effort basis" keeping in mind the developmental imperatives of the country.

➤ In its NDC, India promised to reduce its emission intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030; 40 per cent of cumulative electric power installed capacity would be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and increase its forest cover and additional carbon sink equivalent to 2.5 to 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide by 2030.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The expenditure on social services, as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2 per cent in 2014-15 to 8.8 per cent in 2020-21 (BE).

Major Policy Changes in Banking Regulations Commercial Banks

➤ **Merger of PSBs:** consolidation among another 10 PSBs, with Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India and Indian Bank as anchor banks came into effect from April 1, 2020.

➤ **Restructuring of MSME Loans:** A one-time restructuring of loans to MSMEs that were in default but 'standard' as on January 1, 2019, was permitted, without an asset classification downgrade, subject to certain conditions like aggregate exposure (including non-fund based facilities) of banks and NBFCs to the borrower not exceeding Rs.25 crore.

➤ **Large Exposure Framework:** A bank's exposure under the Large Exposure Framework to a group of connected counterparties was increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the eligible capital base of the bank. The increased limit was applicable up to June, 2021.

➤ **Export Credit:** The maximum permissible period of pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit sanctioned by banks was increased from one year to 15 months for disbursements made up to July 31, 2020, in line with the relaxation granted in the period of realization and repatriation of the export proceeds to India.

➤ **Monetary Policy Transmission:** External Benchmarking of Loans: RBI deregulated the interest rates on advances by SCBs (excluding RRBs).

➤ With a view to strengthen the transmission of monetary policy, the banks were mandated to link all new floating rate personal or retail loans and floating rate loans.

Banking Sector:

The performance of the banking sector (domestic operations), Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in particular, improved in 2018-19. The Gross Non-Performing Advances (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks decreased from 11.2 per cent in March, 2018 to 9.3 per cent in March, 2019 and their Restructured Standard Advances (RSA) ratio decreased to 0.4 per cent in March, 2019 from 0.9 per cent in March, 2018.

One-time Restructuring of Loans to MSMEs

The scheme was made available to MSMEs qualifying certain objective criteria including inter alia a cap of Rs. 250 million on the aggregate exposure of banks and NBFCs to an MSME as on January 1, 2019. " The restructuring was to be implemented by March 31, 2020 and an additional provision of 5 per cent to be maintained in respect of accounts restructured under this scheme.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

A Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee was set up in 2014 for providing an entrepreneur friendly legal bankruptcy framework for meeting global standards for improving the ease of doing business with necessary judicial capacity.

➤ Accordingly, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, was brought in.

➤ The Code aims to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit, and balance the interests of all the stakeholders by consolidating and amending the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution.

Financial Stability and Development Council

With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up as the apex level forum in 2010.

Financial Stability Board Financial Stability Board (FSB)

Established in 2009 under the aegis of G20 by bringing together the national authorities, standard setting bodies and international financial institutions for addressing vulnerabilities and developing and implementing strong regulatory, supervisory and other policies in the interest of financial stability.

Infrastructure Financing

Given the enormity of the investment requirements and the limited availability of public resources for investment in physical infrastructure, it is imperative to explore avenues for increasing investment in infrastructure through various sources.

In view of this, the government launched the following to mobilise the long-term investment on infrastructure in the country:

➤ Bank Financing: Banks continue to be the major source of financing infrastructure.

➤ Institutional Finance: The government has also set up India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) with the specific mandate to play a catalytic role in the infrastructure sector by providing long-term debt for financing infrastructure projects.

➤ Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs): Government of India has conceptualised Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs) to accelerate and enhance the flow of long-term debt into infrastructure projects to help in the migration of project loans for operating assets from banks to the fixed income markets.

➤ Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)/Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InviTs): These are trust-based structures that maximize returns through efficient tax pass-through and improved governance structures

Public Private Partnerships

Availability of quality infrastructure is a pre-requisite to achieve broad-based and inclusive growth on a sustained basis. Infrastructure is also critical for enhancing productivity and export competitiveness. Given the enormity of the investment requirements and the limited availability of public resources for investment in physical infrastructure, the projected infrastructure investments made it imperative to explore avenues for increasing investments in infrastructure through a combination of public investment and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

Information Dissemination

➤ DEA maintains a website dedicated to PPPs, to provide information related to PPP initiatives in the country. The website serves as a hub of information on PPP initiatives and contains related policy documents, government guidelines issued for mainstreaming PPPs.

➤ These include information on the institutional mechanisms for speedy appraisal of PPP infrastructure projects and the schemes for financial support to PPP projects.

G20

➤ The G20 was formed in 1999, as a forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, in recognition of the fact that there was a major shift in the global economic weight from the advanced economies to emerging market economies (EMEs).

➤ Collectively, the G20 accounts for 85 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade and two-thirds of the world population, making it the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

➤ India has taken over the Presidency of premium world forum from December 01, 2022 to November 30, 2023.

BRICS

➤ The BRICS nations or Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa form the five key pillars of south-south cooperation and are the representative voice of emerging markets and developing countries in the global forums such as the G20.

➤ BRICS Bank is also known as New Development Bank established in 2014 to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), a USD based swap mechanism which came into force in 2015 to meet short-term liquidity needs.

United Nations Development Programme

➤ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the largest channel for development cooperation in the UN.

➤ The overall mission of the UNDP is to assist the programme countries through capacity development in Sustainable Human Development (SHD) with priority on poverty alleviation, gender equity, women empowerment and environmental protection.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

➤ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional organisation that aims to promote economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific cooperation in South Asia.

➤ Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SAARC Development Fund (SDF)

SDF was established in 2008 by the SAARC countries to improve the livelihood of the people and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.

Bilateral Cooperation

➤ Department of Economic Affairs also deals with Bilateral Development Assistance from G-8 countries, namely USA, UK, Japan, Germany, Italy, Canada and Russian Federation as well as the European Union.

➤ The Division also deals with the work relating to extension of Lines of Credit to developing countries.

GSSCORE

International Monetary Fund

India is a founder member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which was established to promote a cooperative and stable global monetary framework.

At present, 188 nations are members of the IMF. Since the IMF was established, its purposes have remained unchanged but its operations — which involve surveillance, financial assistance and technical assistance — have developed to meet the changing needs of its member countries in an evolving world economy.

World Bank

India is a founder member of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) which along with International Development Association (IDA) is referred to as the World Bank. IBRD has 189 member countries. It provides loans, guarantees, risk management products, and advisory services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries, as well as coordinates responses to regional and global challenges.

International Finance Corporation

➤ International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, focuses exclusively on investing in the private sector in developing countries.

➤ The IFC's investments in India are spread across important sectors like infrastructure, manufacturing, financial markets, agri business, SMEs and renewable energy.

New Development Bank

➤ The New Development Bank (NDB) has been instituted with a vision to support and foster infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives in emerging economies.

➤ The founding members of the NDB — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).

➤ The purpose of the Bank is to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies, as well as in developing countries. India is one of the largest borrowers from the Bank in the sectors of transport, health, water and fi nancial sectors.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

➤ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) set up to foster sustainable economic development, create productive assets and improve infrastructure in Asia through financing of infrastructure projects.

➤ India is one of the founding members and the second largest shareholder. India along with 20 other countries signed the Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (Moll) for establishing the AIIB in Beijing.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

➤ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, based in Rome.

➤ IFAD is the only specialized global development organisation exclusively focused on and dedicated to transforming agriculture, rural economies and food systems.

➤ At present, IFAD has 177 member countries. India is a founder member of IFAD and a key contributor.

➤ It is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

Global Environment Facility

➤ The Global Environment Facility (GEF) operates as a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits.

Asian Development Bank

➤ Asian Development Bank (ADB) envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.

➤ ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development. It has 68 members (including 49 regional and 19 non-regional members), with its headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited

➤ Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) is the only PSU under the Department of Economic Affairs. It was formed after corporatization of nine units, i.e., four mints, four presses (two currency note presses and two security presses) and one paper mill which were earlier functioning under the Ministry.

➤ It is engaged in the manufacturing of security paper, minting of coins, printing of currency and bank notes, non-judicial stamp papers, postage stamps, travel documents, etc.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

➤ The Government of India has put investment in infrastructure as one of the core elements of its economic programme.

➤ National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was created with the aim to attract equity investments from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects.

International Investment Treaties and Framework

➤ India initiated the exercise to negotiate and enter into Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITS)/ Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) with other countries as a part of the comprehensive economic reforms programme which was initiated in 1991.

➤ A BIT is essentially an international treaty which increases the comfort level and boosts the confidence of the investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination in all matters while providing for an independent forum for dispute settlement through arbitration.

➤ In turn, BITs are expected to project India as an attractive foreign direct investment (FDI) destination as well as protect outbound Indian FDI abroad.

Department of Expenditure

➤ The Department of Expenditure is the nodal department for overseeing the public financial management system in the central government and matters connected with state finances. It is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Central Pay Commission, monitoring of audit comments/observations and preparation of central government accounts.

Controller General of Accounts

➤ The Controller General of Accounts (CGA), in the Department of Expenditure, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.

GSSCORE

Public Financial Management System

➤ The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) is a web-based online software application designed, developed, owned and implemented by the CGA with the aim to provide a sound public financial management system by establishing a comprehensive payment, receipt and accounting network.

Non-Tax Receipt Portal

➤ The objective of the Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP), is to provide a one-stop window to citizens/ corporates/ institutions/other users for making online deposits of Non-Tax Receipts (NTR) which are payable to the Government of India.

Institute of Government Accounts & Finance

➤ The Institute of Government Accounts & Finance (INGAF) is the training arm of the Controller General of Accounts.

Central Pension Accounting Office

➤ The Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) was established in 1990 for Payment and Accounting of Central (Civil) Pensioners and pension to freedom fighters etc.

➤ CPAO is a subordinate office under the Office of the Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance. It has been entrusted with the responsibility of administering the scheme of payment of pension to central government (Civil) pensioners through authorized banks.

➤ Its core functions are: issue of Special Seal Authorities (SSAs) authorizing payment of pension in fresh as well as revision of pension cases to the CPPCs (central pension processing centres) of pension disbursing banks; preparation of Budget for the pension grant and accounting thereof; maintenance of data bank of central civil pensioners containing all details indicated in the PPOs and Revision Authorities; and handle the grievances of central civil pensioners.

Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management

➤ The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) was set up in 1993 as an autonomous body to impart training to officers recruited by the Union Public Service Commission through the annual Civil Services Examination and allocated to the various services responsible for managing senior and top management posts dealing with accounts and finance in the Government of India and to develop as a Centre of Excellence in the areas of financial management and related disciplines, not only in India but also in Asia.

➤ The Institute adheres to norms prescribed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in respect of faculty qualifications and strength.

Department of Revenue

➤ The Department of Revenue exercises control in respect of revenue matters relating to Direct and Indirect Union taxes through two statutory boards namely, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

➤ The Department is also entrusted with the administration and enforcement of regulatory measures provided in the enactments concerning Central Sales Tax, Stamp duties and other relevant fiscal statutes.

➤ Control over production and disposal of opium and its products is vested in this Department.

Goods and Services Tax Legislative Development

➤ GST was implemented in the country in July 2017. Subsuming of various central indirect taxes and levies such as central excise duty, additional excise duties, excise duty levied under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955, Service Tax, Additional Customs Duty commonly known as countervailing duty, special additional duty of customs, and central surcharges and cesses so far as they relate to the supply of goods and services.

➤ Coverage of all goods and services, except alcoholic liquor for human consumption, is meant for the levy of Goods and Services Tax.

Goods and Services Taxes

➤ The Constitution was amended to provide concurrent powers to both center and states to levy Goods and Services Tax (GST) on goods and services.

➤ Subsequently, the GST Council comprising the Union Finance Minister, MoS, Finance and Finance Ministers of all states, is empowered with making all policy decisions on GST. " More than 17 taxes and 13 cesses have been subsumed in GST, making India —"One Nation One Tax".

Indian Stamp Act

➤ The Indian Stamp Act, 1899, is a fiscal statute laying down the law relating to tax levied in the form of stamps on instruments recording transactions.

CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES

Direct Taxes

➤ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), created by the Central Boards of Revenue Act 1963, is the apex body entrusted with the responsibility of administering direct tax laws in India. It is the cadre controlling authority for the Income Tax Department (ITD).

➤ With modern information technology as a key driver, the CBDT has implemented a comprehensive computerization programme in the Income Tax Department.

➤ The programme is aimed to establish a taxpayer friendly regime, increase the tax-base, improve supervision and generate more revenue for the government.

➤ The endeavor is to promote voluntary compliance by taxpayers and create a non-intrusive and non-adversarial tax administration.

Abolition of Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT)

➤ In order to increase the attractiveness of the Indian equity market and to provide relief to a large class of investors in whose case dividend income is taxable at the rate lower than the rate of DDT, the Finance Act, 2020 removed the Dividend Distribution Tax under which the companies shall not be required to pay DDT from 2020-21.

➤ The dividend income shall be taxed only in the hands of the recipients at their applicable rate.

Personal Income Tax

➤ In order to reform personal income tax, Finance Act, 2020 has provided an option to individual taxpayers for paying income-tax at lower slab rates if they do not avail specified deductions and exemptions.

International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)

➤ Various tax incentives have been provided for units located in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in order to make it a hub for financial services in the world.

➤ Further incentives have been provided in the Finance Act 2021, like tax holiday for capital gains for aircraft leasing companies, tax exemption for aircraft lease rentals paid to foreign lessor, tax incentives for relocating foreign funds into IFSC and allowing tax exemption for the investment division of foreign banks located in IFSC.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Changes in Personal Income

➤ Tax Rates In order to encourage more people to come within the tax net, and also to reduce the burden of taxation on honest taxpayers and salaried employees, who are showing their income correctly, the tax rate for individual assesses earning incomes between Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh was reduced to 5 per cent from the earlier rate of 10 per cent.

Changes in Corporate Income Tax Rates

➤ In order to make MSME companies more competitive as compared to large companies and also to encourage firms to migrate to company format, tax rate for smaller companies with annual turnover up to Rs.50 crore in the Financial Year 2015-16 was reduced to 25 per cent.

➤ Percentage-wise, this will benefit 96 per cent of companies in this category.

PAN Quoting Mechanism

➤ Statutory provision for deduction of tax at source (TDS) at higher rate of 20 per cent, or the applicable rate whichever is higher in case of non-quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) is made under Section 206AA of the Income Tax Act since April 2010. y PAN acts as a common thread for linking the information in the departmental database.

Promoting Digital Transaction

➤ A new Section, 269ST was inserted in the Income Tax Act which inter alia restricts acceptance of cash of two lakh rupees or more in the circumstances specified therein, through modes other than an account.

Promoting Digital Payments for Small Unorganised Businesses

➤ In order to promote digital transactions and to encourage small unorganised businesses to accept digital payments, Section 44AD of the Income Tax Act has been amended to reduce the existing rate of deemed total income of 8 per cent to 6 per cent in respect of the amount of such total turnover or gross receipts received by an account payee cheque or account payee bank draft or use of electronic clearing system through a bank account.

Aadhaar in PAN Application Form and Return of Income

➤ A new Section 139AA has been inserted in the Act. With this, every person who is eligible to obtain Aadhaar number shall, on or after the 1st day of July, 2017 quote Aadhaar number or Enrolment ID of Aadhaar application form in the return of income and PAN application form.

Ease of Compliance for Taxpayers No 17R for specified senior citizens

➤ Through Finance Act, 2021, a new section 194P has been inserted to the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) to provide that in case of senior citizens of the age 75 years or above having only pension income and interest income only from the account(s) maintained with a bank in which they receive such pension, then such senior citizens shall not be required to fi le their Income Tax Returns (ITR).

Relaxation to NRIs

➤ When Non-Resident Indians (NRI) return to India, they have issues with respect to their accrued incomes in their foreign retirement accounts due to a mismatch in taxation periods.

Faceless Appeals

➤ Faceless Appeal Scheme has been launched in 2020. The Scheme provides a fully faceless procedure for appeals to Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals). Like the Faceless Assessment Scheme, it allows the taxpayers to fi le their documents in an electronic mode and thereby save them from the hassles of physically visiting the Income Tax Department.

Faceless Penalty

➤ Faceless Penalty Scheme, 2021 was launched to impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability to the procedure for imposition of penalty. The Scheme eliminates the physical interface between the Income-tax officials and the taxpayers and provides for optimal utilisation of resources and a team-based mechanism for imposition of penalty by one or more income-tax authorities with dynamic jurisdiction.

Faceless /TAT

➤ The Finance Act, 2021 has empowered the government to notify a scheme for the purposes of disposal of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal so as to impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability by eliminating the physical interface between the Appellate Tribunal and parties to the appeal in the course of appellate proceedings to the extent technologically feasible, optimising utilisation of the resources through economies of scale and functional specialization and introducing an appellate system with dynamic jurisdiction.

Reduction in Time for Income Tax Proceedings

➤ The Finance Act, 2021 has reduced the time-limit for re-opening of assessment to 3 years from the earlier 6 years.

Pre-filling of Income-tax Returns

➤ In order to make tax compliance more convenient, pre-filled DR have been provided to individual taxpayers. The ITR form now contains pre-filled details of certain incomes such as salary income.

➤ The scope of information for pre-fi ling is being further expanded by including information such as interest, dividend capital gains, etc.

Taxpayer Registration

➤ Permanent Account Number (PAN) is a 10-digit alpha-numeric number allotted by ITD to taxpayers. It enables ITD to link all transactions of the taxpayer with the Department. Income Tax Department has allotted more than 50 crore PAN.

➤ ITD has implemented the integration of the PAN allotment process with incorporation of a company through the e-biz portal.

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➤ A facility for instant allotment of PAN (on near to real time basis) is available for those applicants who have a valid Aadhaar number and have mobile number registered in Aadhaar.

Payment of Taxes

➤ The Online Tax Accounting System (OLTAS) facilitates near real time reporting, monitoring and reconciliation of tax payments made by taxpayers through banks. e-payment of taxes has been enabled through net banking and ATMs and nearly 89 per cent of tax is collected through this mode facilitating payment of taxes anytime from home/office without having to go to a bank branch.

Electronic filing of Income Tax Returns and other forms

➤ The e-fi ling website provides facility for online fi ling of Income tax returns and various types of forms including audit reports, applications and informational statements by taxpayers. This facility is free of cost to taxpayers. E-filed returns now account for more than 99 per cent of total returns fi led with the Department.

Centralised Processing of Income Tax Returns

➤ Centralised Processing Centre for Income tax returns (CPC ITR) at Bengaluru leverages the availability of data in the electronic format.

➤ CPC ITR provides a comprehensive and end to end solution to taxpayers to process the return using rules as per provisions of the Income Tax Act in an automated environment to compute the final refund or tax due for the taxpayer.

Taxpayer Facilitation and Assistance

Aaykar Seva Kendras (ASKs) were set up under Sevottam as a single window computerized service mechanism for centralized receipt of returns, applications, grievances and distribution of dak in various Income Tax Offices.

Computer Assisted Scrutiny Selection (CASS)

➤ Income Tax Department has been leveraging data analytics and risk assessment for promoting voluntary compliance and deterring tax evasion.

➤ The Department has been implementing Computer Assisted Scrutiny Selection (CASS) for selecting cases for scrutiny (audit). The suggestions received from field formations and the outcome in cases selected in prior years are reviewed by a cross functional committee (including representatives from assessment, investigation, intelligence, international taxation, transfer pricing, risk assessment, systems) to refine the scenarios and parameters.

Non- Filers Monitoring System (NMS)

➤ The Income Tax Department has implemented the Non- Filers Monitoring System (NMS) which assimilates and analyses in-house information as well as transactional data received from third-parties, including Statements of Financial Transaction (SFT), Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) and Tax Collection at Source (TCS) statements, Intelligence and Criminal Investigation (I&CI) data etc., to identify such persons/ entities who have undertaken high value financial transactions but have not filed their returns.

Insight System

➤ An integrated data warehousing and business intelligence platform has been put in place to enable ITD in meeting the three goals namely,

- To promote voluntary compliance and deter noncompliance;
- To impart confidence that all eligible persons pay appropriate tax; and
- To promote fair and judicious tax administration.

Income Tax Business Application

- The Income Tax Business Application (ITBA) project commenced in 2013.
- The objective of ITBA was to e-enable all internal business processes so that officers and staff are able to increase their efficiency by bringing information and work at a single place for decisions making and reduce drudgery in reporting, correspondence and internal approvals.

TDS Reconciliation Analysis and Correction Enabling System (TRACES)

- TRACES is a web-based application of the Income Tax Department that provides an interface to all stakeholders associated with TDS administration.

Going Paperless

- By procuring Digital Signature Certificates for all officers, it is being ensured that any message/letter/notice or order can be composed in the module, converted to PDF format which can be digitally signed by the officer and sent directly to the taxpayer through Email.
- Simultaneously, all papers submitted by taxpayer would be converted to electronic form in ITBA.

NEW INITIATIVES

Transparent Taxation: Honouring the Honest

- A 'Transparent Taxation' platform titled "Honouring the Honest" was launched in 2020.
- The platform comprised faceless assessments, faceless appeals and a taxpayer's charter.
- The reforms are part of the government's attempt to honour 'honest' taxpayers of the country and to make the tax system 'seamless, faceless and painless'.

Taxpayers' Charter

- The taxpayer's charter, provides for responsibilities of the Income-Tax Department towards taxpayers and also lists duties of the taxpayers.

Faceless Appeal Scheme, 2020

- The scheme was launched to eliminate human interface from the system.

Vivad se Vishwas Scheme

- A large number of disputes related to direct taxes are pending at various levels of adjudication from Commissioner (Appeals) level to the Supreme Court. These tax disputes consume a large part of resources both on the part of the government as well as taxpayers and also deprive the government of the timely collection of revenue.
- With these facts in mind, an urgent need was felt to provide for resolution of pending tax disputes which will not only benefi t the government by generating timely revenue but also the taxpayers as it will bring down mounting litigation costs and efforts can be better utilized for expanding business activities.
- Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020 was enacted in 2020 under which the declarations for settling disputes are being fi led. y Depending on the type of the pending dispute, a proportion of the total tax, interest and penalty demanded, needs to be paid under the scheme for settlement.

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Improving the Ease of Doing Business for Start-ups

➤ To provide a cohesive ecosystem to the start-ups, various taxation related issues have been addressed. A dedicated Start-up cell has been constituted under a member of the CBDT for sorting out the grievances and taxation related issues of start-ups.

Document Identification Number (DIN)

➤ With a view to bringing greater transparency in the functioning of the tax-administration and improvement in service delivery, all notices and orders of Income Tax Department are generated electronically on systems with a computer-generated DIN.

➤ Thus, all communications to the taxpayers by any income-tax authority relating to assessment, appeals, orders, statutory or otherwise, exemptions, investigation, penalty, prosecution, rectification, approval shall be issued from October, 2019 onwards with a computer-generated DIN duly quoted in such communication.

Major Citizen Friendly Initiatives Aayakar Sewa Kendra

➤ The setting up of ASKs is a step in this direction. Aayakar Sewa Kendra (ASK) is the single window system for implementation of Citizen's Charter of the Income Tax Department and a mechanism for achieving excellence in public service delivery.

➤ All communications as well as returns received in ASK mandate timely disposal which can be monitored and reviewed at the highest level.

Aayakar Setu

➤ With the objective to enhance taxpayer services and mobile access experience, a mobile app (available on Android/10S platform) and responsive version of the Tax Payer Services (TPS) section at the national website called "Aayakar Setu" was launched.

TDS SMS alert Scheme

➤ CBDT has put in place a mechanism for real-time communication to taxpayers (deductees) about information of TDS deduction/deposit by their respective employers or deductors.

➤ In order to provide better taxpayer services by providing timely and accurate data to the taxpayers, the scheme for SMS alert to the salaried employees on a quarterly basis has been launched.

Publicity Campaigns

➤ For the last many years, the Department has shifted its communication strategy to portray itself, not, as a purely enforcement agency but also as a taxpayer facilitator, service provider and major contributor in nation building.

➤ This strategy has allowed the Department to communicate effectively with the taxpayers acknowledging their contribution in building a secure, progressive and developed nation.

➤ Several publicity campaigns were carried out which included campaigns for awareness of due dates of payment of advance tax, fi ling of returns, fi ling of TDS statements and issuance of TDS certificates, filing of annual information return etc.

Social Media

➤ The Department has stepped into publicity campaigns through social media channels since 2015 as per the approved Social Media policy.

➤ Social Media activities are also being regularly undertaken through the official Twitter account, i.e., #IncomeTaxIndia.

➤ This strategy has allowed the Department to communicate effectively with the taxpayers acknowledging their contribution in building a secure, progressive and developed nation.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

➤ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), (erstwhile Central Board of Excise & Customs) is a part of the Department of Revenue.

➤ It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs, Central Excise Duties, Central Goods & Services Tax and IGST, prevention of smuggling and administration of matters relating to Customs, Central Excise, Central Goods & Services Tax, IGST and Narcotics to the extent under CBIC's purview.

➤ Dispute Settlement and Appeal: The Offi cers of Customs, Excise and Service Tax have powers to adjudicate cases under the Customs Act, 1962, the Central Excise Act, 1944 and Service Tax Laws (Finance Act, 1994).

➤ The appellate machinery comprising the Commissioners (Appeals) deals with appeals against the orders passed by the officers lower in rank than Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise.

International Cooperation on Tax Matters India's Association with OECD

➤ The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an organization of 34- member countries who are signatories to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

➤ Tax issues have always been an important part of OECD's overall activities and are undertaken by the committee on fiscal affairs and its subsidiary bodies. The Indian delegates have been participating in the meetings of working parties and task force in view of the prominent role of OECD in development of international standards in the areas of international taxation, transfer pricing and exchange of information.

Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)

➤ India has been supportive in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries.

➤ The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme has been jointly launched by UNDP and OECD and is intended to support developing countries to strengthen national tax administrations through building audit capacity and to share this knowledge with other countries.

Customs

➤ Indian Customs has always been at the forefront when it comes to adopting cutting edge technology for providing better services in respect of both cargo and passengers. The policy adopted by Customs is directed towards the twin goals of Make in India and AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

➤ The tariff structure has been calibrated so as to achieve furtherance of economic activity and employment generation in the domestic market.

Enterprise Data Warehouse

➤ CBIC is one of the first government departments to have implemented an Enterprise Date Warehouse, a central repository of clean and consistent and near real time data pertaining to Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax.

Directorate of Enforcement

➤ Directorate of Enforcement was (ED) set up at New Delhi in 1956 for enforcement of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947.

➤ FERA, 1947 was later replaced by Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. FERA was a Criminal Act, which provided for fi ling of prosecutions in a court of law, besides adjudication of violations by the Adjudicating Authorities.

➤ FERA was repealed in 2000 and replaced with Foreign Exchange Management Act, (FEMA). Subsequently, the Directorate was also entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

➤ Under the PMLA, the Directorate can initiate investigations only after a Law Enforcement Agency books a case under one of the offences listed in the Schedule to the Act.

Financial Intelligence Unit-India

➤ Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) is the central national agency for receiving, processing, analysing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.

NARCOTICS

Narcotics Control

➤ The Narcotics Control Division administers the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (61 of 1985), which prohibits, except for medical and scientific c purposes, the manufacture, production, possession, sale, purchase, transport, warehouse, use, consumption, import inter- State, export inter-State, import into India, export from India or transshipment of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Central Bureau of Narcotics

➤ The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) headed by the Narcotics Commissioner is headquartered at Gwalior.

➤ The administrative control of the department lies with CBIC while its operational functions are monitored by the Department of Revenue, the nodal department entrusted with the task of policy decisions over control over narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor and essential chemicals used in the manufacture of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS).

Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories

➤ The Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories (GOAF), under the administrative control of the Department of Revenue, are engaged in the processing of raw opium for export purposes and manufacture of opiate alkaloids.

Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal

➤ Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (earlier known as Customs Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal) was formed as a quasi-judicial body to hear appeals from the orders and decisions passed by the Commissioner/ Commissioner (Appeals) of Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax.

➤ The Tribunal is also having appellate jurisdiction on Anti-dumping matters and such matters are heard by special bench headed by the President, CESTAT.

Department of Financial Services

➤ The Department of Financial Services (DFS) is mainly responsible for policy issues relating to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions including their functioning, appointment of Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Offi cers (MD & CEOs), Executive Directors (EDs), Chairman cum Managing Directors (CMDs), legislative matters, international banking relations.

Banking

➤ Banking industry is crucial to the economy of any nation as it channel savings and investments to provide capital for economic growth. In India, banks have played a vital role in financial inclusion of the general population by providing access to basic financial services to unbanked households and formal credit to the agriculture sector and micro-enterprises.

➤ Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are the mainstay of the Indian banking industry. PSBs and PSB-sponsored Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have dominant market presence and constitute 78 per cent of the bank network of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs).

Reserve Bank of India

➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Following India's independence on 15 August 1947, the RBI was nationalized on January 1, 1949.

➤ As the central bank of India, RBI is an independent apex monetary authority which regulates banks and provides important financial services like storing of foreign exchange reserves, control of inflation, and monetary policy report.

➤ It is a member bank of the Asian Clearing Union. The general superintendence and direction of the RBI is entrusted with the 21-member central board of directors which has: the governor; four deputy governors; two finance ministry representatives; ten government-nominated directors to represent important elements of India's economy; and four directors to represent local boards headquartered at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and New Delhi.

National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development

➤ The Government has introduced the National Infrastructure Pipeline, a first of-its-kind exercise with a focus on sectors such as energy, rods, urban infrastructure and railways and covering all projects, Greenfield and brownfield.

➤ Therefore, National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NABFID) has been established as a unique development financial institution exclusively for infrastructure.

Reforms in Banking Sector

➤ As per RBI, reasons for the spurt in stressed assets in India in recent years include, among others, aggressive lending, loan fraud and wilful default in some cases.

➤ To address the problem, in December 2015, the Government implemented a comprehensive 4R's strategy of Recognizing NPAs transparently, Resolution and recovery, Recapitalizing PSBs, and Reforms in the system and PSBs.

Consolidation of Public Sector Banks

➤ The consolidation of PSBs aims at enhancing the efficacy of the banking sector by creating strong and efficient banks.

➤ By leveraging economies of scale and synergies, the amalgamated entities have improved their financial capacity to support economic growth by lending and operational efficiencies through increased thrust on the adoption of technology.

➤ It improved their ability to raise funds from the market: 98 per cent of resources rose from the market by PSBs in Financial Year 2020-21 has been by amalgamated entities.

Digital and data-driven banking

Reforms in PSBs have resulted in led to substantial headway in introducing digital and data-driven banking:

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- ➤ enhancement of access to mobile and Internet banking by PSBs
- ➤ enablement of digital retail loan request initiation through digital channels in all large PSBs
- ➤ Implementation of Government's Jeevan Pramaan initiative for pensioners to enable them to update their annual life certificate online, etc.

e-RUPI

- ➤ The digital payment solution e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment, was launched in 2021 which is going to play a substantial role in making Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) more effective in digital transactions in the country and will give a new dimension to digital governance.

e-DRT Project

- ➤ The e-DRT project to digitize the functioning of all 39 Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and 5 Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRAYS) has been implemented with the support of the National Informatics Center (NIC).
- ➤ The e-DRT project has automated the full cycle of workflow of DRATs and DRTs, which has brought transparency and increased their efficiency. It has enabled the Tribunals to ensure online availability of case-related information.

Doorstep Banking

- ➤ Apart from Digital Banking through Net/Mobile Banking and other electronic channels, PSBs started Doorstep Banking, as a part of Enhanced Access for Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms, in 100 centres to provide the convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App.

Regional Rural Banks

- ➤ The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, to create an alternative channel to the cooperative credit structure and to ensure sufficient institutional credit for the rural and agriculture sector.
- ➤ RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned state government and sponsor banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively.

Agriculture Credit

- ➤ In order to boost the agriculture sector with the help of effective and hassle-free agriculture credit, the government has been fixing annual targets for ground level agriculture credit by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks.

Kisan Credit Card

- ➤ The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998-99, as an innovative credit delivery system aiming at adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible, convenient and cost effective manner.
- ➤ The scheme is being implemented by all cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector commercial banks throughout the country.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

- ➤ The central government established a fund to be operationalised by NABARD, namely, the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), which was set up within NABARD by way of deposits from

Scheduled Commercial Banks operating within the country from the shortfall in their agricultural/ priority sector/weaker sections lending.

➤ The fund has since been continued, with its allocation being announced every year in the Union Budget.

➤ Over the years, coverage under the RIDF has been broad-based, in each tranche, and at present, a wide range of 34 activities are financed under various sectors.

Insurance

➤ Insurance, being an integral part of the financial sector, plays a significant role in India's economy. Apart from protection against mortality, property and casualty risks and providing a safety net for individuals and enterprises in urban and rural areas, this sector encourages savings and provides long-term funds for infrastructure development and other long gestation projects of the country.

Life Insurance Corporation of India

➤ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was established by an Act of Parliament called the Life Insurance. Corporation of India Act, 1956. It is governed by the Insurance Act, 1938, LIC Act, 1956, LIC Regulations, 1959 and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

Social Security Schemes Atal Pension Yojana

➤ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in May 2015, to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.

➤ The APY is focused on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

➤ Any Indian citizen between 18-40 years of age can join through their savings bank account/post office savings account.

➤ Minimum pension is guaranteed by the Government of India to the subscriber at the age of 60 years, with a minimum monthly contribution.

➤ After the subscriber's demise, the spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the same pension amount as that of the subscriber until the death of the spouse.

➤ After the demise of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till age 60 of the subscriber.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

➤ Government announced three ambitious social security schemes pertaining to the insurance and pension sectors, namely Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to move towards creating a universal social security system, targeted especially for the poor and the under-privileged.

➤ PMJJBY is a one-year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage of 2 lakhs for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years (life cover up to 55 years of age) having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.

➤ It involves convenient bank account linked enrolment with implementation in IT mode, and premium payment through auto-debit from the bank account of the subscriber.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

➤ The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a one-year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death/disability due to an accident and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 70 years having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.

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➤ Under the said scheme, risk coverage available will be 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent total disability and 1 lakh for permanent partial disability.

➤ It involves convenient bank account linked enrolment with implementation in IT mode, and premium payment through auto-debit from the bank account of the subscriber.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

➤ With a view to increasing banking penetration and promoting financial inclusion and with the main objective of covering all households with at least one bank account per household across the country, a National Mission on financial inclusion named as (PMJDY) was announced in 2014.

Objectives of PMJDY include:

➤ universal access to banking facilities for all households across the country through a bank branch or a fixed point business correspondent (BC) within a reasonable distance; and

➤ to cover all households with at least one basic bank account with RuPay Debit card having in-built.

National Pension System

➤ With a view to providing adequate retirement income, the National Pension System (NPS) was introduced. It has been made mandatory for all new recruits to the government (except armed forces).

➤ The features of the NPS design are: self-sustainability, portability and scalability. Based on individual choice, it is envisaged as a low cost and efficient pension system backed by sound regulation.

➤ As a pure 'defined contribution' product, returns would be totally market driven. The NPS provides various investment options and choices to individuals to switch over from one option to another or from one fund manager to another, subject to certain regulatory restrictions.

Swavalamban Scheme

➤ To encourage the workers in the unorganised sector to save voluntarily for their old age, an initiative called Swavalamban Scheme was launched in 2010.

➤ It is a co-contributory pension scheme whereby the central government contributes a sum of Rs. 1,000 per annum in each NPS account opened having a saving of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 12,000 per annum.

Rural Housing Fund

➤ The Rural Housing Fund was set up in 2008-09 to enable primary lending institutions to access funds for extending housing finance to targeted groups in rural areas at competitive rates.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

➤ There are a large number of small business units, estimated at around 5.77 crore in the informal sector, running small manufacturing, trading or service businesses, who find it difficult to access formal systems of credit. The loan requirement of these units is generally below Rs. 10 lakh.

➤ Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Limited (MUDRA), is a refinance institution set up by the government for development of micro units by extending funding support to encourage entrepreneurship in India, mostly from non-corporate small business sector.

➤ Under the guidelines of PMMY, MUDRA has launched three innovative products namely Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun, which signifies the stage of growth and funding needs of the micro units or entrepreneur. MUDRA shall refinance through state level institutions, NBFCs, MFIs, regional rural banks, nationalized banks, private banks and other intermediaries.

Credit Guarantee Fund for Skill Development

To guarantee the loans and advances up to 1.5 lakh (term loan) or any other limit as may be decided by the settler, sanctioned and disbursed by the lending institutions without any collateral security and/or third-party guarantees.

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management

➤ The Department of Disinvestment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is one of the departments under the Ministry of Finance.

➤ The mandate of the Department includes all matters related to management of central government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in central Public Sector Undertakings; decisions on the recommendations of administrative ministries, NITI Aayog, etc., for disinvestment including strategic disinvestment; all matters related to Independent External Monitor(s) for disinvestment and public asset management and financial policy in regard to the utilisation of the proceeds of disinvestment channelised into the National Investment Fund.

New Public Sector Enterprise Policy

➤ The New Public Sector Enterprise Policy (PSE) was designed to discover true economic potential of entities in the hands of private investors.

➤ Under the new PSE policy, the public sector commercial enterprises have been classified as strategic and non-strategic sectors.

➤ Strategic sectors delineated are based on the criteria of national security, energy security, and critical infrastructure, provision of financial services and availability of important minerals.

➤ The 4 broad strategic sectors have been proposed as—atomic energy, space and defence; transport and telecommunication; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial Services.

Framework for Asset Monetisation

➤ An institutional framework for monetisation of non-core assets, led by DIPAM was also approved in 2019.

➤ The framework covers monetisation of identifi ed non-core assets of CPSEs under strategic disinvestment, immovable enemy property under the custody of Custodian of Enemy Property (CEP1), MHA.

Bharat Bond

➤ Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) was launched in 2019 which was the first instrument of its kind based on high-quality public-sector bonds. The second tranch was launched in 2020. The two tranches received huge response from all sections of investors especially retail investors.

National Investment Fund

➤ Government constituted the National Investment Fund (NIF) into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelised.

➤ The corpus of NIF was to be of a permanent nature and NIF was to be professionally managed to provide sustainable returns to the government, without depleting the corpus.

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Corporate Affairs

➤ The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** is primarily concerned with administration of the **Companies Act, 2013, the Companies Act, 1956, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008** and **other allied Acts** and rules and regulations framed thereunder mainly for regulating the functioning of the corporate sector.

➤ The Ministry is also responsible for administering the Competition Act, 2002, to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers through the Commission set up under the Act.

Central Registration Centre

➤ The project to transform the processing of company incorporation, e-form was undertaken with one clear objective, i.e., applications for name reservation and incorporation of a company could be processed and completed within D+1 days (D=Date of Payment Confirmation) in line with global best practices.

➤ The time taken for processing company incorporation applications has been reduced drastically to 1-2 days for incorporation of companies.

Ease of Doing Business

As part of Government of India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiatives, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notifi ed and deployed a new Web Form christened 'SPICe+' (pronounced 'SPICePIus')

SPICe+ is an integrated Web Form having two parts:

➤ Part A- for name reservation for new companies

➤ Part B - offering a bouquet of services, viz.-

- Incorporation

- Director Identification Number (DIN) allotment

- Mandatory issue of PAN

- Mandatory issue of TAN

- Mandatory issue of EPFO registration

- Mandatory issue of ESIC registration

- Mandatory issue of Profession Tax registration (Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal)

- Mandatory Opening of Bank Account for the Company and

- Allotment of GSTIN (if so applied for).

- A new and user-friendly Dashboard on the Front Office has been created for company incorporation application (SPICe+ and linked forms as applicable).

Central Scrutiny Centre

➤ Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) was launched in 2021. CSC will scrutinize the **STP (Straight Through Process) forms** to check for any deficiency.

Companies Act, 2013

➤ The **Companies Act, 2013 (the Act)** was enacted to consolidate and amend the laws relating to companies.

➤ The Act introduced significant changes related to disclosures to stakeholders, accountability of directors, auditors and key managerial personnel, investor protection and corporate governance.

➤ The quasi-judicial bodies, viz., **National Company Law Tribunal and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal** have also been constituted under the Act to discharge various functions.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

➤ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) was enacted with the objective to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

➤ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBM) was established in 2016.

➤ The IBBI has the mandate for regulation of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities besides exercising other powers and functions as envisaged under the Code.

National Company Law Tribunal

➤ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) were constituted for faster resolution of corporate disputes and reducing the multiplicity of agencies, thereby promoting 'ease of doing business' in the country.

➤ NCLT has replaced the erstwhile Company Law Board (CLB), the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR).

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

➤ The NCLAT has been established to hear the appeals against the orders of NCLT under the Companies Act.

Corporate Social Responsibility

➤ The provisions related to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the first time was incorporated in the Companies Act, 2013 (the 'Act') and it came into effect from April 2014.

Limited Liability Partnerships

➤ LLP is a form of business entity, which allows individual partners to be protected from the joint and several liabilities of partners in a partnership fi rm.

➤ The liability of partners incurred in the normal course of business does not extend to the personal assets of the partners.

➤ It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name. An LLP would be able to fulfill the compliance norms with much greater ease, coupled with limitation of liability.

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➤ In India, about 95 per cent of industrial units are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). As per the survey conducted by MSME, over 90 per cent of these are registered as proprietorships, about 2 to 3 per cent as partnerships and less than 2 per cent as companies.

Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Act, 2021

➤ The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Act, 2021 became functional since August, 2021.

➤ This Act seeks to amend the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. This Act converts certain offences into civil defaults and changes the nature of punishment for these offences.

➤ It also defines small LLP, provides for appointment of certain adjudicating officers, and establishment of special courts.

e-Governance Project

➤ The Ministry operated an end-to-end e-governance project called MCA21 for end-to-end service delivery comprising Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships with registration, incorporation, registry and other compliance related services.

➤ The project was started on the Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model with the vision "to introduce a service-oriented approach in the design and delivery of Government services".

➤ LLP Module was launched in March, 2022 to cater to compliance related to LLP Act, 2008. This module was rolled out with significant changes in the filing system for the MCA21 portal.

➤ A new and improved login system was launched for the filing of forms. All the forms were made web-based that allowed real time data validation and prefills.

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

➤ Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) has been established with the objective of promoting Investor Education, Awareness and Protection.

➤ The fund is maintained under Consolidated Fund of India.

National Financial Reporting Authority

➤ National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) was constituted as a statutory body under Section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013 to protect the public interest and the interests of investors, creditors and others associated with the companies or bodies corporate.

➤ The need for establishing NFRA arose on account of the need felt across various jurisdictions in the world, in the wake of accounting scams, to establish independent regulators.

Indian Corporate Law Service

➤ Ministry of Corporate Affairs is the cadre controlling authority of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS).

Serious Fraud Investigation Office

➤ The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SF10) was set up in 2003. The Companies Act, 2013, inter alia, has accorded statutory status to SFIO and its functions and powers have been enhanced substantially with number of enabling provisions in the Act.

➤ The main function of The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) is to investigate corporate frauds of Serious and complex nature.

➤ Investigations are carried out by multi-disciplinary teams which include experts from the field of accountancy, forensic auditing, taxation, customs and central excise, information technology, capital market, financial transaction (including banking) and enforcement agencies like Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Enforcement Directorate.

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

➤ The Ministry set up the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) serves as a 'Holistic ThinkTank', and a 'Capacity Building, Service Delivery Institution' to help corporate growth, reforms through synergized knowledge management, partnerships and problem solving in a one-stop-shop mode.

➤ Acting as an agent to Government, the IICA organises the competition to select National CSR Award winners; and registers Independent Directors and enables their capacity-building using digital means with remote proctoring.

Competition Commission of India

➤ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established with the objective of eliminating practices having an adverse effect on competition, promoting and sustaining competition, protecting the interest of consumers and ensuring freedom of trade in India.

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Commerce

INTRODUCTION

- The Department of Commerce under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** is working to make India a major player in the world goods and service trade.

- **Objective:** to achieve a sustainable current account balance and thereby enable India to assume a leadership role in international trade organizations, commensurate with its growing economic and strategic importance.

To implement the above objective, the government is taking holistic measures such as:

- Ensuring access to affordable credit

- Implementing export friendly scheme

- Promoting districts as exports hub

- Improving utilization for Free Trade Agreement

Department of Commerce

- The Department of Commerce comes under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.

- The mandate of the Department of Commerce is

  - regulation and development of India's international trade and commerce

  - Implementation and monitoring of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)

Trade Performance

- **Global trade:** India's global trade (sum of merchandise and services exports and imports) reached USD 1436.59 billion in FY 2021-22.

- **Overall exports:** India's overall exports (merchandise and services combined) during the period were USD 676.53 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 35.88 per cent over the same period last year.

  - Merchandise exports; India's merchandise exports saw a consistent growth to reach a new peak of over USD 422 billion in FY 2021-22.

- **Overall imports:** Overall imports (merchandise and services combined) in 2021-22 were USD 760.06 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 48.46 per cent over the same period last year.

- **FDI Flow:** India recorded highest ever FDI inflow of USD 84.86 billion in 2021-22.

Merchandise Exports

- According to **WTO World Trade Statistical Review 2021**, in 2020, India ranked 21st in the **leading exporter of merchandise trade** in the world with a share of **1.6 per cent.**

➤ In FY 2021-22, India's total merchandise exports were USD 422 billion.

➤ Cumulative value of exports for the period April-August2022 was USD 193.51 billion as against USD 164.44 billion during the period April-August 2021.

Major product categories and their share in export basket in FY 2021-22 are	Major export destinations and their share are
◉ petroleum products (15.99 per cent) ◉ pearl, precious and semi-precious stones (6.56 per cent) ◉ iron and steel (5.43 per cent) ◉ drug formulations ◉ biological (4.5 per cent) ◉ gold and other precious metal jewellery (2.62 per cent)	◉ USA (18.05 per cent) ◉ UAE (6.65 per cent) ◉ China (5.04 per cent) ◉ Bangladesh (3.83 per cent) ◉ Netherlands (2.97 per cent)

Merchandise Imports

➤ According to WTO World Trade Statistical Review 2021, in 2020, India ranked 14th in the leading importer of merchandise trade in the world with a share of 2.1 per cent.

➤ During the FY 2021-22, India's merchandise imports were valued at USD 613.05 billion.

➤ Imports as a percentage of GDP have fallen from 18.1 per cent in FY 2015-16 to 14.8 per cent till FY 2020-21 and increased to 19.3 percent in FY 2021-22.

➤ Cumulative value of imports for the period April-August 2022 was USD 318.03 billion as against USD 218.22 billion during the period April-August 2021,

Top 5 import categories in terms of share in India's import basket in FY 2021-22 are:	The major import sources in 2021-22 were
◉ petroleum: crude (19.97 per cent) ◉ gold (7.53 per cent) ◉ petroleum products (6.42 per cent) ◉ coal, coke and briquettes (5.17 per cent) ◉ pearls, precious and semi-precious stones (5.06 per cent)	◉ China (15.43 per cent) ◉ UAE (7.31 per cent) ◉ USA (7.07 per cent) ◉ Saudi Arabia (5.56 per cent) ◉ Iraq (5.21 per cent)

Services Trade

GVA is the output of the countrylesstheintermediate consumption, which is the difference between gross output and net output.

➤ According to the WTO World Trade Statistical Review 2021, in 2020, India ranked 7 in leading exporters of commercial services with a share of 4.1 per cent and ranked 10th in leading importer of commercial services with a share of 3.3 per cent.

➤ **Contribution to Gross Valued Added (GVA):** 52.66%

➤ **Contribution to total exports in 2021-2022:** 37.62%

Trade Balance

A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports during a given time period.

➤ Taking merchandise and services together, overall **trade deficit** was USD 83.53 billion in FY 2021-22 as compared to USD 14.06 billion during the previous financial year.

Export Target

➤ The Department of Commerce set an ambitious target of USD 400 billion of merchandise exports for the year 2021-22.

Global Perspective

➤ According to the World Economic Outlook, July 2022 update, a tentative recovery in 2021 has been followed by increasingly gloomy developments in 2022.

➤ As per World Economic Outlook, April 2022 update, reflecting the significant slowdown in overall activity, global trade growth is expected to decline notably in 2022.

➤ **Expansion:** After a 6.1 percent growth in 2021, the global economy is expected to expand 2.9 percent in 2023.

➤ **Decline:** Overall, global trade growth is expected to slow from an estimated 10.1 percent in 2021 to 4.4% in 2023.

Foreign Trade Policy

➤ The FTP for 2015-20, announced in April 2015, provided a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country, in keeping with the "Make in India" vision of the country.

FTP 2023:

⊙ The government recently unveiled a **new Foreign Trade Policy 2023** to almost triple India's goods and services exports **to 2 trillion dollars** by 2030, from an estimated **760 billion dollars** in 2022-23.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade

➤ Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade.

➤ SINCE 1991, this organisation has been essentially involved in the regulation and promotion of foreign trade through regulation and has been assigned the role of facilitator.

➤ Keeping in line with liberalisation and globalisation, and the overall objective of increasing of exports, DGFT has since been assigned the role of "facilitator".

Towards Digitized Trade

➤ Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) launched a **'Common Digital Platform'**, a single point access for certificates of origin for all FTAs/PTAs for all agencies and all products.

Initiatives promoting digital trade

⊙ Digital India programme

⊙ e-commerce policy

⊙ National Logistics Policy

Capacity Building

➤ In the last few years, several entrepreneurs have been trained under the **Niryat Bandhu programme** implemented by **DGFT**, thus complementing the **Startup India and Skill India initiatives.**

Major Schemes for Export Promotion

➤ **Developing District as Export Hub:** Implemented through Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the initiative aims to accelerate exports, where critical stakeholders are states and districts.

- **Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme:** Under this scheme capital goods (except those specified in negative list) for pre-production, production and post-production can be imported at zero customs duty, and subject to fulfillment of specific export obligations equivalent to 6 times of duties, taxes and cess saved on capital goods, to be fulfilled in 6 years from date of issue of authorization.

- **Interest Equalisation Scheme:** The Scheme was formulated to give the benefit in the interest rates being charged by the banks to the exporters on their pre and post shipment rupee export credits. The Scheme is effective from 2015 and was initially valid for 5 years up to 2020. Currently the scheme has been extended till March, 2024. While extending the scheme, from October, 2021 onwards, subvention rates have been reduced.

- **Advance Authorisation Schemes:** The Scheme allows duty free import of inputs, which are physically incorporated in an export product. In addition to any inputs, packaging material, fuel, oil, catalyst which is consumed/utilised in the process of production of export product, is also to be allowed.

- **Special Economic Zone Scheme:** There are 262 operational SEZs in India of which the success story of Kandla is of special mention in the backdrop of Covid-19.

- **Niryat Bandhu Scheme:** The Niryat Bandhu Scheme was started in 2013 and training programmes are being implemented in in-person and online mode to cater to the initial skilling needs of new individuals/firms who plan to enter international trade.

- **Remission of Duties and Taxes:** Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products, (RoDTEP) for re-imbursement of currently un-refunded central, state and local taxes and duties incurred in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products has been functional from January 2021.

- **Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme:** The scheme provides financial assistance for setting up and up-gradation of infrastructure projects with overwhelming export linkages like the border haats, land customs stations, quality testing and certification labs for exports, trade promotion centres, etc.

- Government assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid up to the matching equity being put in by the implementing agency in the total project cost (not more than 50 per cent of the total equity for states/UTs other than the North Eastern and Himalayan states/UTs and up to 80 per cent of the total equity for projects located in North Eastern and Himalayan states /UTs).

- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Scheme:** GeM's approach is underlined by a commitment to its three pillars: transparency, efficiency (with the attendant cost-savings), and inclusiveness.

- **India's engagement in Free Trade Agreements:** India views Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) as 'building blocks' towards the overall objective of trade liberalization as well as complementing the multilateral trading system. India has concluded 13 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs).

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Industry

INTRODUCTION

➤ **Department of Commerce**, established in 1995 and re-established in 2000, comes under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.**

➤ The mandate of the Department of Commerce is regulation and development of India's international trade and commerce.

➤ The Department formulates implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP).

Supplementary roles of DPIIT

➤ The mandate for integrated development of Logistics Sector has been allocated to DPIIT in November, 2021.

➤ The Department handles matters related to PM Gati shakti Master Plan to integrate all the multimodal connectivity projects.

Gatishakti National Master Plan

➤ PM GatiShakti launched in 2021 as a response to improve logistics efficiency, reduce logistics cost, break interdepartmental silos which rests on the premise of a "whole of government approach".

➤ PM GatiShakti has broadly two components:

• The development of GIS based technology platform called National Master Plan

• the administrative arrangement to integrate efforts of various line ministries/departments for development of multi modal infrastructure

Institutional Framework

➤ An Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGo5) under the Cabinet Secretary has been constituted to oversee the implementation of PM GatiShakti.

➤ An integrated Multimodal Network Planning Group (NPG) has been operationalized with representation from various connectivity infrastructure ministries/departments.

➤ To implement PM GatiShakti at federal level, each state has replicated the institutional mechanism of the programme.

National Master Plan

➤ National Master Plan (NMP) portal contain details of existing infrastructure, logistics facilities, planned / proposed projects and identifies critical infrastructure gaps.

National Logistics Policy

➤ Launched in September, 2022 National Logistics Policy complements the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the Policy is envisaged to bring efficiency in logistics services, and human resources through streamlining processes, regulatory framework, skill development.

➤ Vision: To develop a technologically enabled, integrated, cost-efficient, resilient, sustainable and trusted logistics ecosystem for accelerated and inclusive growth.

Logistics Ease

Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) was conceptualized in 2018 to assess logistics efficiency across states / UTs.

Prime objectives: to rank states / UTs based on:

➤ logistics ecosystem performance

➤ facilitate stakeholder interactions

➤ plan on action points

Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)

➤ An initiative that aims to bring ease of doing business in the logistics sector by simplifying the logistics processes.

➤ The ULIP platform will enable the industry players to get secure access to the information related to logistics and resources available with various ministries.

National Manufacturing Policy

➤ **Objective of the policy:** enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade.

➤ The Policy is based on the principle of industrial growth in partnership with the states.

➤ **Framework:** Central government will create the enabling policy framework; provide incentives for infrastructure development on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis; and state governments will be encouraged to adopt the instrumentalities provided in it.

➤ **National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs):** have been conceived as large integrated industrial townships with state-of-the-art infrastructure to provide a conducive environment for manufacturing industries.

Manufacturing Clusters

➤ **Objective:** To bring about convergence in the multiple models of development of industrial clusters so as to affect better cost efficiency and optimal utilization of resources.

➤ DPIIT had developed a web-portal (Industrial Information System) in open source software to capture information of all industrial clusters/zones/nodes/parks in existence and those which are in pipeline.

Foreign Direct Investment Policy

➤ DPIIT is the nodal department for formulation of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). It is also responsible for maintenance and management of data on inward FDI into India.

➤ The Department is a single point interface of the government to facilitate investors for FDI through approval route.

➤ With a view to attract higher levels of FDI, **up to 100 per cent FDI** is permitted under the **automatic route** in most sectors/activities.

GSSCORE

➤ Cases pertaining to issue of shares against capital goods/ machinary/pre-operative and pre-incorporation expenses are also processed by the DPIIT.

Investment Promotion

➤ DPIIT plays an active role in investment promotion and facilitation through dissemination of information on investment climate and opportunities within the country and by advising prospective investors about investment policies and procedures and opportunities.

Make in India

➤ Launched in 2014 to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best in class infrastructure, and make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation.

➤ It is one of the unique **'Vocal for Local'** initiatives that promoted India's manufacturing domain to the world. "Make in India" presently focuses on 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0.

Invest India

➤ Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency and acts as **the first point of reference for investors**. It is transforming the country's investment climate by simplifying the business environment for investors.

➤ Set up as a joint venture (not for profit) company between the erstwhile Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, now DPIIT. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), CII, NASSCOM and various state governments.

National Single Window System

➤ Launched in 2021, envisioned as a one-stop for taking all the regulatory approvals and services in the country.

➤ The portal integrates the existing clearance systems of various ministries / departments of Government of India and state governments without disruption to their existing IT portals.

One District One Product

➤ ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative of the DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.

➤ **Objective:** to convert each district into a manufacturing and Export Hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.

➤ ODOP is taking us to the goal of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by realizing the true potential of a district, fueling economic growth, generating employment and rural entrepreneurship.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

➤ To enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and export, an outlay of Z 1.97 lakh crore has been announced in Union Budget 2021-22 for P11 Schemes for 13 key sectors during the tenure of the PLI Schemes starting from fiscal year (FY) 2021-22.

Industrial Park Rating System

➤ This exercise is being undertaken by DPIIT, Invest India and ADB which aims at recognizing best performing parks, identifying interventions and serving as a decision support system for investors and policy makers.

➤ DPIIT developed 'Industrial Park Rating System 2.0' that widened its coverage and aimed to bring in qualitative assessment further.

Public Procurement

➤ The Public Procurement was issued as an enabling provision to promote domestic value addition in public procurement.

Industrial Policy

DPIIT is working towards preparing a Statement on Industrial Policy, 2022 to provide an enabling framework to address issues and formulate policy objectives for promoting manufacturing and industrial development in the country.

The objectives indicated are

➤ focus on competitiveness and capability,

➤ economic integration and moving up the global value chain,

➤ Promoting India as an attractive investment destination in the world,

➤ nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship — knowledge— economy,

➤ achieving global scale, standards and competitiveness in products and services,

➤ Promoting circular and sustainable economy.

Startup India

Ushered in 2016, the initiative aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation by creating an ecosystem conducive to startup growth.

Fund of Funds for Startup Scheme

➤ The objectives of the scheme is accelerating innovation-driven entrepreneurship and mobilising larger equity-like resources for startups.

➤ FFS does not directly invest in startups, but instead provides capital to SEBI-registered **Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs)** who in turn invest money in growing Indian startups through equity and equity-linked instruments.

➤ DPI IT established Fund of Funds (FFS) with a corpus of INR 10,000 crore, to meet the funding needs of startups.

Seed Fund Scheme

DPIIT also created Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) with an outlay of INR 945 crore to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups

➤ DPIIT notified Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) for providing credit guarantees to loans extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternative Investment Funds (AlFs).

➤ It is aimed at providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers.

Startup India Portal

➤ It is a single platform for Startups and stakeholders from startup ecosystem to network and exchange knowledge.

➤ The portal also provides an opportunity for Startups and stakeholders to participate in various innovation challenges and programs.

Income Tax Exemptions

➤ Income Tax Act provides for a deduction of an amount equal to 100 per cent of the profits and gains derived from an eligible business by an eligible startup for 3 consecutive assessment years out of 10 years, at the option of the assesse, subject to certain conditions.

➤ Startups incorporated on or after 2016 but before April 2023 can apply for income tax exemption. To avail these benefits, a Startup must get a Certificate of Eligibility from the Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB).

National Startup Awards (NSA)

An initiative to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers from various sectors and sub sectors.

➤ **International Access:** To help connect Indian startup ecosystem to global startup ecosystems, various engagement models have been launched.

➤ **Other Outreach Activities:** Various programmes were launched to handhold startups and provide them with various networking, pitching and market access opportunities. Some of such programmes are: are Startup India Innovation Week, Startup India Yatra, States Ranking Framework etc.

Ease of Doing Business

➤ DPIIT is spearheading the exercise for improving overall business regulatory environment in the country.

➤ The Department has, since 2014, aimed at creating a conducive business environment by streamlining the existing regulations and processes.

Reducing Compliance Burden

➤ The objective of this exercise is to improve ease of doing business and ease of living by simplifying, rationalizing, digitizing and decriminalizing government to business and citizen interfaces across ministries / states / UTs.

➤ DPIIT is the nodal department for coordination with ministries and states / UTs to reduce compliance burden on citizen and business activities.

Research Parks

➤ Research Parks are being established at IIT Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Kharagpur, 11Sc Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Delhi and Bombay to propel successful innovation through incubation and joint R&D efforts between academia and industry.

Promoting Startups in Biotechnology

➤ With the aim to foster and facilitate Bio-entrepreneurship, Bio-clusters, Bio Incubators, Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) and Bio-Connect offices are being established.

➤ **Seed fund** and **Equity Funding support** is also provided to Bio-tech Startups under the initiative.

➤ **Mobile App and Startup India Portal**

➤ Startup India web portal and mobile app has been developed and operationalized since 2016.

> A digital extension to Startup India Hub, an intelligent online hub was operationalized in 2017 which will serve as a platform where all the stakeholders of the startup ecosystem can collaborate and synergize their efforts.

Startup India Hub

➤ Startup India Hub was operationalized in 2016 to resolve queries and handhold startups.

Project Monitoring - Invest India Cell

➤ It is an institutional mechanism for resolving of issues and fast-tracking the setting up and expeditious commissioning of large public, private and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects. Any investor having issues or is likely to delay the execution of a project of estimated value of 1,000 crore and above (now this threshold has been reduced to 500 crore) can raise them on the portal before PMIC.

Intellectual Property Rights

➤ DPIIT is the nodal department for administration of various laws related to Intellectual Property Rights: patents; trademarks; industrial designs; geographical Indications of goods; copyrights; and semiconductor integrated circuit layout designs.

➤ The Department is also the nodal department for vetting of MoUs for the Cabinet, etc., entered into by various ministries/departments of the Government of India from IPR angle, as also international negotiations on IPRs.

➤ It also is the nodal department for dealing with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

➤ The **Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB),** established in 2003, is the appellate tribunal to heat appeals against decisions of the Controller of Patents as also Registrar of Trade Marks and Geographical Indications.

National IPR Policy

➤ It is a vision document that aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies.

➤ The Policy recognizes that India has a 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.

Open Network for Digital Commerce

➤ An initiative by DPIIT aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.

Productivity and Quality

➤ DPIIT is the nodal department for the promotion of productivity and quality in the industrial sector.

➤ NPC undertakes productivity augmentation through domain specific consultancy; training; workshops; seminars and conferences to government; public and private sectors; productivity related research; monitoring and evaluation of various government schemes.

➤ The National Productivity Council (NPC) represents India in the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), of which India is a founder member.

National institute of Designs

➤ Based on the recommendations made in the 'India Report' in 1958, the first National Institute of Design was established at Ahmadabad in the State of Gujarat.

➤ National Institute of Designs (NIDs) are internationally acclaimed as one of the foremost multi-disciplinary institutions in the field of design education and research. These institutes function as autonomous body under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

National Design Policy

➤ The National Design Policy was approved in 2007.

➤ A **Design Clinic Scheme** project is being implemented by NID across the country which is intended to improve the manufacturing competency of the MSMEs through design intervention to their products and services and to provide them design edge in the global market and hence supports the Make in India programme.

Industrial/Economic corridors

➤ Industrial Corridor Projects as part of National Industrial Corridor Programme is aimed at development of futuristic industrial cities in the country which can compete with the best in the world.

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

➤ Launched in pursuance of MoU signed between the Government of India and the Government of Japan in 2006.

➤ The DMIC is being developed on either side, along the alignment of the 1,504 km long Western Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor between Dadri (UP) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai.

Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor

➤ Proposes to address the infrastructure bottlenecks through a holistic approach while benefitting from the inherent strengths and competitiveness.

Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor

➤ Intended to facilitate development of a well-planned and resource-efficient industrial base served by world-class sustainable connectivity infrastructure, bringing significant benefits.

Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor

➤ To boost to industrial development in the states of northern and eastern India, the government is commencing work on creating an Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC).

➤ It will be structured around the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) as the backbone and also the highway system that exists in this route.

Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor

➤ A key part of the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), India's first coastal corridor. VCIC is aligned with the **Golden Quadrilateral** and is poised to play a critical role in driving **India's Act East Policy**.

National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust

In view of the success and importance of DMIC project, four more industrial corridors were approved, namely,

- Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC)
- Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC),
- Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and
- East Coast Economic corridor with Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor

It has been expanded and re-designated as National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

Industrial Performance

- Index of Industrial Production (HP) measures performance of the industrial production in manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors.
- During 2021 (April-July 2021) IIP registered growth of 34.1 per cent over the corresponding period in the previous year.
- During April to July 2021 against the corresponding period last year all three sectors grew by:
  - Mining- 25.3%
  - Manufacturing- 39.0%
  - Electricity - 15.2%
- During 2022-23 (Apr-July 2022) IIP registered growth of 10.0 per cent over the corresponding period in the previous year.
- During April to July 2022 against the corresponding period last year all three sectors grew by:
  - Mining-6.1%
  - Manufacturing-10.2%
  - Electricity-13.2%

Performance of Eight Core Industries

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) monitors production of eight core industries i.e., coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity in every month.
- These eight industries have combined weight of around 40.27 per cent in Index of Industrial Production (HP).

Fluctuations in growth of eight core industries:

- 2017-18 to 2019-20 – Average growth of 3.03%
- 2020-21 - decline in growth of 6.4 per cent (due to Covid-19 pandemic).
- 2021-22 – Growth of 10.4%

Leather Industry: The export of leather and leather products from the country has increased substantially as a result of government's policy to encourage export of value added leather products. **Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP)** aims at augmenting raw material base through modernization and technology upgradation of leather units, addressing environmental concerns, human resource development, supporting traditional leather artisans.

Cement Industry: Price and distribution control of cement has been removed since 1989 and cement industry was de-licensed in 1991 under Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. Since then, this industry has progressed well both in capacity/production and in process technology. Different varieties of cement are produced as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications and its quality is comparable with the best in the world. **Cement cannot be sold in the country without BIS mark.**

Ceramic Industry: India continues to rank No. 3 in terms of production and consumption of tiles in the world after China and Brazil. The industry gives direct and indirect employment to over 2 lakh people.

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Tyre & Tubes Industry: India is one of the few countries worldwide which has attained self-sufficiency in manufacturing a wide range of tyres for all applications. With the objective of ensuring the safety of human lives and vehicles and also availability of quality products, a Quality (Control) Order for Pneumatic Tyres and Tubes for Automotive Vehicles was notified by the Department in 2009. This prohibits import, sale or distribution of pneumatic tyres and tubes which do not conform to the specified Bureau of Indian Standards and which do not bear the standard mark.

Rubber Goods Industry: The rubber goods industry excluding tyre and tubes consists of 4,550 small and tiny units generating about 5.50 Iakhs direct jobs. The main raw materials used by the rubber goods manufacturing industry are natural rubber, various types of synthetic rubber, carbon black, rubber chemicals, etc.

Cigarette Industry: The cigarette industry is an agro-based labour intensive industry. Cigarette, included in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development & Regulations) Act, 1951, requires industrial license.

Paints & Allied Products: exempted from compulsory licensing, mainly consists of paints, enamels, varnishes, pigments, printing inks, etc.

Soaps and Detergents Industry: Soaps and detergents are **not licensable** and are manufactured both in the small-scale and organised sector.

Glass Industry: Glass industry comes under the category of delicensed. There has been growing acceptability of the Indian flat glass products in the global market.

Paper Industry: India rules as one of the fastest growing paper markets in the world.

- The growing knowledge base coupled with synergistic contributions from flagship schemes, namely, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Inclusive Education for the Disabled at Secondary School (IEDSS), adult education, Right to Education and central government scholarship and education loan scheme, assured a robust demand for paper and paper board.

- The industry was delicenced in July 1997.

- As per the present policy, **FDI up to 100 per cent** is allowed on the automatic route for the pulp and paper sector.

Paper & Paperboard Segment: Indigenous Paper and Paperboard segment produces all the main varieties of paper that are in demand in the market, viz., writing and printing (23 per cent), packaging grade paper (71 per cent), newsprint (3 per cent) and speciality paper (4 per cent). However, certain speciality paper such as coated paper, security papers and cheque paper, etc., are being imported in the country.

Newsprint: The Newsprint sector in the country is governed by the Newsprint Control Order (NCO), 2004. The mills listed under the schedule of this order are exempt from excise duty, subject to actual user condition. **Nearly half of the newsprint demand in the country is met by imports**.

Salt Industry: India continues to hold **third position** in the production of salt in the world after China and USA and is the second largest producer of iodized salt, next to China.

Transmission Towers: Transmission Towers support high voltage transmission lines which carry electricity over long distance. These lines typically feed into sub-station so that the electrical voltage can be reduced to a level that can subsequently be used by the customers.

Explosives: There are 50 explosive manufacturing plants and 168 mixed explosive plants in the medium and small scale sector.

Light Electrical Industry Sector: It includes goods like electrical wires and cables, transmission tower, cranes, lifts and escalators, refrigerators, washing machine, air conditioners, storage batteries, dry cell batteries, electrical lamps and tubes etc.

Electrical Wires and Cables: One of the earliest industries established in the country. Component includes communication cables such as jelly filled telephone cables, optic fibre cables, local area network cables, switchboard cables, co-axial cables, VSAT cables, electrical cables such as electrical wires, winding wires, automotive/battery cables, UPS cables, flexible 4 wires, low voltage power cables and EHT power cables.

Lifts and Escalators: A wide range of lifts and escalators are manufactured in India. These include single speed, double speed, gearless, hydraulic, servo and Variable Voltage Variable Frequency (VVVF) elevators.

Refrigerators: In India, refrigerators have the highest aspiration value of all consumer durables with the exception of television. There are two basic designs adopted in refrigerators presently being manufactured in the country. These are commonly referred to as Direct Cool (DC) and Frost Free (FF).

Washing Machines: The washing machine market in the country can be divided into semi-automatic and fully-automatic. Controls are changing from purely mechanical to fully electronic as micro-controllers are incorporated into the designs.

Air Conditioners: The air-conditioners' market can be classified into three segments: window AC, split AC and central AC. **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body** under the Ministry of Power has introduced energy efficiency based star rating for air conditioners to help consumers buy the best energy efficient products.

Lead Acid Storage Batteries: Lead acid batteries are accumulators of current and power which is discharged over a period of time. The average life of the battery is approximately 2 years; hence these batteries will be needed as replacement throughout the life of the vehicle or the machinery in use.

In order to ensure safe disposal of lead acid batteries, Ministry of Environment and Forests (now Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) has issued a notification Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Dry Cell Batteries: These are the oldest type of batteries which are still being used. New types of dry cell batteries with longer shelf life and greater dependability and also rechargeable cells have come up. Nickel cadmium batteries and other rechargeable batteries are manufactured in the country to meet the requirement of defence, telecommunications and electronics.

Electrical Lamps and Tubes: The higher energy cost has led to the development of energy efficient lamps consuming less power and giving output as close to daylight.

➤ Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) which consume about 20 per cent of the electricity for the same light output and last up to 8 times longer than the GLS, are getting more popular.

➤ LEDs have a great potential to provide highly efficient lighting with little environmental pollution in comparison to the incandescent lamps (ICLs) and fluorescent lamps (FTLs, CFLs).

➤ Penetration of LEDs in India could significantly reduce lighting load as almost 22-25 per cent of electricity is consumed for lighting, which is also a major contributing factor of peak demand.

Light Engineering Industry Sector: This industry includes mother of all industries like castings and forgings to the highly sophisticated micro-processor based process control equipment and diagnostic medical instruments.

Roller Bearing Industry: The indigenous manufacturers are manufacturing bearings of quality and precision at par with world renowned manufacturers yet they are still being imported.

Ferrous Castings: The salient feature of the industry is its geographical clustering. Typically, each foundry cluster is known for catering to some specific end use markets. For example, the Coimbatore cluster is famous for pump sets castings, the Kolhapur and Belgaum for automotive castings.

Process Control Instrument Industry: This industry is a key industry which provides tools for automation. They are used for measurement and control of process variables like pressure, temperature, humidity, liquid level, flow, specific gravity, chemical composition including pH and many forms of spectrometry and spectrophotometry.

Seamless Steel Pipes and Tubes: The wide size range makes them suitable for use in number of versatile area of application. Oil sector accounts for around 60 per cent of the total requirement of seamless pipes. Bearings and boiler sector contribute around 30 per cent of demand.

Electrical Resistance Welded (ERW) Steel Pipes and Tubes: High performance ERW steel pipes and tubes possess high corrosion resistance, high deformability, high strength and high toughness.

Submerged-Arc Welded (SAW) Pipes: There are two types of SAW pipes namely longitudinal and helical welded SAW pipes. There is a huge demand of SAW pipes in the country due to transportation of oil and gas and transmission of water.

Industrial Fasteners: Can be classified into two segments: **high tensile and mild steel fasteners**. These broadly include nuts, bolts, studs, rivets and screws. Mild steel fasteners are primarily manufactured by the unorganised sector while high tensile fasteners requiring superior technology are dominated by companies in the organised sector.

Steel Forgings: Forgings are intermediate products used widely by original equipment manufacturers in the production of durable goods. The composition of the Indian forging industry can be categorised into four sectors large, medium, small and tiny. A major portion of this industry is made up of small and medium units/enterprises (SMEs).

Bicycle Industry: India is the second largest bicycle producer of the world, next only to China. Most of the manufacturing units are located in Punjab and Tamil Nadu. The industry is making an endeavor for enhancing export.

Food Processing Machinery: Steadily fueled by strong domestic demand for processed food and beverage products spurred by increase in income level, increasing number of women joining the workforce, rapid urbanisation, changing lifestyle and mass media promotion.

Packaging Machinery Industry: Developments in packaging technology have not only contributed to improving the aesthetic appeal of the products but also the shelf life.

Water Pollution Control Equipment: The various categories of water pollution control equipment broadly include wastewater treatment plants, drinking water treatment plants and effluent treatment plants. Due to growing awareness regarding water pollution and stringent environmental control standards being enforced for various uses including process industries, the water/wastewater treatment industry is poised for huge growth.

Air Pollution Control Equipment: Air pollution, especially in metropolitan cities and large towns, has assumed great significance with the adoption of stringent environmental control standards for various industries. Hence, the pollution control equipment industry has acquired importance.

Industrial Gears: Gearbox is defined as a metal casing in which a train of gears is sealed. The manufacture of gears and gear boxes involve high precision machining and accurate assembly as mechanical power is to be transmitted noiselessly and with minimum losses. Gears are used for two basic purposes: increase or decrease of rotation speed and increase or decrease of power or torque.

Wood-based Industry: The industry comes under the de-Licenced category.

Watch Industry: The organised sector contributes 40 per cent of the total demand while the rest is met by the unorganised sector.

HEAVY INDUSTRIES

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) promotes the development and growth of automobile, capital goods and heavy electrical equipment sectors and administer 29 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) engaged in manufacturing, consultancy and contracting services and four autonomous organisations. In 2021, the Department of Public Enterprises was shifted to Ministry of Finance.

One of the key thrust areas of MI-II is aimed at transforming mobility in the country by increasing competitiveness of domestic automobile industry and promoting advanced technology, sustainable and affordable electric mobility solutions for the citizens.

The Ministry is working towards this transformation through three major schemes:

➤ Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME India scheme);

➤ National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage; and

➤ Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for automobile and auto components.

National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC): launched in 2021 to incentivise setting up of manufacturing facilities in the country for 50 Giga Watt Hour of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC.

Heavy Electrical Equipment Industry (HEI): Major equipment like boilers, turbo generators, turbines, transformers, switch gears, relays and related accessories are manufactured by this segment. Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) is a leading public sector catering to HEI with a dominant market share.

CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES

The CPSEs cater to diverse sectors of the economy including civil construction, heavy machinery, heavy electrical, precision tools, consultancy, tea plantation etc. MI-II administers twenty-one CPSEs out of which sixteen are operational. The rest are under various stages of closure and liquidation.

Brief details of the key operational CPSEs are here:

- **Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd:** Headquartered at Kolkata, It is engaged in the business of growing and manufacturing tea in 15 gardens located in Darjeeling and Assam. It is also into manufacturing of industrial fans, engineering and electrical products with units in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd:** BHEL is a leading power equipment manufacturer globally and one of the earliest and leading contributors towards building an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- **Braithwaite, Burn & Jessop Construction Company Ltd:** Presently BBJ is engaged in design, supply, fabrication and erection of steel bridges, including rail-cum-road bridges, for Indian Railways as an Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor.

- **Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd:** Established in 1920 a schedule-13 CPSE awarded 'Miniratna' category-I status, a construction and engineering company in the field of civil and mechanical construction.

- **Cement Corporation of India Ltd:** Established in 1965 with the principal objective of setting up cement factories in the public sector to achieve self-sufficiency in cement production and to remove regional imbalances.

- **Engineering Projects (India) Ltd:** Mini Ratna category-II CPSE, was incorporated in 1970 with the main objective to undertake turnkey projects and consultancy services in India and abroad.

- **Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd:** Incorporated in 1958 with the objective of achieving self-reliance in the field of design and manufacturing of heavy equipment and machineries especially for steel plants.

- **HMT Ltd:** It manages the Food Processing Machinery Business and Auxiliary Business Division directly.

- **HMT Machine Tools Ltd:** The company manufactures metal cutting and metal forming machines including printing machines and die-casting and molding machines.

- **HMT (International) Ltd:** incorporated in 1974 as a wholly owned subsidiary of HMT Limited is the export arm of HMT Group and also caters to import requirements of the Group.

- **Hindustan Salts Ltd:** Incorporated in 1958 is engaged in the business of manufacturing various types of salt, bromine and magnesium chloride.

- **Sambhar Salts Ltd:** a subsidiary of Hindustan Salts Limited was incorporated in 1964. SSL is engaged in production of salt.

- **Instrumentation Ltd, Kota (ILK):** set up in 1964 with the prime objective of attaining self-reliance in the field of control and automation for process industry.

- **Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd:** The company has diversified product range comprising Solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) modules/systems, industrial electronics, security surveillance system and information technology. It is also setting up charging infrastructure to promote e-mobility under the FAME scheme of Government of India.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act was notified in 2006 to address policy issues affecting MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment ceiling of the sector. The Act
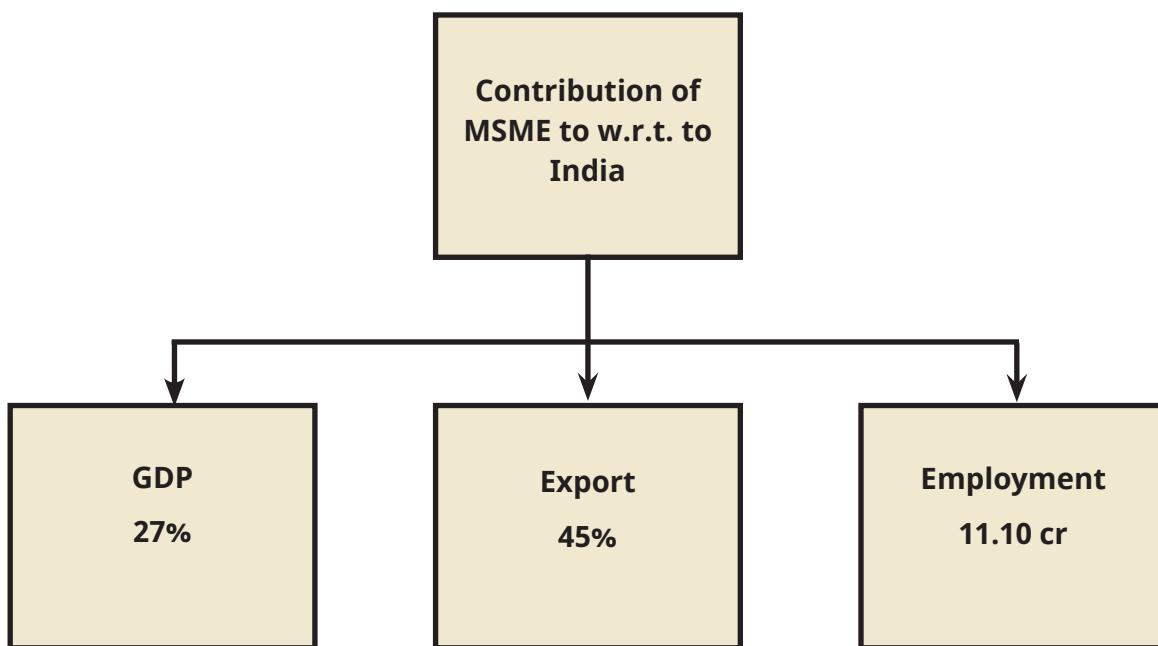
provides the first-ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of "enterprise" which comprises both manufacturing and service entities.

➤ Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises envisions a vibrant sector by promoting growth and development of the sector, including Khadi, Village and Coir Industries.

➤ In 2007, subsequent to an amendment of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, erstwhile Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries were merged to form the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises.

New Definition of MSMEs:

Micro enterprise	where the investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed one crore rupees and turnover does not exceed five crore rupees
Small Enterprise	the investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed ten crore rupees and turnover does not exceed fifty crore rupees
Medium Enterprise	the investment in plant and machinery or equipment does not exceed fifty crore rupees and turnover does not exceed two hundred and fifty crore rupees.

Indian MSME Sector: As per the 73rd round National Sample Survey conducted in 2015-16, there were 633.88 lakh unincorporated non-agriculture MSMEs in the country.

Contribution of MSME to w.r.t. to India

GDP 27%	Export 45%	Employment 11.10 cr

Initiatives for promotion of MSMEs:

MSME Samadhaan: To further the objective of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 Ministry of MSME launched a portal MSME Samadhaan in 2017. The portal gives information about individual CPSEs/central ministries, state governments, etc., and other buyers regarding the payments pending with them in respect of the MSEs.

MSME Sambandh: Ministry of MSME launched "MSME-SAMBANDH Portal" in 2017. The portal helps in monitoring the procurement by central government ministries, departments and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and also enables them to share the list of required products/services from MSEs.

MSME Sampark This portal is a digital platform wherein jobseekers (i.e., passed out trainees/students of MSME Technology Centres) and recruiters can register themselves for mutually beneficial interaction.

Creation of Modern Processes for Increasing the CHAMPIONS: an ICT based technology system for

making the smaller units big by helping and handholding them. The portal provides guidance to grab the new business opportunities.

'Udyam Registration' Portal: The portal has linkages with Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Income Tax, GST, TReDs and NCS (National Career Service) portals. Government has provided exemption from having mandatory GSTIN as per the provisions of the CGST Act, 2017.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

➤ Established under the Act of Parliament, and as amended in 1987 and 2006 is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of MSME engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) for providing employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby strengthening the rural economy.

Coir Board

➤ The Coir Board is a **statutory body** established under the Coir Industry Act, 1953. The functions of the Board for the development of coir industry, inter-alia, include undertaking scientific, technological and economic research and development activities.

TEXTILES

➤ The uniqueness of the industry lies in its strength both in the hand-woven sector as well as in the capital-intensive mill sector.

➤ The textile industry contributes to 7 per cent of industry output in value terms of 2 per cent of India's GDP and to 15 per cent of the country's export earnings.

➤ With over 45 million people employed directly, this industry is one of the largest sources of employment generation in the country.

Technical Textiles

➤ Technical textiles are the future of the textiles industry. Textile Research Associations (TRAs) have developed carbon fibre based space communication system. Low cost modular toilets using jute fibres have been developed.

Impetus to the Powerloom Sector

➤ With a view to enhance quality and productivity of the powerloom, the government launched in situ upgradation of plain powerlooms as part of **PowerTex India** under which plain powerlooms are attached with process control equipment leading to higher productivity, better quality and more than 50 per cent additional value realisation.

Handloom and Handicrafts

➤ India Handloom Brand: Indian handlooms have worldwide recognition through India Handloom Brand (IH B) which guarantees high quality, authentic handloom items made with organic substance.

Exports:

➤ The Indian textile industry is the second largest producer of Man Made Fibre (MMF) after China.

➤ India is the 6th largest exporter of Textiles and Apparel in the world.

➤ India's textiles and clothing industry is one of the mainstays of the national economy.

➤ The share of textile and apparel including handicrafts in India's total exports stood at a significant 11.8 per cent in 2019- 20.

➤ India has a share of 5 per cent of the global trade in textiles and apparel.

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➤ It provides direct employment of over 45 million people and source of livelihood for over 100 million indirectly.

Silk

➤ In India, about 97 per cent of the raw mulberry silk is produced in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.

➤ Three other commercially important types of silk: eri, tasar and muga.

➤ The **Central Silk Board,** under the Ministry of Textiles is the apex body to undertake, assist, and encourage scientific, technological and economic research aiming towards improving the quality and productivity of silk through implementation of a Central Sector Scheme **'Silk Samagra'**- an integrated scheme for development of silk industry.

Cotton

➤ Cotton accounts for around 25 per cent of the total global fibre production.

➤ India has the largest area under cotton in the world with around 126 lakh hectares under cotton cultivation which is around 38 per cent of the world area.

➤ To support the cotton industry, Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic staple groups, viz., medium staple and long staple cotton.

➤ **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI),** a Public Sector Undertaking under the Textile Ministry, is the principal agency for undertaking MSP operations in the event of prevailing seed cotton (kapas) price touching the MSP level.

Jute

➤ India is the largest producer of jute in the world with an average production of about 80 lakh bales of raw jute annually.

➤ This is a major support not only to the jute farmers but also to jute mill workers. A software platform "Jute-SMART" was implemented for procurement of jute sacking from 2016.

➤ Jute-ICARE has been launched for increasing the income of jute farmers by at least 50 per cent through promotion of certified seeds, better agronomic practices and use of microbial retting of the jute plant.

➤ Various initiatives under Jute Diversified Products are being implemented under National Jute Development Program an Umbrella Scheme for the period of 2021-22- to 202526.

Wool

➤ India is the 9th largest wool producing country having 36.93 million kg of raw wool production in 2020-21.

➤ The Ministry of Textiles has formulated a new **Integrated Wool Development Programme** (IWDP) for implementation from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26 with 100 per cent funding pattern.

Initiatives for promotion of Textile sector:

Weavers' Mudra Scheme	launched to provide concessional credit to the handloom weavers.
e- Dhaga App	Launched to bring efficiency in service delivery to the handloom weavers and help them to access information on 24x7 basis.
BunkarMitra Helpline	Launched To provide a single point of contact to handloom weavers for their professional queries

MoU with Financial Corporations	MoUs were signed to implement schemes of Government of India for OBC and SC artisans and weavers in 14 identified dusters with necessary forward linkages for income sustainability and enhancement.
Educational facilities to the children of handloom weavers	MoUs were signed to provide customised educational services to the weavers for which Ministry provides 75 per cent of the fee in case of SC, ST, BPL and women weaver families.

- **Man Made Fibre**: Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) and Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) are the raw materials for the MMF textile value chain and Purified Terephthalic Acid or PTA is a key ingredient in the manufacture of PSF.

Promoting Fashion Technology

- National Institute of Fashion Technology (NWT) is the pioneering institute of fashion education in the county.

- It was made a statutory institute in 2006 by an Act with the President of India as 'Visitor".

- NIFT takes up research projects, such as Project India Size, VISIONXT to name a few, for the government in the fields of textiles and fashion.

- **Project India Size** intends to develop size charts on the lines of US and UK sizes that are currently prevalent in the industry.

- **VISIONXT** is a 'Trend insight and Fashion Forecasting Lab' to forecast India's fashion to suit future trends.

NIFT Foundation for Design Innovation (NIFT) was established to nurture innovative design and potential business/entrepreneurial ventures through pre-incubation, incubation, and acceleration by creating a fashion and textile startup ecosystem.

Steel

- Ministry of Steel is responsible for planning and development of iron and steel industry.

- India has become the world's second largest producer of steel. Crude steel production has shown a sustained rise since 2013-14 along with capacity.

Global Ranking of Indian Steel:

China remained the largest crude steel producer in the world, accounting for 75 per cent of Asia and Oceania region and 53 per cent of world's crude steel production during this period. India was the second largest crude steel producer and recorded a growth of 17.8 per cent in production during this period as compared to the same period of last year.

National Steel Policy:

Launched in 2017, NSF' was defined with the vision to create a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry that promotes economic growth.

The Policy also envisages 100 per cent indigenous fulfilment of demand for high grade automotive steel so as to reduce dependence on coking coal from about 85 per cent to around 65 per cent by 2030-31.

Key Initiatives to promote the steel sector:

- **Purvodaya:** was envisaged for an integrated steel hub in the Eastern states as Eastern states of India are home to 80 per cent of the Indian iron reserves.

GSSCORE

➤ **Coal supply:** the Indian Steel Industry has been largely dependent on imported coking coal because the domestic coal has high ash content hence Ministry of steel is making efforts to reduce the import bill on coking coal by diversifying the import destinations.

➤ **Steel Scrap Recycling Policy:** notified in 2019, it provides a framework to facilitate and promote establishment of metal scrapping centres in the country for scientific processing and recycling of ferrous scrap generated from various sources including end of life vehicles (ELVs).

Make In Steel:

The Ministry of steel is therefore undertaking several initiatives to enable increase in steel intensity across key sectors:

➤ **Ispati Irada to encourage steel usage:** This is a collaborative branding campaign with the objective of promoting the benefits of steel usage in various facets of nation building and how it impacts the lives of citizens in the country.

➤ **Roads:** As part of the drive to improve usage of concrete roads in the country, the Ministry is evaluating guideline modifications to make lifecycle cost analysis mandatory.

➤ **Bridges:** The Ministry is evaluating guideline modification to make lifecycle cost analysis mandatory. Additionally, the inclusion of steel bridge designs in MoRTH guidelines is also being pursued.

➤ **Commercial and residential construction**: To enable increase in steel usage across commercial and residential buildings, the Ministry is evaluating changes across General Financial Rules (GFR), building codes as well as scheduled rates.

➤ **Low Cost Mass Housing**: To promote the usage of steel in low cost housing especially through pre-fab structures, the Ministry is pursuing BIS code changes in—Design for pre-fab steel designs.

➤ **Boost domestic manufacturing through the DM/MP Policy:** Ministry of Steel has amended the Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products Procurement Policy (DMI&SP) in order to increase domestic sourcing of iron and steel products by government agencies.

Fertilizers

Department of Fertilisers comes under the ambit of **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.**

The main functions of the Department include planning, promotion and development of the Fertilisers industry, planning and monitoring of production; import and distribution of fertilisers and management of financial assistance by way of subsidy/concession for indigenous and imported fertilisers.

Initiatives for Indigenous production of Fertilizers:

➤ **New Urea Policy:** The New Urea Policy-2015 was notified with the objectives of maximising indigenous urea production; promoting energy efficiency in urea production; and rationalising subsidy burden on the government.

➤ **Neem Coating Urea:** Neem coating of urea (NCU) has been made mandatory for all the indigenous producers. By curbing illegal diversion of urea for non-agricultural purposes, the government aims to prevent subsidy leakages.

➤ **New Investment Policy:** launched in 2013 to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to make India self-sufficient in it.

Chemicals and Petro-chemicals

➤ Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals is Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

➤ The Department is entrusted with the responsibility of planning, development and regulations of the chemicals, petro-chemicals and pharmaceutical industry sector, inducting: drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Chemicals and Petro-chemicals Industry

It includes basic chemicals and its products, petro-chemicals, Fertilisers, paints, varnishes, gases, soaps, perfumes and toiletry and pharmaceuticals.

Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals is implementing the three schemes under the National Policy on Petrochemicals:

➤ Setting up of plastic parks;

➤ Setting up of Centres of Excellence in Polymer Technology; and

➤ National awards for technology innovation in petrochemical and downstream plastic processing industry.

Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions

The policy document put in place in 2007 to promote the petroleum chemical and petrochemical sector in an integrated and environment-friendly manner on a large scale.

Hindustan Insecticides Limited

HIL is the sole supplier of **DDT** to the **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. DDT accounts for almost 50 per cent of the company's turnover.

Incorporated in 1954 for manufacture and supply of Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT). In 1957, the company set up a factory at Udyogmandal, Kerala, for manufacture of DDT and in 1977 at Rasayani, Maharashtra, for manufacture of Malathion, an insecticide.

HIL diversified into agro chemicals in the late 1970s to ensure supply of quality pesticides at reasonable prices to the agricultural sector.

HIL has got the status of **National Level Seed Agency (NLA)** from the Union Ministry of Agriculture and is producing and supplying seeds under Government sponsored schemes like **National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).**

Hindustan Flourocarbons Ltd

A subsidiary company of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL), was incorporated in 1983. It is engaged in the manufacture of **Poly Tetra Fluoro Ethylene (PTFE)** and of **Chloro Di Fluoro Methane (CFM-22).**

PTFE is extensively used in chemical, mechanical, electrical and electronic industries and has strategic applications in defence and aerospace sectors.

Assam Gas Cracker Project—Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited

initiated in pursuance of the Memorandum of Settlement signed between central government, All Assam Students Union (AMU) and All Assam Gana Parished (AAGP) in 1985, was dedicated to the nation in 2016.

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology

➤ Certified Plastics Institute under the aegis of **Department of Chemicals & Petro-chemicals**, was established in 1968.

➤ The diversified activities of CIPET include **skill development, technology support to industry, academics and research and development (STAR)** in the field of plastics engineeing technology.

GSSCORE

Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology

➤ Established in 1991 as an autonomous institution under the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals.

➤ **Objective:** Development of user and environment-friendly pesticide formulation technology.

➤ **Role:** IPFT has established a healthy support with the Pesticide Industries and has been able to successfully transfer more than fifty formulation technologies to Indian and foreign companies.

Setting up of Plastic Parks:

➤ **Objective:** To contribute to the economy by increasing investment, production, export in the sector and also generation of employment.

➤ **Mechanism:** Government of India provides grant funding up to 50 per cent of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of 40 crore per project. The remaining project cost is funded by the state government or state industrial development corporation.

Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions

This policy was formulated in 2007 conceptualized in a cluster approach to promote petroleum, chemical and petrochemical sectors in an integrated and environment friendly manner on a large scale.

4 PCPIRs are being implemented in:

➤ Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam),

➤ Gujarat (Dahej),

➤ Odisha (Paradeep) and

➤ Tamil Nadu (Cuddalore and Nagapattinam).

PHARMACEUTICALS

➤ In 1991, the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals was transferred to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers from ministry of Industry.

➤ The Department is entrusted with the responsibility of planning, development and regulations of the chemicals, petro-chemicals and pharmaceutical industry sector.

National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy

➤ **Objective of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012:** ensure availability of required medicines — "essential medicines" — at reasonable prices, even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of industry.

➤ **New Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013:** Notified in 2013, to implement NPPP, 2012 to control the prices of specified dosages and strengths as under National List of Essential Medicines-2011(NLEM-2011).

Medical Devices

➤ Indian Medical Devices industry depends on imports up to an extent of almost 70 per cent. In 2014, the government launched the "Make in India" campaign, with the objective of making India a global manufacturing hub, thus bringing foreign technology and capital into the country which includes medical devices as key area of focus.

Medical Device Segments

The medical devices industry can be broadly classified as consisting of:

➤ medical disposables and consumables;

➤ medical electronics, hospital equipment, surgical instruments;

➤ implants; and

➤ diagnostic reagents

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

Jan Aushadhi Scheme Launched in 2008 with the aim of selling affordable generic medicines through dedicated sales outlets, i.e., Jan Aushadhi Stores in various districts across the country.

Broad objectives of the Scheme include:

➤ ensure access to quality medicines;

➤ extend coverage of quality generic medicines

➤ create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity

> **NOTE:** Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana" (PMJAY) has been renamed as "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana" (PMBJP)

The first Jan Aushadhi Store was opened in Amritsar, Punjab in 2008.

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

It was incorporated in 1961 with the primary objective of creating self-sufficiency in essential life-saving drugs and medicines. IDPL has two wholly owned subsidiaries, namely, IDPL Ltd., Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Bihar Drugs and Organic Chemicals Ltd. at Muzaffarpur (Bihar).

Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited

➤ Incorporated in 1961, the company has four manufacturing units.

➤ The company manufactures and markets a wide range of industrial chemicals, a large number of drugs and pharmaceuticals besides cosmetics and home products.

MINES AND MINERALS

Ministry of Mines is responsible for survey and exploration of all minerals, other than natural gas, petroleum and atomic minerals; for mining and metallurgy of non-ferrous metals like aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, gold, nickel, etc.,

Mineral legislation and reforms:

➤ **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957:** regulates the mining sector in India and mandates the requirement for granting leases for mining operations.

➤ **Mineral Concession Rules, 1960:** The State Governments grant the mineral concessions for all the minerals located within the boundary of the State, under the provisions of the MMDR Act, and Mineral Concession Rules (MCR), 1960 framed there under. Prior approval of the Central Government is required in rest of the cases.

➤ **Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988:** It empowers state governments to frame rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals.

Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020

➤ The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended through Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020 to sustain supply of minerals due to large number of mineral blocks expiring in March 2020.

➤ Accordingly, a provision was introduced for vesting of all clearances/ approval to the new mining lease holder of such expiring mineral blocks allocated through auction.

MMDR Amendment Act, 2021

➤ Contains following provisions for giving immediate boost to mineral production, improving ease of doing business and increase employment in mineral sector.

National Mineral Exploration Trust

➤ **Objective:** to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country to increase overall mineral production and achieve sustainable development of the mineral sector.

➤ NMET also notified a scheme for partial reimbursement of expenses from NMET for composite license holders through auction to facilitate and encourage private sector participation in exploration.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana

➤ Implemented by the district mineral foundations of the respective districts. PMKKKY will help in creating a congenial mining environment, ameliorate the condition of the affected person and create a win-win situation for the stakeholders.

➤ A national portal for DMF is being developed which will help monitor the implementation of projects under the PMKKKY scheme.

➤ The monitoring would be done under **"DISHA",** the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee of Ministry of Rural Development, to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact.

National Mineral Exploration Policy

➤ National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016 (NMEP), outlines the action plan that the government will adopt to ensure comprehensive exploration of country's mineral resources (non-fuel and non-coal).

➤ Aim: accelerating the exploration activity in the country through enhanced participation of the private sector.

Transparency, Auction, Monitoring and Resource Augmentation

➤ To facilitate and expedite various clearances/approvals required after the mineral block is allocated, an Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to expedite the requisite clearances to enable the early start of mining activity.

Star Rating of Mines

➤ The Ministry of Mines launched in 2016, a Scheme for Star Rating of Mines/ Mining Leases for implementation of Sustainable Development Framework (SDF).

Mining Surveillance System

➤ To curb the menace of illegal mining, a satellite-based monitoring system namely Mining Surveillance System (MSS), was launched.

Mining Tenement System

➤ A unique application,, being developed by Ministry of Mines through Indian Bureau of Mines with technical support of NIC to facilitate the stake holders in submission of online applications for the sake of ease of doing business and for bringing in transparency in the system.

Use of Drone Survey

➤ IBM has also introduced Drone Survey in mining industry by carrying out necessary amendments in MCDR, 2017. It is mandatory for the lessees having annual excavation plan of 1 million tonne or more or having lease area more than 50 hectares, to carry out drone survey of the lease area.

Digitization of Land Use

➤ The digitization of all the leasehold maps is being carried out on ARCGIS platform. An activity of plotting of RP & PL areas from the available documents is undertaken.

MINERAL RESOURCES

➤ The classification of reserves/resources of various minerals based **on United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC)**, following which **National Mineral Inventory** was prepared. The UNFC consists of a three dimensional system with three axes—economic viability; feasibility assessment; and geological assessment.

➤ India produces more than 90 minerals, prominent among them are given here:

Bauxite

➤ Total resources of bauxite as per UNFC in the country are placed at 3,896 million tonnes.

➤ By grades, about 81 per cent resources are of metallurgical grade.

➤ Odisha alone accounts for 51 per cent of country's resources of bauxite Major bauxite resources are concentrated in the east coast of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Chromite

➤ Total resources of chromite in the country as in 2015 are estimated at 344 million tonnes.

➤ Gradewise, charge-chrome grade accounts for 31 per cent resources followed by ferrochrome grade (18 per cent), beneficiable grade (25 per cent) and refractory grade 14 per cent. Low, others, unclassified and not-known grades together account for 13 per cent.

Copper

➤ The total resources of copper ore in the country as in 2015 are estimated at 1511.50 million tonnes with about 12.16 million tonnes of the copper metal. Rajasthan is credited with (54 per cent) ore; Madhya Pradesh (19 per cent); Jharkhand (20 per cent); and the rest 7 per cent are accounted for by other states and West Bengal.

Gold

➤ The total resources of gold ore (primary and placer) in the country were estimated at 527.96 million tonnes.

➤ The largest resources in terms of gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar (44 per cent) followed by Rajasthan (25 per cent) and Karnataka (21 per cent), West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh (3 per cent each), Telangana & Madhya Pradesh (2 per cent each).

Iron Ore

➤ Hematite and magnetite are the most important iron ores in India.

➤ Of these, hematite is considered to be superior because of its higher grade

➤ Magnetite is another principal iron ore that also occurs in the form of oxide, either in igneous or metamorphosed banded magnetite-silica formation, possibly of sedimentary origin.

➤ The total resources of hematite as in 2015 are estimated at 22,487 million tonnes while that of magnetite is 10,789 million tonnes.

Lead and Zinc

➤ The total resources of lead and zinc ores as in 2015 as per UNFC system, are estimated at 749.46 million tonnes.

➤ Rajasthan is endowed with the largest resources of lead-zinc ore amounting to 670.34 million tonnes (89.44 per cent).

Manganese Ore

➤ The total resources of manganese ore in the country as in 2015 are placed at 496 million tonnes as per UNFC system.

➤ State-wise, Odisha tops the total resources with 44 per cent share followed by Karnataka with 22 per cent, Madhya Pradesh with 12 per cent.

Nickel

➤ Important occurrence is nickeliferous limonite in the overburden of chromite in Sukinda Valley, Jajpur district, Odisha, where it occurs as an oxide.

➤ Nickel also occurs in sulphide form along with copper mineralisation in East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. Polymetallic sea nodules are another sources of nickel. As per UNFC, as in 2015, the total resources of nickel ore have been estimated at 189 million tonnes.

Tungsten

➤ The total resources of tungsten ore in the country, have been estimated at 87.4 million tonnes containing 1,42,094 tonnes WO3 content.

Barytes

➤ The total resources of barytes in India as in 2015 as per the UNFC system are placed at 86.7 million tonnes. Andhra Pradesh alone accounts for 92 per cent of the country's barytes resources followed by Telangana and Rajasthan.

Diamond

➤ All India resources of diamond are placed at around 31.84 million carats. By grades, about 2.38 per cent resources are of gem variety, 2.64 per cent of industrial variety and bulk of the resources (95 per cent) are placed under unclassified category. By states, Madhya Pradesh accounts for about 90.18 per cent resources followed by Andhra Pradesh 5.73 per cent and Chhattisgarh 4.10 per cent.

Dolomite

➤ Total resources of dolomite are placed at 8,415 million tonnes, out of which 679 million tonnes are placed under reserves category..

Fire Clay

➤ The best deposits occur in association with the coal seams in the lower Gondwana coalfields of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Neyveli lignite fields in Tamil Nadu. Reserves and resources of fire clay are estimated at 723 million tonnes.

Fluorspar

➤ The total resources of fluorite in the country as in 2015 are estimated at 18.18 million tonnes. By states, Gujarat accounts for 66 per cent of the total resources

Gypsum

➤ The total resources of mineral gypsum in India as in 2015 are estimated at 1,330 million tonnes. Rajasthan alone accounts for 81 per cent resources and the former state of Jammu & Kashmir 14 per cent resources.

Graphite

➤ the total resources of graphite as in 2015 are placed at about 194.89 million tonnes, Arunachal Pradesh accounts for 37 per cent of total resources; followed by Jammu and Kashmir (32 per cent); Odisha (10 per cent.

Ilmenite

➤ Ilmenite and rutile along with other heavy minerals are important constituents of beach sand deposits found right from Ratnagiri coast (Maharashtra) in the west to Odisha coast in the east. As per the UNFC system, the total resources of ilmenite as in 2015 are estimated at 355.48 million tonnes (including leucoxene).

Kaolin

➤ Kaolin or **China Clay** resources in the country as per UNFC system in 2015 have been placed at 2,941.25 million tonnes. The reserves constitute only about 8 per cent of the resources at 229.47 million tonnes.

Kyanite and Sillimanite

➤ The total resources of kyanite as per UNFC system in the country in 2015 are placed at 105 million tonnes. State-wise, the share of Telangana is 46 per cent of total resources followed by Andhra Pradesh 30 per cent.

➤ The total resources of sillimanite as per UNFC system in the country in 2015 are placed at 70.2 million tonnes. The resources are located mainly in Tamil Nadu and Odisha (25 per cent each), Uttar Pradesh (16 per cent).

Limestone

➤ The total resources of limestone of all categories and grades as per UNFC system in 2015 are estimated at 2,03,225 million tonnes. Karnataka is the leading state having 27 per cent of the total resources followed by Andhra Pradesh.

Mica

➤ The most important mica-bearing pegmatites occur in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Total resources of mica in the country in 2015 are estimated at 635,302 tonnes. Andhra Pradesh leads with 40 per cent share in country's total resources.

Magnesite

- The total reserves/resources of magnesite as per UNFC system in 2015 are about 394 million tonnes. Substantial quantities of resources are established in Uttarakhand (59 per cent), followed by Rajasthan (14 per cent).

Phosphate Minerals

- The total resources of apatite are placed at 24.04 million tonnes. Of the total resources, the bulk (57 per cent) is located in West Bengal followed by Jharkhand (30 per cent) and Meghalaya (5 per cent).

Online Core Business Integrated System and National Aerogeophysical Mapping Programme

- Launched in 2017, is a state-of-the-art IT enabled system encapsulating all the main activities of GSI using an online digital platform. The workflow of GSI from data acquisition to data storage, analysis and dissemination is digitally captured in this system, besides all the administrative and financial activities of GSI.

INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES

- Established in March 1948, is a multidisciplinary scientific and technical organisation under Ministry of Mines with statutory and developmental responsibilities for conservation and systematic exploitation of mineral resources other than coal, petroleum and natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals.
- IBM provides technical consultancy services to the mining industry for the geological appraisal of mineral resources, and the preparation of feasibility report of mining projects, including beneficiation plants

The Ministry of Mines has three Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) under its administrative control.

- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), (Navratana)
- Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) are operating in the field of mining and mineral processing. (Miniratna)
- Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) (Miniratna)

National Institute of Rock Mechanics

- The only institution in South Asia exclusively devoted to research in rock mechanics. It provides its expertise to various central and state government agencies and public sector undertakings.

National Institute of Miners' Health

- An autonomous institute established under Ministry of Mines, with the objective of promotion of occupational health and prevention of occupational diseases among the persons employed in mining and mineral-based industries.

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre

- Set up in 1989 as a joint venture of Ministry of Mines, Government of India and UNDP, with a view to provide major R&D support system for the emerging modern aluminium industry in India.. It is the only institute of its kind in India pursuing the cause of R&D from bauxite to finished product under one roof.

Geological Survey of India

- ➤ GSI is the principal provider of basic earth science information to the Government, Industry and the Geo scientific sector.

- ➤ The present activity domains of GSI include surface mapping; aerial and remote sensing surveys; offshore surveys; exploration for mineral and energy resources; engineering geology; geotechnical investigations; geo environmental studies; geology of water resources; geo hazard studies; research and development; training and capacity building; and information services etc.

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Labour, Skill Development & Employment

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- ‘Labour’ is in the Concurrent List under the Constitution, so the Centre and the state governments are equally empowered to enact legislations on the subject.
- At the Union level, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E) protecst and safeguards the interests of workers in general and the poor, deprived and disadvantaged sections of the society, in particular.
- Further, the Ministry aims to create a healthy work environment for higher production and productivity and to develop and coordinate vocational skill training and employment services.

New Initiatives

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-DhanYojana

- It is a scheme to ensure old age protection for unorganised workers. The enrollment is subject to certain conditions like - they should belong to the entry **age group of 18-40 years**, should not be covered under **New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** scheme or **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation** (EPFO); and should not be an income tax payee.
- PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis, where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the central government as per its guidelines.

National Career Service (NCS)

- NCS is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens. Directorate General of Employment (DGE) under the Ministry is implementing the NCS.
- Online integration with EPFO and ESIC has also been done to link the willing employers for enabling them to shortlist right candidates through a countrywide database of workforce on NCS portal.
- NCS Portal also provides online career counselling and vocational guidance services to its registered users.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

- It was launched in 2016 with the objective to incentivise employers for creation of new employment.
- Under the scheme, Government of India is paying **employer's full contribution** i.e., 12% towards EPF and EPS both (as admissible from time to time) for a period of three years to the new employees through EPFO.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

- This scheme is being implemented through the **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** to reduce the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries and encourages them to hire more workers.

➤ Under ABRY benefits are provided to every establishment registered with EPFO and their new employees (earning wage less the 15,000/- per month).

Shram Suvidha Portal

➤ It is a unified web portal 'Shram Suvidha Portal', to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws and ease complexity of compliance.

➤ Under the Portal the facility for **Common Registration** under **five Central Labour** Acts has been developed.

Single Unified Annual Return

➤ The Ministry started **Single Unified Annual Return** for eight Labour Acts. This facilitates filing of simplified Single Online Return by the establishments instead of filing separate Returns.

Labour Codes

➤ The Government has simplified myriad of laws into **four Labour Codes**; namely, the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

➤ This will **reduce multiplicity of definitions** and authorities, facilitate implementation and use of technology in enforcement of labour laws and bring transparency and accountability in enforcement.

➤ With the Codes **a statutory concept of 'Floor Wage'** is introduced, a **"Re-skilling Fund"** for training of retrenched employees has been set-up among other provisions.

Social Security

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

➤ ESIC is one of the two main **statutory social security bodies** under the ownership of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the other being the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation** (EPFO).

➤ Several initiatives like **e-biz Platform, e- Pehchan,** etc. have been taken up for simplifying the process and reducing the transaction cost under the **Digital India e-initiatives of ESIC.** Various Government Directives regarding **GeM, E-Office etc**., have either been incorporated or are in the process of incorporation, adaptation and adoption.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

➤ EPFO is a **statuary body** which assists Central Board in administering compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and Insurance Scheme for the workforce engaged in the **organised sector** in India.

➤ The Government of India through the EPFO administers the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

➤ With steps like online registration, **Auto-settlement of EPF Advance Claims**, **Multi-location Settlement of Claims**, and pension reforms, EPFO has further eased the process.

Universal Account Number

➤ The facility of Universal Account Number (UAN) for EPF subscribers was formally launched in 2014. Portability is an inherent feature of the UAN programme.

➤ It provides **automatic portability of Provident Fund account** on change of employment if the employee has activated his UAN by seeding his Know Your Customer details (through the employer).

Initiatives during Covid-19

➤ During the Covid-19 pandemic the central government under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana

(PMGKY), paid the **employees' and employers' share of EPF & EPS** contributions for the period March to May 2020.

➤ It was aimed at preventing disruption in the employment of low wage-earning EPFO members in EPF covered establishments employing up to hundred employees.

Industrial Relations

➤ Under its responsibility to protect, preserve and guard the interests of workers, MoL&E has initiated certain safeguards namely, **Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM)** to maintain harmonious industrial relations, **Software Application for Monitoring and Disposal, Handling of Apprehended / Existing Industrial Disputes (SAMADHAN)** to allow workmen to file disputes and monitor the status.

➤ **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947** makes provisions for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes in organisations, for which the central government is the appropriate authority, through mediation by the CIRM and by referring the industrial disputes to Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts for adjudication.

Child Labour

➤ **Article 24** of the Constitution prohibits employment of children in factories. **Directive Principles of State Policy** in the Constitution also strongly reiterate this commitment.

➤ According to 2017 statics India is **one of the leading countries in Asia** has a whopping 33 million children employed in various forms of child labour.

Measures to prevent child labour

➤ **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act:** It prohibits employment of **children below the age of 14 years.**

  • **As amended in 2016**, the Act covers complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes; linking the age of the prohibition of employment with the age for free and compulsory education under **Right to Education Act, 2009.**

➤ **PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement of No Child Labour)** portal: It is aimed at effective implementation of the Act.

➤ **National Child Labour Project (NCLP)**: Under the scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years, are withdrawn from work and put into **Special Training Centers,** where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health-care facilities, etc.

➤ **Alignment of RTI Act with NCLP**: The NCLP Schools could now serve as special training centres for un-enrolled and out-of-school children in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the RTE Act.

Bonded Labour

➤ Bonded labour is prohibited in India by **Articles 21 and 23** of the Constitution. In 1976 **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act** was enacted.

➤ Under it, identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned state/union territory governments.

➤ In order to assist the state/UT governments for rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, **Central Plan Scheme** was started in 1978.

➤ As per the Scheme, the **central government bears 100% expenditure** and the states are not required to pay any contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance, surveys and awareness campaigns for bonded labour.

➤ **National Human Rights Commission**, state human rights commissions also play an important role to eradicate the menace.

Wages and Bonus

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948

➤ **It was enacted to safeguard the interests of the workers mostly in the unorganised sector.**

➤ Under the provisions of the **Act both Central and State Governments** are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum wages of the workers employed in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions.

➤ In order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the central government has introduced **Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA)** linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Payment of Wages Act, 1936

➤ The Act ensures timely payment of wages and that no unauthorised deductions are made from the wages of the workers.

➤ The Act was amended in 2017 to enable making payment of wages in cash or by cheque or by crediting in the bank account of the employee.

Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

➤ It imposes legal obligation on the employer to provide for payment of bonus. The Act was amended in 2015 to revise the statutory eligibility limit under from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 21,000 per month.

Occupational Safety and Health

➤ The provisions on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) of workers as provided for in the Constitution of India are being implemented through the offices of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

➤ The DGMS enforces the safety and health provisions for the workers in the mining industry through its Inspectors appointed under the **Mines Act, 1952.**

Research and Training

➤ **Workers' Education Programmes** has been implemented at national, regional and unit/village level.

➤ **V.V. Girl National Labour Institute** is a premier institute of labour research and training in the country.

Skill Development

➤ India has 62.5% of its population in the age group of **15-59 years** which is ever increasing and will be at the **peak around 2036 when it will reach approximately 65%.**

➤ According to **Economic Survey 2018-19**, India's Demographic Dividend will peak around 2041, when the share of working-age, i.e. 20-59 years, population is expected to hit 59%.

➤ Considering the demographic opportunity, **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has taken up various schemes to skill the population. **Skill India Programme** is benefitting more than 1 cr. youth annually.

➤ Other skilling schemes and projects, namely **PMKVY** (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana), **NSDC** (National Skill Development Corporation), **NCVT** (National Council for Vocational Training), JSS (Jan Shikshan Sansthan), NIESBUD (National Institute for Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development), and IIE (Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship) have also been taken.

NSDC

➤ It is a public private partnership firm set up by the **Ministry of Finance**, under under Section 25 of the **Companies Act 1956** (corresponding to Section 8 of The Companies Act, 2013).

➤ The **main objectives of NSDC are** to catalyse the creation of market-based, scalable business by providing funding through a combination of debt, equity and grants;iImplementing skills voucher programme; promote centres of excellence for training of trainers in coordination with states and SSCs, etc.

GSSCORE

- ➤ Through **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC),** the ministry implements **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK**) Scheme for setting up of **model skill centre in every district** of the country.

- ➤ **NSDC** under the aegis of MSDE has been organising **Rozgar Melas** across the nation for providing suitable job opportunities in private sector to the youth.

PMKVY

- ➤ PMKVY is the flagship outcome-based skill training scheme of this Ministry. The objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilise a large number of youth to take up outcome-based skill training to become employable and earn their livelihood.

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National Skill Development Mission

- ➤ The Mission was launched in 2015 on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day with the aim to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high powered decision making framework.

- ➤ Enable pathways for transitioning between the vocational training system and the formal education system, through a credit transfer system.

National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- ➤ The objective of the National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015 is to meet the challenge of skilling at scale with speed and standard.

- ➤ It aim to provide an **umbrella framework** to all skilling activities being carried out within the country, to align them to common standards and link the skilling with demand centres.

PM-YUVA Yojana

- ➤ Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana **(Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan)** is a centrally sponsored Scheme on **entrepreneurship education and training** being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- ➤ The Scheme aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for **Entrepreneurship development** through Entrepreneurship education and training; Advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship support network and Promoting social enterprises for inclusive growth.

- ➤ **PM YUVA Yojana 2.0** has been launched to strengthen the scheme.

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Health and Family Welfare

INTRODUCTION

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** is instrumental and responsible for implementation of various programmes on the national scale in the areas of health and family welfare, prevention and control of major **communicable and non-communicable diseases** as well as promoting research across the country.

- **Department of AIDS Control** was merged with **Department of Health and Family Welfare** in 2014 and is now known as **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).**

- In December 2014, **Department of AYUSH** was made **Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)** with focused attention on development of education and research in **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy** systems.

  - **Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)** is an attached office which renders technical advice on all medical and public health matters and is involved in the implementation of various health services.

The following brief aims to highlight important initiatives undertaken by the Ministry in the health sector.

Management of Covid-19

- **National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme:** This world's largest vaccination program began in January 2021. In a time-span of a year and eight months, India was able to administer more than 217.7 crore vaccines doses across the country (Jan 2021-September 2022).

- **Covid Vaccination Amrit Mahotsava Initiative:** Between July and September 2022, as part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava Initiative, the government launched the initiative under which free precaution doses were administered to all eligible beneficiaries.

- **CoWIN Portal:** The CoWIN portal enabled real time monitoring of status of vaccination drive, vaccine availability and utilisation.

- **Har Ghar Dastak Campaign:** It was aimed at identifying and vaccinating the missed beneficiaries for first dose and due beneficiaries for second through house-to-house activity was done from November 2021.

The total number

- By December 2022, more than 220.07 crore doses had been administered across the country. This includes 95.12 crore of precaution dose.

National Health Mission

- The National Health Mission (NHM) encompasses its two sub-missions-

- ➤ National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
- ➤ National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)
- ➤ **Main Components:** Health System Strengthening, Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.
- ➤ The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Sub-missions

- ◉ **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM):** It was launched in 2015 to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to rural population, especially vulnerable group.
- ◉ **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM):** Approved in 2013, it envisages strengthening the primary healthcare delivery system in urban areas for providing quality primary healthcare delivery system in urban areas.

Maternal and Child Health

Mission Indradhanush: Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to cover all those children who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated during routine immunisation rounds.

New Vaccines

- ◉ **Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV):** A vaccine consisting of inactivated poliovirus (IPV) types 1, 2 and 3, with active immunizing activity against poliomyelitis. Upon intramuscular vaccination, inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) activates the immune system to develop antibodies against polioviruses.
- ◉ **Rotavirus vaccine**: It is administered by putting drops in the child's mouth. Babies should get 2 or 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine, depending on the brand of vaccine used. The first dose must be administered before 15 weeks of age. The last dose must be administered by 8 months of age.
- ◉ **Measles and rubella virus vaccine:** Measles and rubella virus vaccine live is an active immunizing agent used to prevent infection by the measles and rubella viruses.
- ◉ **JENVAC:** It is a single dose inactivated Japanese Encephalitis (JE) Vaccine. This Vero cell derived vaccine is prepared from an Indian strain (Kolar- 821564XY) of the JE virus.
- ◉ **Pneumococcal vaccine**: The Pneumococcal vaccine can protect against pneumococcal disease, which is any type of infection caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria.
- ◉ **Tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine:** It is a combination of tetanus and diphtheria with lower concentration of diphtheria antigen (d) Td vaccine can prevent tetanus and diphtheria.

- ➤ **Rashtriya bal Swasthya Karyakram:** This initiative, launched in 2014 entails provision for Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and management of four Ds, i.e. defects at birth, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability and free management of 32 identified health conditions including surgery at tertiary health facilities. Children between 0-18 years of age are covered in a phased manner across the country.
- ➤ **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram:** It launched in 2014 to provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents.
  - • **Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation Programme** entails provision of weekly supervised IFA tablets to in-school boys and girls and out-of-school girls for prevention of iron and folic acid deficiency. The program is being implemented across the country in both rural and urban areas, covering government and government aided schools and Anganwadi centres.
  - • **Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among Adolescent Girls-** The Scheme aims to ensure that adolescent girls have adequate knowledge and information about menstrual hygiene, use of sanitary napkins and environmentally safe disposal mechanism.

- **Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme:** The key components of the programme are—awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding and interpersonal counselling at community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points and monitoring and award/recognition.

- **Lactation Management Centres:** They are being established at high delivery load facilities to provide comprehensive support for lactation management. It includes **Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMCs) and Lactation Management Units (LMUs).**

  - In CLMCs, there is a provision of Donor Human Milk (OHM) collected from the mothers who voluntarily donate their excess breast milk free-of-cost for the newborns who have no access to their own mothers' milk.

  - LMUs facilitate lactation support to the mothers so that newborns can be breastfed successfully or provided mothers' own milk.

- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram:** The scheme entitles all pregnant women and sick infants up to 1 year of age attending public health facilities to free services, drugs and consumables, diagnostic services, blood trasnfusion, diet and transport without them having to incur any out of pocket expenditure.

- **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN):** It aims to provide assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

- **MusQan Initiative:** Launched in 2021 the objectives of the initiative include-to reduce preventable mortality and morbidity of children below 12 year of age; to enhance the quality of care as per National Quality Assurance Standards.

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana:** Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission. The objective is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women.

- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan:** Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) was launched in 2016. This programme aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the ninth day of every month. PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second or third trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities. It focuses on improving the quality of care during ante-natal visits, besides identifi cation and line-listing of high-risk pregnancies based on obstetric/medical history and existing clinical conditions.

- **National Deworming Day:** To combat Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) infections, the Ministry has adopted a single-day strategy called National Deworming Day (NDD), being implemented since 2015, wherein a single dose of Albendazole tablet is administered to children and adolescents of age 1-19 years bi-annually all over the country (except for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where it is implemented annually), using platform of schools and Anganwadi centres. The National Deworming Day is observed on **February 10** every year.

- **Anemia Mukt Bharat:** In 2018, Anemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) strategy was launched to achieve the envisaged target of a 3 per cent reduction in anaemia prevalence every year under the POSHAN Abhiyan.

  - The six interventions under the Anemia Mukt Bharat strategy are prophylactic iron-folic acid supplementation; periodic deworming; intensified year-round behaviour change communication campaign including delayed cord clamping; testing and treatment of anaemia using digital methods and point of care treatment; mandatory provision of iron-folic acid fortified foods in public health programmes; and addressing non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres:** They are facility-based interventions to provide medical treatment and nutritional management to under-five year children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications. Besides that, these Centres also impart skills to mothers/caregivers on child rearing practices so that the child continues to receive adequate care at home post NRC discharge.

- **Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS):** SAANS Initiative was launched in 2019 to accelerate action to reduce deaths due to childhood pneumonia. It is a 360-degree communication of SAANS campaign to ensure greater awareness on childhood pneumonia among families and parents in order to trigger behaviour change and improve care seeking.

- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021:** It enhances the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women among other things. It will further increase the access and ambit of women for safe and legal services, thereby reducing unsafe abortion and associated morbidity and mortality. It will also ensure the respect and dignity of women.

Family Planning:

- India was the first country in the world to adopt a population policy and launch a **National Programme for Family Planning** way back in 1952. The initial efforts under the program were focused on population stabilisation.

- The benefits of Family Planning were realised globally, and it is now a well-recognised intervention to improve maternal and child health.

- The objectives, strategies and activities of the Family Planning Programme have been aligned with goals and objectives of various policies (**National Population Policy 2000, National Health Mission 2005 and National Health Policy 2017)** and compliments India's commitment at International Forums.

  - Several new initiatives being implemented under the **National Family Planning Programme** include **Mission Parivar Vikas**, being implemented in 13 states for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services; expanding contraceptive choices; compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors; providing Post-partum Intrauterine Contraceptive Device (PPIUCD) post-delivery.

Ayushman Bharat:

- To provide health cover of 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to poor and vulnerable sections of the population, Ayushman Bharat—Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) was launched in 2018 subsuming the erstwhile Rashtriya 5wasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY).

  - This health cover includes 3 days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation expenses.

  - There is no cap on family size, age or gender to ensure that all members of the beneficiary families are covered.

- **PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission:** The mission was launched in 2021 to be over till 2025-26. This is the largest pan-India scheme for strengthening healthcare infrastructure since 2005 which has centrally sponsored scheme with some central sector components.

- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana:** Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world, fully financed by the government and the cost of implementation is shared between the central and state governments. Households are included based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) for rural and urban areas respectively.

- **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana:** PMSSY has two components: projects involving setting up of new AIIMS like institutes and up-gradation of existing government medical colleges. Since the launch of the scheme, setting up of 22 new AIIMS and 75 government medical college up-gradation projects are going on

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme:

- The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) (erstwhile Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme) is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme implementing Tuberculosis prevention

and control activities in a mission mode to achieve a rapid decline in burden of TB, morbidity and mortality, towards ending TB in India by 2025.

National Policy for Rare Diseases

➤ The rare diseases have been identified and categorized into 3 groups and financial support is provided up to 50 lakhs to the patients suffering from any category of the rare diseases and for treatment in any of the centre of excellence as contained in NPRD-2021.

National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme

➤ The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is an umbrella programme for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases, namely, malaria, Japanese encephalitis (JE), dengue, chikungunya, kala-azar and lymphatic filariasis. Malaria and dengue are outbreak prone and climate sensitive. The states/UTs are responsible for implementation of the programme, whereas the Directorate of NVBDCP, Delhi provides technical assistance, policies and assistance to the states/UTs in the form of cash and commodity, as per approved pattern.

Non-Communicable Disease

➤ **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis:** Fluorosis is a crippling disease caused by excess intake of fluoride mainly through drinking water. Excess of fluoride results in major health disorders like **Dental Fluorosis, Skeletal Fluorosis and Non-Skeletal Fluorosis.**

BIS Standard: Desirable limit for fluoride in drinking water is 1.0 mg/litre and the permissible limit is 1.5 mg/litre.

➤ **National Oral Health Programme:** The National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) was initiated in 2014-15 to strengthen the public health facilities of the country for an accessible, affordable and quality oral health care delivery

  ● eDant Seva, an interactive website and mobile application for oral health, has been developed. All the dental facilities of the country are mapped on the website.

  ● A National Referral and Research Institute for higher Dental Studies (NARRIDS) has been established at CDER, AIIMS to support dental research.

➤ **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS):** The objective of the programme is to address the challenge of rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Under the programme, focus is on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral to appropriate facilities

➤ **Others:**

  ● Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

  ● National Programme for Tobacco Control and Drug Addiction Treatment (NPTCDAT)

Tobacco Control

➤ To discourage the use of tobacco products in order to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003) was enacted.

  ● India is party to the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC),** the first global health treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. There are currently 182 parties to the Convention.

➤ **National Tobacco Control Programme:** Launched in 2007-08, it aims to facilitate effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Laws-COTPA 2003 in the country and to bring about great awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and about the Tobacco Control Laws.

➤ **Electronic-**cigarettes and like devices are prohibited through The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacturing, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, 2019.

National Centre for Disease Control

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has its headquarters in Delhi and has 8 branches located at Alwar (Rajasthan), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Kozhikode (Kerala), Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), Patna (Bihar), Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).

➤ **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP):** It is a centrally sponsored scheme under NHM to-

• Maintain a decentralised disease surveillance system for epidemic prone-disease

• Monitor disease trends

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

➤ **Food Safety and Standards Act** was enacted in 2006.

• In 2008, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** was established under the aegis of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to enforce the provisions of the new law.

• The Food Authority guides and regulates all persons engaged in manufacturing, processing, import, transportation, storage, distribution and retails of food, on issues of food safety and nutrition with primary responsibility for enforcement largely with the Commissioners of Food Safety of states/UTs.

➤ Addressing malnutrition through Food Fortification: According to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), "Fortification is deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients in a food so as to improve the nutritional quality of food and to provide public health benefit with minimal risk to health".

> **Standards for fortification (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution)**
>
> Under the Ministry's guidelines, 10 g of FRK must be blended with 1 kg of regular rice.
>
> ➤ According to FSSAI norms, 1 kg of fortified rice will contain the following:
>
> ➤ iron (28 mg-42.5 mg)
>
> ➤ folic acid (75-125 microgram)
>
> ➤ vitamin B-12 (0.75-1.25 microgram)
>
> Rice may also be fortified with zinc (10 mg-15 mg), vitamin A (500-750 microgram RE), vitamin B-1 (1 mg-1.5 mg), vitamin B-2 (1.25 mg-1.75 mg), vitamin B-3 (12.5 mg-20 mg) and vitamin B-6 (1.5 mg-2.5 mg) per kg.

➤ **Eat Right India Movement:** The initiative aims to transform the country's food system in order to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.

Drugs

➤ **SUGAM portal** by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) enables online submission of applications, their tracking, processing and grant of approvals online mainly for drugs, clinical trials, ethics committee, medical devices, vaccines and cosmetics.

E-Health

➤ **National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB):** NDHB provides an approach to establish foundational IT components that will enable the Health ecosystem to streamline information flows across players in the ecosystem while keeping citizens, their privacy and confidentiality of data at the forefront.

➤ **Sanjeevani and eSanjeevani OPD:** eSanjeevani, the telemedicine platform of MoHFW supports two types of teleconsultation services: Doctor-to-Doctor (it is known as eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (it is called eSanjeevani OPD) tele-consultations. eSanjeevani is an important component of the **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.**

National AIDS Control Programme

➤ The NACP is a comprehensive programme for controlling and preventing HIV/AIDS in India.

➤ It is a fully funded Central Sector Scheme.

➤ Under the programme, comprehensive services across HIV prevention-testing-treatment-retention is being offered through 1,472 non-government organisations.

Ministry of AYUSH

➤ The **Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H)** was established in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1995.

➤ It was rechristened as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy with acronym AYUSH in 2003.

➤ In keeping with the policy of the government to lay focused thrust on the Indian traditional systems of medicine, popularisation of AYUSH systems of healthcare and to make AYUSH the preferred system of medicine and Yoga a world-wide phenomenon, the Department of AYUSH was granted the status of Ministry in 2014.

➤ The Ministry is responsible for policy formulation, development and implementation of programmes for the growth, development and propagation of **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)** systems of healthcare**.**

➤ **Sowa-Rigpa** is the recent addition to the existing facility of AYUSH systems.

AYUSH Systems of Healthcare

➤ **Major Systems**

- Ayurveda
- Yoga
- Naturopathy
- Unani
- Siddha
- Homoeopathy
- Sowa-Rigpa

➤ **Ayush Start-ups and Incubation Centre:** Ayush start-up scheme is also being planned under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Ayush Vikas Yojana. To promote entrepreneurship leveraging the academic knowledge, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), has set up an Incubation and Innovation Centre in its campus to nucleate a cluster of new age ventures. AIIA has been recognized as Host Institute under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, which would provide opportunities to the innovators in developing and nurturing their ideas.

➤ **National AYUSH Mission:** Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) for development and promotion of AYUSH system of medicine including Homoeopathy.

➤ **Ayush Healthcare Infrastructure:** National AYUSH Mission envisages better access to AYUSH services including co-location of AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), strengthening of AYUSH educational institutions.

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Education

- The **Ministry of Education** was created in 1985, through the **174th amendment** to the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.**

- The ministry has been various initiatives to lay emphasis on the educational development of students of weaker sections of the society:
  - setting up of national monitoring committee on minorities
  - setting up of national monitoring committee for education of SCs, STs and persons with disabilities
  - student support initiatives such as National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir, scheme of interest subsidy on educational loans
  - regulations on prevention of discrimination and establishment of ombudsman
  - development of an anti-ragging web portal for the all-round development of our children, which can be achieved by building strong foundations in education

> **Departments**
> - Department of School Education and Literacy
> - Department of Higher Education

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education

- **Article 21-A** of the **Constitution of India** and its consequent legislation, the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** became operative in the country in 2010.

- The RTE Act confers the right to elementary education on all children, in the age group of 6-14 years, on the basis of equality of opportunity in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. All states and UTs have notified their state RTE rules.

- The **centrally sponsored scheme** of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** supports states and UTs in their efforts to implement the RTE Act. Its interventions include, inter alia, opening of new schools; construction of schools and additional classrooms; constructing toilets and drinking water facilities; provisioning for teachers; in-service training for teachers and academic resource support; free textbooks and uniforms; support for improving learning achievement levels; research; and evaluation and monitoring.

Amendments to RTE Act

The RTE Act of 2009 was amended from time to time as the situation demanded.

- **2012 Amendment:** It was amended in 2012 to make it subject to **Article 29 and 30 of the Constitution** (The provisions of the Act shall not apply to Madrasas, Vedic Pathshalas and educational institutions primarily imparting religious instructions).

- ➤ **2017 Amendment:** The Act was again amended in 2017 to extend the period of acquisition of minimum professional qualifications for all in-service teachers till March, 2019.

- ➤ **2019 Amendment:** The Act was further amended in 2019 to empower the appropriate government to take a decision as to whether to hold back a child in the fifth class or in the eighth class or in both classes after providing additional instruction and granting opportunity for re-examination, or not to hold back a child in any class, till the completion of elementary education.

National Education Policy

- ➤ **National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP 2020)** is the first policy of the 21th century, and has come after 34 years, replacing the **New Education Policy of 1986.**

- ➤ Built on the foundational pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability, this policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

- ➤ It aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college.

Salient Features

The salient features of the policy include:

- ➤ **Universal access to school education:** NEP 2020 emphasizes on ensuring universal access to school education at all levels: pre-school to secondary. The target is to raise gross enrolment ratio in school education to 100 per cent by 2030.

- ➤ **Change in school curriculum:** The 10+2 structure of school curriculum is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.

  - This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum.

  - The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre-schooling.

- ➤ **Flexible framework:** NCERT will develop a **National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE)** for children up to the age of 8 years education more holistic and flexible.

- ➤ **Focus on language:** The policy has emphasized **mother tongue/local language/ regional language** as the medium of instruction at least till grade 5, but preferably till grade 8 and beyond, as far as possible. **Sanskrit** will be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-language formula.

  - Other **classical languages** and literatures of India will also be available as options. No language will be imposed on any student.

  - **Several foreign languages** will also be offered at the secondary level. Indian Sign Language (ISL) will be standardized across the country, and national and state curriculum materials will be developed for students with hearing impairment.

- ➤ **Aimed GER:** NEP aims to increase gross enrolment ratio in higher education (including vocational education) to 50 per cent by 2035. GER is currently 27.1 per cent (2019-20 figures).

- ➤ **Higher Education Commission of India:** There will be a **single overarching umbrella body** —Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) — for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI will have four independent verticals: National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.

- ➤ To implement the NEP 2020, several initiatives has been taken

  - Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)

  - e-learning expanded through Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)

- Project Appraisal Budgeting Achievements and Data Handling System (PRABANDH) portal for monitoring of fund flow and physical and financial progress under the Samagra Shiksha scheme to ensure optimal utilization of resources

- 'Talking Books' developed to aid Divyang students, etc.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

➤ It is an integrated centrally sponsored scheme. It is an overarching programme for school education sector extending from preschool to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable.

> ◉ **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**: ATLs being established in schools (Grade VI-XII) managed by Government, local body or private trusts/society quality education at all levels of school education.
>
> ◉ **NISHTHA:** National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement is a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme.

Bridging Gender Gaps in Elementary Education

➤ Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV): KGBVs are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC, Muslim communities and BPL families.

➤ **Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education:** In order to plan and execute educational interventions, the purpose of the Gender Atlas is to help identify and ensure equitable education with a focus on vulnerable girls, including girls with disabilities.

➤ **Self-Defence Training for Girls**: Under Samagra Shiksha, Self-defence training has been provided to girls studying in Govt. schools.

➤ Removal of gender bias

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA): Launched in 2017, it has achieved several milestones in the field of digital teaching and lending.

PM SHRI Schools: PM ScHools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Schools scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme under which more than 15,000 schools to be qualitatively strengthened to include all components of the National Education Policy and emerge as exemplar schools over a period of time.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education (A) Strengthening Teacher Education: The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education was initiated in 1987, pursuant to the formulation of the National Policy of Education, 1986. The scheme was revised for the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The aim was to establish DIETs in all districts.

Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas

➤ The objectives of the scheme are: encourage Madarsas and Maktabs to introduce formal subjects, i.e., Science, Mathematics, Social studies**.**

➤ **Training is to be arranged in groups for Madarsa teachers appointed under the Scheme by SCERTs/DIETs/BRCs.**

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

➤ The centrally sponsored National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) was launched in 2008 with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop-out at Class VIII and encourage them tocontinue studies at secondary and higher secondary stage up to Class XII.

National Award to Teachers

➤ Instituted in 1958, the National Award to Teachers (NAT) is given away by the President of India on 5th September (Teachers' Day) every year to give public recognition to meritorious teachers working in primary, middle and secondary schools.

National Council of Teacher Education

➤ The National Council for Teacher Education, in its previous status since 1973, was an advisory body for the central and state governments on all matters pertaining to teacher education, with its secretariat in the Department of Teacher Education of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

National Bal Bhavan

➤ Bal Bhavan is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. National Bal Bhavan aims at enhancing the creative potential of children by providing them various opportunities and common platform to interact, experiment according to their age.

Central Board of Secondary Education

➤ Established in 1929, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), is a premier board of school education under the Union Government. CBSE conducts examinations in classes X and XII based on curriculum and syllabi prescribed by it.

➤ CBSE has moved towards competency-based assessment called Structured Assessment for Analysing Learning (SAFAL) to assess student learning outcomes on key competencies at classes 3,5 and 8.

National Institute of Open Schooling

➤ National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an 'Open School' to cater to the needs of a heterogeneous group of learners up to pre-degree level. It was started as a project with in-built flexibilities by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in 1979.

➤ The NIOS provides opportunities to interested learners by making available the following courses/ programmes of study through open and distance learning (ODL) mode.

➤ e-Vidya 10 and 12 channels at the secondary and senior secondary level. These resources are further augmented by podcasting the contents at secondary and senior secondary level courses through Mukt Vidya Vani (MVV).

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman

➤ Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools' is one of the foremost rights based centrally sponsored schemes.

➤ Its broad objective was to encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly; and providing them nutritional support.

  ● **Tithi Bhojan:** "Tithi Bhojan" is a concept designed to ensure greater public participation under the erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Programme, now known as PM POSHAN.

  ● **School Nutrition Garden:** School Nutrition Garden (SNG) is a place where herbs, fruits and vegetables are grown in the school premises for use in preparation of meal. The objective of developing such Gardens is to help address malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies and also to give children first-hand experience with nature and gardening.

  ● **Testing of Food Samples:** The Mid-Day Meal Guidelines for engagement of accredited labs by the state/UT governments are put in place for testing of the meals served in the schools through social audit.

GSSCORE

COVID-19 Initiatives

- **Manodarpan**: The Ministry of Education undertook an initiative, named, 'Manodarpan', covering a wide range of activities to provide psychosocial support to students, Covid outbreak and beyond. A national toll-free helpline (8448440632) for a countrywide outreach to students from schools, colleges and universities to provide them tele-counselling to address their mental health and psychosocial issues during and after the Covid-19 situation was set.

➤ Development of Alternate Academic Calendar

Higher and Technical Education

➤ There has been phenomenal growth of higher education in India since independence. There were only 20 universities and 500 colleges at the time of independence which have increased by 52.15 times (i.e., 1043) in the case of degree awarding universities/institutions and 84.69 times (i.e., 42,343) in the case of colleges. Similarly, there has been tremendous growth in the enrolment (385.36 lakh in higher education).

National Institutional Ranking Framework

➤ The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for educational institutions was launched to meet the need for a framework that would enable parents, students, teachers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to rank institutions on the basis of a set of objective parameters and a transparent process. Developed by a team of experts in education and heads of institutions.

SAKSHAM - a Scholarship for Differently Abled Children

➤ It aims at providing encouragement and support to differently abled children to pursue technical education.

Ishan Uday - for Students of North-East Region

➤ The UGC launched a special scholarship scheme for students of north-east region, Ishan Uday, from the academic session 2014-15.

Pragati

➤ Pragati (scholarship for girl students) is a scheme of AICIE aimed at providing assistance for advancement of girls, participation in technical education.

Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Single Girl Child

➤ The drop-out ratio at various levels of education for girls is much higher than that of boys so in order to tackle this issue scheme provide Scholarship for Single Girl Child for research in social sciences with an aim to compensate direct costs of higher education.

National e-Library

➤ The National Digital Library of India is envisaged as a national knowledge asset to provide ubiquitous digital knowledge source.

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Welfare

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The Constitution contains several provisions in the nature of safeguards for the Scheduled Castes. The following two Acts specifically aim at curbing: (i) untouchability and (ii) atrocities against SCs and STs, and are therefore very important for the Scheduled Castes:

➤ The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955- In pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted. Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in 1976 as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. It provides punishment for the practice of untouchability. It is implemented by the respective state governments and union territory administrations

➤ The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989- it came into force in 1990. This legislation aims at preventing commission of offences by persons other than scheduled castes and scheduled tribes against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Despite the deterrent provisions made in the PoA Act, continuing atrocities against the members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) had been a cause of concern. The SCs and the STs (PoA) Act has been amended several time.

➤ Section 18A was inserted after Section 18, which is as follows:

➤ "18A. (1) For the purposes of this Act,— (a) preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person; or

➤ The investigating officer shall not require approval for the arrest, if necessary, of any person, against whom an accusation of having committed an offence under this Act has been made and no procedure other than that provided under this Act or the Code shall apply.

The National Commission for SCs and STs

➤ The National Commission for SCs and STs (NCSC) which was set up under Article 383 of the Constitution in 1990 was bifurcated into two Commissions namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after the 89th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2003.

➤ Functions of the NCSC as enumerated in the Article 338(5) of the Constitution are: (a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled castes under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards; (b) to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the scheduled castes.

SCHEMES FOR SC AND ST

Educational Empowerment

Pre-Matric Scholarship

➤ This is a centrally sponsored scheme, which is implemented by the state governments and union

territory administrations, which receive 100 per cent central assistance for the total expenditure under the scheme.

Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC Students

➤ The Scheme was introduced in 2012. It is centrally sponsored and implemented by the state governments and union territory administrations, which provides 100 per cent assistance from Government of India.

Post-Matric Scholarship for SC Students

➤ This is a centrally sponsored scheme under which central assistance is released to states/UTs. The scholarships are available for studying in India only and are awarded by the states/union territories to which the applicant belongs.

National Overseas Scholarship for SCs

➤ The Scheme provides for fees charged by institutions as per actual, monthly maintenance allowance, passage visa fee and insurance premium, annual contingency allowance and incidental journey allowance. Only two children of the same parents/ guardians are eligible to get benefit under the Scheme.

Special Central Assistance

➤ Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a central sector Scheme, started in 1980, under which a 100 per cent grant is given to the states/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). The main objective is to give a thrust to family-oriented schemes of economic development for SCs below the poverty line.

Scheduled Castes Development Corporations

➤ The centrally sponsored scheme for participating in the equity share of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) in the ratio of 49:51 (central/state) was introduced in 1979. At present, SCDCs are functioning in 27 states/UTs.

➤ The main functions of such corporations are identification of eligible SC families and motivating them to undertake economic development schemes, sponsoring the schemes to financial institutions for credit support and providing necessary tie-up with other poverty alleviation programmes.

Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes

➤ Government announced the setting up of a Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes in 2014. This was to promote entrepreneurship among the scheduled castes and to provide concessional finance to them.

Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes

➤ In 2014, the government announced that a sum of 200 crore will be allocated towards credit enhancement facility for young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to scheduled castes.

Tribal Affairs

Development of Scheduled Tribes

➤ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs

Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas

➤ Scheduled Tribes live in contiguous areas unlike other communities. It is, therefore, much simpler to have an area approach for development activities and also regulatory provisions to protect their interests. In order to protect the interests of scheduled tribes with regard to land alienation and other social factors, provisions of the Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule have been enshrined in the Constitution.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up with effect from February 19, 2004, by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution, through the Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003.

- The main duties of the Commission are to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled tribes and to evaluate the working of such safeguards.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

- The (NSTFDC) were set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- NSTFDC provides financial assistance as grants for the skill and entrepreneurial development of the target group. NSTFDC also provides financial assistance for procurement and marketing of minor forest produce to avoid the distressed sale of produce/products by the scheduled tribes.

Special Schemes

- Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) is an exclusive scheme for the economic development of ST women, at a highly concessional rate of interest.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), was set up in 1987 as a national level apex body under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (MSCS Act, 1984).

- TRIFED functions as a 'market developer' for tribal products and as 'service provider' to its member federations.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission

- It will operate through formation of Vandhan groups who have been organised into Vandhan Kendras. TRIFED would be the nodal agency for implementing the scheme. The scheme seeks to establish a system to ensure fair returns for their efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packing, transportation, etc.

Forest Rights of STs

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, seeks to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognised in the consolidation of state forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them. The Act has been notified for operation from 2007.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools

- The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) was introduced in the year 1997-98 to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) students in remote tribal areas.

Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum

- The Ministry has decided to have Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum in 10 states. Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Udyan cum Freedom Fighters Museum was inaugurated in Ranchi in 2021. Along with Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the museum also highlights other tribal freedom fighters associated with different movements such as Shahid Budhu Bhagat, Sidhu-Kanhu, Nilambar-Pitambar, qiwa-Kisun, TelangaKhadiya, Gaya Munda, Jatra Bhagat, Pato H, Bhagirath Manjhi, Ganga Narayan Singh.

Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana

- With the aim of focusing on remote and backward villages which are lagging behind in development indicators, Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) was started for faster development of tribal villages.

GSSCORE

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

➤ Government of India has declared in 2021, November 15th as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to honour all the tribal freedom fighters and for remembering and acknowledging their contribution to the freedom struggle and cultural heritage.

1000 Springs Inititaive

➤ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the MoA launched the '1000 Spring Initiative' in 2019 with an aim to protect and conserve the natural springs to improve access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in a difficult and inaccessible part of rural areas.

➤ More than 550 springs have been mapped and tagged to web-based 'GIS enabled Spring ATLAS'. This is being done with community participation through convergence of various government schemes including MGNREGA and watershed development.

Welfare of Other Backward Classes

➤ The Second Backward Classes Commission (commonly known as Mandal Commission), constituted under Article 340, submitted its report in 1980. In the light of this report, the Government of India provided 27 per cent reservation in central government posts for persons belonging to the socially and economically backward classes (also referred to as "Other Backward Classes" or OBCs).

➤ With the amendment of Article 15 of the Constitution in 2006 and the enactment of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act in 2007, listing of other backward classes has become relevant for admission in central educational institutions also.

Pre-Matric & Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

➤ In this scheme, the expenditure is shared between centre and state in 50:50 ratio. The aim of this scheme is to motivate children of OBCs studying at pre-matric & Post-Matric stage.

VISVAS Yojana Scheme

➤ Vanchit Ikai Samooh our Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta Yojana (VISVAS Yojana) is for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and OBC Self Help Groups/individual members with annual family incomes up to 3 lakh. All individual members will be eligible for interest subvention on loans up to 2.00 lakh at 5 percent interest per annum

Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans

➤ The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability.

Welfare of Persons with Disabilities

➤ A separate Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2012. The Department acts as a nodal agency for matters pertaining to disability and persons with disabilities including effecting closer coordination among different stakeholders—related central ministries, state/UT governments, NGOs etc.—in matters pertaining to disability. According to Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in the country (who constitute 2.21 per cent of the total population.

Legislative Framework

➤ Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) deals with the following legislation governing different aspects of empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities: (i) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016; (ii) The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992; (iii) The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

➤ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016- The RPwD Act, 2016 provides for various rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities. These rights and entitlements include equality and

non-discrimination, community life, protection against cruelty etc. The Act mandates the appropriate governments to frame schemes and programmes in the area of inclusive education, skill development, social security, health, rehabilitation, recreation and sports for effective empowerment and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Economic Development

➤ The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) serves as an umbrella organisation for providing financial assistance for beginning any activity contributing directly or indirectly to the generation of income or assisting Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in their overall process of empowerment through State channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the state government(s), selected Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), etc**.**

Accessible India Campaign

➤ The Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) is a nation-wide campaign for achieving universal accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Campaign is implemented across three verticals namely, the built-up environment, the transportation system and the information and communication technology ecosystem.

➤ The Sugamya Bharat App - a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application has been launched to elicit accessibility related issues through jan-bhagidari. This user-friendly and accessible App enables anyone, anywhere, anytime to bring to notice accessibility-related issues being faced by them while using public centric infrastructure facilities and services.

Scholarship for Students with Disabilities

➤ Department of Disability Affairs is implementing a Scheme titled 'Scholarships for Students with Disabilities'. Six components of the Scheme are Pre-matric (Classes IX and X), Post-matric (Classes XI to Post Graduate Degree/Diploma), Top Class Education (Graduate and Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in notified Institutes of excellence in education), National Fellowship (M. Phil/Ph.D in Indian Universities), National Overseas Scholarship (Master's Degree and Ph.D in Foreign Universities) and Free Coaching (for competitive exams for group A and B posts and entrance examinations for admission to technical and professional courses).

Mental Health Act

➤ Mental illness has been recognised as one of the disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The treatment and care of the mentally ill persons are governed by the Mental Health Act, 1987. The Act is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

National Institutes

➤ There are nine National Institutes (NIs) working under the Department specializing in different kinds of disabilities. The main objectives of these Institutes are to conduct various courses in the field of disabilities, to provide rehabilitation services to Persons with Disabilities and undertake Research and Development

Rehabilitation Council of India

➤ The Rehabilitation Council of India is a statutory body set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. The Council is responsible for regulating the training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of rehabilitation and special education. Its functions include: (i) standardisation and regulation of training courses at different levels in all the training institutions throughout the country; (ii) recognition of institutions/ universities running training courses in the area of rehabilitation of the disabled etc.

National Policy for Older Persons

➤ The existing National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons. The Policy envisaged state support to ensure financial and food security, healthcare, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse.

➤ National Council for Senior Citizens is the highest body to advise and coordinate with the government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged. Under Integrated Programme for Older Persons, financial assistance up to 90 per cent of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units.

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

➤ The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, were enacted, inter alia, to curb drug abuse.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy

➤ Ministry of Finance in consultation with all stakeholders including the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has brought the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy (NDPS Policy) which aims to: (a) spell out the policy towards narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; (b) serve as a guide to various ministries and organisations in the government and to the state governments as well as international organisations, NGOs; (c) Re-assert India's commitment to combat the drug menace holistically.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

➤ The Ministry launched Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 272 identified vulnerable districts with an aim to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses and schools and reaching out into the community.

Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)

➤ The Ministry formulated an umbrella scheme - (SMILE), which includes two sub-schemes - Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons and Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging

Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana

➤ The Ministry caters for the empowerment of the socially, educationally and economically marginalised sections of the society including SCs, OBCs, De-notified Tribes (DNTs), EBCs, Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers. Most of the persons of this group are having minimal economic assets; therefore, provision of training and enhancing their competencies is essential for economic empowerment / upliftment.

Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)

➤ The government is committed to eradicating manual scavenging. A central sector (SRMS) is being implemented since 2007 for the rehabilitation of identified manual scavengers in alternate occupations.

Minorities

➤ The Ministry of Minority Affairs was established in 2006. It has been mandated for the formulation of policies, schemes and programmes for welfare and socio-economic development of 6 notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, which constitute more than 19 per cent of India's population.

15-Point Programme for Minorities

➤ The Prime Minister's 15-Point programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in 2006. The objectives of the programme are: (a) enhancing opportunities for education; (b) ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to state and central government jobs.

Maulana Azad National Fellowship

➤ The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme for minority students was launched in 2009 as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS). It is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC) and cent per cent central assistance is provided under the scheme. The objective of the scheme is to provide five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from minority communities, notified by the central government to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses.

Nai Udaan

➤ The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing Preliminary Exams conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions.

Padho Pardes

➤ The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability.

Naya Savera

➤ Free Coaching and Allied Scheme The Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to minority communities were launched in 2007 by this Ministry

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM-VIKAS)

➤ The Ministry of Minority Affairs seeks to facilitate opportunities for minority communities in education, skilling, and employment to ensure their inclusive development in the national fabric.

➤ combining five existing schemes of the Ministry, viz., Seekho our Kamao, Upgrading the Skill and Training In Traditional Arts / Crafts for Development (USTTAD), Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzi!. PM VIKAS is aligned to the 15th Finance Commission cycle period up to 2025-26 and is a central sector scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram

➤ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is a centrally sponsored scheme, which is being implemented with the objective to develop infrastructure projects in the identified areas for socio-economic development of the said areas. During the 15th Finance Commission Cycle, the scheme has been approved for implementation in all districts of the country including all the aspirational districts.

National Commission for Minorities

➤ The Minorities Commission which was set up in 1978 became a statutory body with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, after which it was renamed as the National Commission for Minorities.

➤ The main functions of the Commission are to evaluate the progress of the development of minorities, monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by the central and state governments, for the protection of the interests of minorities and look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of the rights of minorities.

➤ Eighteen state governments/UT administrations have set up State Commission for Minorities.

National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

➤ The Office of the Commission for Linguistic Minorities (CLM) was established in 1957 in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution which envisages investigation by CLM of all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in the country under the Constitution and reporting to the President upon these matters at such intervals as the President may direct.

Durgah Khawaja Saheb Act

➤ It is an Act to make provision for the proper administration of Dargah and Endowment of the Durgah

Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishti (R.A.). Under this central Act, the administration, control and management of the Durgah Endown ,ent has been vested in a representative committee known as the Durgah Committee appointed by the central government.

Women and Child Development

Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan Abhiyan 2.0

➤ Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan Abhiyan 2.0 (hereinafter referred to as Saksham Anganwadi) aim to address government's commitment to address the challenge of child malnutrition and maternal under-nutrition through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and create conditions and a convergent eco-system to develop practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.

POSHAN Abhiyaan

➤ Aiming to enhance the nutritional status of children under the age of 6, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers in a time-bound manner through the use of a coordinated and goal-oriented strategy, the POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched in 2018. The Abhiyaan has been reorganised under "Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0," which serves as the primary outreach pillar and covers innovations in nutritional support, ICT interventions, media advocacy and research, community outreach, and Jan Andolan.

Mission Shakti

➤ Mission Shakti is a scheme in mission mode aimed at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment.

Nari Adalat

➤ Nari Adalat a new component for providing women with an alternate grievance redressal mechanism for resolving cases of petty nature (harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements) faced at Gram Panchayat level will be implemented in a phased manner.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

➤ The scheme addresses women's right to work and to free choice of profession and employment as mandated under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Another objective of the (PMMVY) from 2017 as per provisions under Section 4 of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 which provides for financial support for pregnant.

Gender Budgeting

➤ Gender Budgeting has been adopted as a tool to facilitate a gender sensitive analysis in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes and budgets (expenditure and revenue).

Mission Vatsalaya

➤ The Act provides for protection of children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with law by catering to their basic needs through care, protection, development, treatment and social re-integration. JJ Model Rules, 2016 and Adoption Regulations, 2017 have also been promulgated under the Act.

Inclusion of Add Attack as Disability

➤ The recently enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 notified in 2016, included acid attack as a kind of disability. Acid attack victims can now avail disability benefits.

NRI Matrimonial Disputes

MWCD has prepared Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for women involved in NRI matrimonial disputes. These SoPs narrate the step-wise correct legal recourse to be undertaken by women to facilitate

speedy access to justice. These are also intended to serve as an effective reference manual for court and police officials across the country who are investigating such disputes or representing such women's interest in courts.

Mahila e-Haat

➤ The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched "Mahila e-Haat", a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/SHGs/ NGOs in 2016.

Child Protection Services Scheme

➤ The Child Protection Services Scheme (CPS) scheme is being implemented to support states/UTs in delivering the mandate of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Act provides a safety net of statutory and service delivery structures for children in conflict with the law (CCL) and Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP).

Central Adoption Resource Authority

➤ Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body that functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

➤ Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) was established in 1993 as an autonomous body and was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. RMK is a national level organisation for socio-economic empowerment of women. RMK is that of a facilitating agency wherein it provides loans to NGO-MFIs termed as Intermediary Organisations (IMO).

Children's Issues

➤ The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering various schemes for the welfare, development and protection of children.

POCSO Act

➤ To deal with child abuse cases, the Parliament had passed a special law i.e., 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in 2012'. The Act defines a child as any person below the age of **18** years. The act is gender neutral and provides protection to all the children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.

Food and Nutrition Board

➤ The Food & Nutrition Board (FNB) is a technical support wing under Child Development Bureau of the Ministry. It has a countrywide set up comprising of a Technical Wing at the Centre, four Regional Offices and Quality Control Laboratories at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

➤ Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) is in process of setting up 4 food testing Laboratories, the food and nutritional supplements for food safety and quality to ensure nutritional and feeding norms for supplementary nutrition in ICDS Scheme.

National Early Childhood Care and Education

➤ Ministry launched the (NECCE) Policy in 2013. The National ECCE council aims to improve the fi eld of early childhood care and education. the Council's major goal is to instill in young children between the ages of 0 and 6 the concept and practise of holistic and integrated development with the necessary quality.

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development

➤ The Institute functions as an apex institution for training functionaries of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme. As a nodal resource agency, it has also been entrusted with the responsibility of training and capacity building functionaries at the national and regional levels, under the new scheme of Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

➤ NCPCR is a statutory body to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)

➤ RMK was established in 1993 as an autonomous body and was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The primary goal of RMK is to provide low-interest microcredit to underprivileged women for a variety of livelihood assistance and income-generating activities in a client-friendly manner to promote their socioeconomic development.

Initiatives for the Welfare of Pensioners

Jeevan Pramaan Related Reforms

➤ In November 2014, an online system for submission of life certifi cate "Jeevan Pramaan" was launched. Through this, a pensioner can give an online Life Certifi cate, anytime and from anywhere, by attaching a biometric device to his PC/mobile phone or using the services of a Common Service Centre (CSC) or any nearest bank branch.

National Pension System

➤ A new contribution based Pension Scheme System, now called National Pension System (NPS) is now administered by is being administered and regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) set up under PFRDA Act, 2013 under the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services). The Scheme is now mandatory for all recruits to the central government service (except the armed forces) from January 1, 2004.

➤ NPS is a market linked, defined contribution product. Under NPS, a unique Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) is generated and maintained by the Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA) for individual subscriber.

➤ Under the NPS, every Government servant is registered and allotted a Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN).

Pension Adalats

➤ The idea of Pension Adalat is to create a single platform where all relevant parties, including the ministry, departments, organization, CPAO, and bank, can come together to expeditiously resolve any long pending grievances to the satisfaction of the petitioner.

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Agriculture

17

Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. About 54.6 per cent of the population in India is engaged in agriculture and allied activities (Census 2011) and it contributed 17.8 per cent to the country's Gross Value Added for the year 2019-20 (at current prices).

Ministry of Cooperation

- ⊚ 'Ministry of Cooperation' was created in 2020 for realising the vision of Sahkar se Samriddhi (From Cooperation to Prosperity).
- ⊚ This Ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- ⊚ It will help deepen co-operatives as a true people based movement reaching upto the grassroots.

Production

➤ During 2020-21 an area of **1297.95 lakh ha** was sown under food-grains compared to 1269.94 lakh ha during 2019-20, **thus the sown area increased by 28.00 lakh ha.**

National Policy for Farmers

➤ Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in 2007.

➤ Aim: To improve economic viability of farming and to increase net income of farmers.

➤ It is implemented by different central government departments and ministries.

MAJOR PROGRAMMES

Kisan Samman Nidhi

➤ **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is an on-going central sector scheme.It became operational from 2018.**

➤ An income support of **6,000/- per year in three equal installments** is provided to all land holding farmer families.

➤ **Definition** of family : husband, wife and minor children.

➤ The states and UT administration identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.

➤ The funds are directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

Agri Infrastructure Fund

➤ DA&FW has formulated the **Central Sector Scheme** to mobilize a **medium - long term debt financing facility for investment** in viable projects relating to postharvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support.

Promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations

➤ A new **central sector scheme for formation and promotion of new 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) was launched in 2020. By October 2022, 3855 FPOs registered under new scheme.**

Soil Health Cards

➤ **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** is being implemented with the objectives to make agriculture more productive, sustainable and climate resilient; **Soil Health Management (SHM)** is one of the most important interventions under NMSA.

➤ **Soil Health Card Scheme was introduced in** 2014-15 **to optimize usage of nutrients.**

➤ Soil Health Card (SHC) contains nutrient status of soil with respect to **12 nutrients**: pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Sulphur (S), Zinc (Zn), Boron (B), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn) and Copper (Cu) of farm holdings.

➤ SHC is provided to **all farmers in the country at an interval of 3 years** to enable the farmers to apply recommended doses of nutrients based on soil test values to realize improved and sustainable soil health and fertility, low costs and higher profits.

Promotion of Organic Farming

➤ **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) was initiated in 2015-16** to promote **organic farming in the country.**

➤ **32384 clusters have been formed and an area of 6.53 lakh ha has been covered benefitting 16.19 lakh farmers.**

➤ Government also proposes to promote sustainable natural farming systems through the scheme **Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Padhati (BPKP)**.

➤ A **New Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification** was launched during 2015. This PGS system is the largest participatory organic certification programme in the world.

➤ A **Jaivik kheti portal** has been initiated to assist the small and marginal farmers in selling their organic products directly to consumers.

Agricultural Mechanization

➤ From 2014-15 to March, 2022 an amount of 5490.82 crore was allocated for agricultural mechanization. **13,88,314 numbers of machines** and equipment have been provided to farmers on subsidy.

➤ 18,824 custom hiring centers, 403 high-tech hubs and 16,791 farm machinery banks have been established to make available agricultural machines and equipments to the farmers on rental basis.

➤ Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been released the for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application in public domain since December 2021

➤ **Financial assistance @ 100 percent cost of drone together** with the contingent expenditure is extended to FMTTIs, ICAR Institutes, KVKs and SAUs under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM).

➤ The agriculture graduates establishing CHCs are eligible to receive financial assistance @50 percent of the cost of drone up to a maximum of 5.00 lakhs.

" Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):

➤ **The major objective of PMKSY** is to:

  • Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level;

  • Expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water;

  • Enhance the adoption of precision irrigation and other water saving technologies (Per drop, More crop);

  • Promote sustainable water conservation practices, etc.

Agricultural Credit

➤ The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998 to farmers on the basis of their holdings for uniform adoption.

➤ **Electronic Kisan Credit Cards** were issued in 2012 to simplify the scheme.

➤ It is **implemented by** Scheduled Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, Computerised Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) ceded with Scheduled Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

➤ The **KCC loans up to Rs. 3 lakh** are provided at subvented interest rates (4 per cent effective interest rate) to farmers through government of India scheme on interest subvention.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:

➤ This scheme is being implemented from Kharif 2016.

➤ Under PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2 percent of the sum insured is paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and **1.5 per cent for all Rabi crops**.

➤ In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers is up to 5 per cent.

➤ The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low.

➤ The balance of actuarial premium is being borne by the Government, to be shared equally by the state and central government (except in North Eastern States where the subsidy sharing pattern between central and state government is 90:10)

➤ **Aim:** To provide a fully insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.

Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme:

➤ **Aim:** To mitigate the hardship of the insured farmers against the likelihood of financial loss on account of anticipated crop loss resulting from adverse weather conditions.

➤ The scheme uses weather parameters as "proxy" for crop yields in compensating the cultivators for deemed crop losses.

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP):

➤ Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is mandated to advice on the price policy (MSP) of 23 crops.

➤ CACP submits its recommendations in the form of Price Policy Reports every year, separately for five groups of commodities namely kharif crops, rabi crops, sugarcane, raw jute and copra.

GSSCORE

Determinants of MSP

Cost of Production (CoP) is one of the important factors in the determination of MSP of mandated crops. Besides cost, factors such as demand and supply, price trend in the domestic and international markets, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and the likely impact of MSP on consumers, in addition to ensuring rational utilisation of natural resources like land and water. Thus, pricing policy is rooted not in 'cost plus' approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- ➤ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous body responsible for coordinating agricultural education and research in India.
- ➤ It reports to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture. The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president.
- ➤ It is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.
- ➤ **Functions**: Making agriculture sustainable through use of eco-friendly management and innovative technologies
- ➤ **Outcome**: It helped the country to achieve the production of food grains four times, horticultural crops six times, fish nine times and eggs twenty-seven times than it was in 1951.

Soil and Water Productivity

- ➤ The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) developed NBSS BHOOMI Geo-portal to access various thematic information

Genetic Resources

- ➤ Major explorations were undertaken and 1,532 germplasm accessions were collected, comprising 1,095 of cultivated plants and 437 wild accessions. The explorations were undertaken two each in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and one each in Andaman.

Crop Improvement

- ➤ Major emphasis was given to develop new varieties/hybrids tolerant to various biotic and abiotic stresses with enhanced quality.
- ➤ About 28 high-yielding varieties of oil seeds, 32 of pulses, 24 of commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane and jute) and eight of forage crops were released for cultivation in different agro-ecologies.

Agroecology

- ◉ It is an applied science that studies ecological processes applied to agricultural production systems.
- ◉ Bringing ecological principles to bear can suggest new management approaches in agroecosystems. The term is often used imprecisely, as the term can be used as a science, a movement, or an agricultural practice.
- ◉ Agroecologists study a variety of agroecosystems. The field of agroecology is not associated with any one particular method of farming, whether it be organic, regenerative, integrated, or conventional, intensive or extensive, although some use the name specifically for alternative agriculture.

Crop Management

- ➤ Enhancing crop yield per unit water use through improved agro-techniques involving sprinklers in summer greengram indicated higher stability in Samrat over IPM 205-7.

➤ Sprinkler irrigation resulted in less water use (26.3 per cent) with higher water productivity (43.2 per cent) and net return (28.4 percent) over flood irrigation.

Livestock

➤ Improvement of indigenous cattle breeds through selection project was conceptualised for the genetic improvement of Gir, Kankrej and Sahiwal cattle in their home tracts.

➤ **All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP)** on goat contributed for a better livelihood security for tribal people as goats are major source of income to poor people in tribal areas and north-eastern hill region.

Ministry of Cooperation

➤ A separate 'Ministry of Cooperation' was created in 2020. The Ministry will work to streamline processes for 'ease of doing business' for co-operatives, and enable development of Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS).

Multi-State Cooperative Societies

➤ The Constitution (Ninety-Seventh) (Amendment) Act, 2011 granted constitutional status to the cooperative societies.

➤ Provisions of part IX B of the constitution are applicable to the multi state cooperative societies.

National Cooperative Development Corporation

➤ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory corporation under the Ministry of Cooperation, was established in 1963 for economic development through cooperative societies.

National Council for Cooperative Training

➤ National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), an autonomous society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and a 100 percent grantee organization of the Ministry of Cooperation. NCCT has 20 institutions under its control.

Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

Livestock Production

➤ According to estimates of the Central Statistics Office, Gross Value Added (**GVA) of livestock sector** was about Rs. 11,14,249 crore at current prices during 2020-21, which was about 30.87 per cent of the GVA from agricultural and allied sector.

➤ At constant prices, the GVA from livestock was 6,17,117 crore, which was about 30.13 per cent of the gross value added from total agriculture and allied sector.

Milk Production

➤ Milk production in the country has increased from 146.31 million tonnes (2014-15) to 209.96 million tonnes (2020-21).

➤ Annual growth rate of milk production during 2020-21: 5.81 per cent.

➤ The per capita availability of milk : 427 grams per day in 2020-21.

Egg Production

➤ India ranks third in egg production in the world. Poultry production in India has taken a quantum leap in the last four decades, emerging from an unscientific farming practice to commercial production system with state-of-the-art technological interventions.

- ➤ Egg production has increased from 78.48 billion (2014-15) to 122.05 billion (2020-21).
- ➤ Annual **growth rate of egg production** was 4.99 per cent during 2014-15.
- ➤ Thereafter, there was a significant improvement in the egg production with the growth registered as 6.70 per cent in 2020-21. The per capita availability of egg was 90 eggs per annum in the same period.

Meat Production

- ➤ India ranks fifth in meat production in the world.
- ➤ Meat production increased from 6.7 million tonnes (2014-15) to 8.80 million tonnes (2020-21).
- ➤ Annual growth rate of meat production during 2020-21: 2.30 per cent.
- ➤ The per capita availability of meat in 2020-21: 6.52 (kg/annum).

Fish Production

- ➤ The country has vast potential for fisheries in view of long coastline of about 8,118 km apart from the inland water resources.

Special Livestock Sector Package

- ➤ The government approved implementation of a Special Livestock Sector Package consisting of several activities by revising and realigning various components of existing schemes
- ➤ Objective: to have focussed development of animal husbandry and dairying across the country for next 5 years starting from 2021 -22.

Development Programmes

- ➤ **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**:
  - • **Focus**: development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds and to undertake breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds so as to improve their generic makeup and increase the stock.
- ➤ **Gopal Ratna Award**
  - • To motivate farmers to take up productivity enhancement. This award is given in three categories (i) best ai technician, (ii) best dairy farmer, and (iii) best dairy cooperative/milk producer company.
- ➤ **National Programme for Dairy Development**:
  - • **Implementation**: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
  - • **Objective**: Creating/strengthening of infrastructure for production of quality milk, procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products by the State Implementing Agency (SIA).
- ➤ **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund**
  - • Implemented with the objective of creation /strengthening of milk processing, Value addition and chilling facilities under it.
- ➤ **Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisations (SDCFPO)**
  - • **Objective:** to assist the cooperative societies and farmer producer organizations engaged in dairy activities by providing soft working capital loan.
  - • The scheme is being implemented through National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- ➤ **National Livestock Mission**: National Livestock Mission (NLM) scheme has been restructured from 2021 22 to 2025-26.
  - • **Aim**: entrepreneurship development and breed improvement in poultry, sheep, goat and piggery including feed and fodder development.

Livestock Census and Integrated Sample Survey

➤ **Livestock Census**: The first livestock census was conducted during 1919-1920 and since then it is being conducted quinquennially by all states/UTs in India.

- It is the only source which gives **disaggregated information** on various species of animals and poultry birds.

- Objective: to provide information on livestock population, species-wise and breed-wise, along with age, sex composition, etc., in rural and urban areas.

➤ **Integrated Sample Survey**:

- Objective: to bring out estimates of livestock products such as milk, egg, meat and wool at national, state and district levels.

- Under the scheme, the estimates are to be brought out annually which is used for policy and planning purposes.

Livestock Health and Disease Control

➤ **Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) Scheme**:

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** implemented to supplement the efforts of the state/ UT governments.

- **Goal**: prevention, control and containment of animal diseases of economic and zoonotic importance, by vaccination.

- Now the scheme has been restructured from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- **Aim**: reducing risk to animal health by prophylactic vaccination against diseases of livestock and poultry, capacity building of veterinary services, disease surveillance, and strengthening veterinary infrastructure.

➤ **National Animal Disease Control Programme**: An ambitious scheme "National Animal Disease Control Programme" (NADCP) for control of Foot & Mouth Disease and brucellosis has been approved.

- This will be done by vaccinating 100 per cent cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig population for FMD and 100 per cent bovine female calves of 4-8 months of age for brucellosis. This scheme provides 100 per cent financial assistance.

Infrastructure Development Fund

➤ **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund**: As part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package, Animal Husbandry infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) was launched.

- AHIDF facilitates for incentivisation of investments in establishment of infrastructure for dairy and meat processing and value addition infrastructure, and establishment of animal feed plants by the Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO), individual entrepreneurs, MSMEs, Section 8 companies and private companies.

Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)

- A Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) is a type of Producer Organisation (PO) where farmers are its members. The PO is an organisation of any produce, such as non-farm products, agricultural, artisan products, etc., by producers.

- The Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) provides support for FPOs promotion.

- The aggregation of marginal, small and landless farmers as FPOs has helped increase market linkages to improve farmers' income and economic strength.

- It provides end-to-end services and support to the small farmers and covers marketing, technical services, processing, marketing and other aspects of cultivation inputs.

➤ **Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund**: Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) scheme was initiated by the Department during 2017-18.

- The scheme envisages providing loan assistance to State Dairy Federations, District Milk Unions, Milk Producers Companies, Multi State Cooperatives and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) subsidiaries across the country who are termed as Eligible End Borrowers (EEBs).

➤ **Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations**: A scheme was launched during 2017-18. It is being implemented by National Dairy Development Board.

Fisheries

➤ The **Department of Fisheries** is one of the two Departments under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

➤ India is the third largest fish producing and second largest aquaculture nation in the world after china.

➤ **The Blue Revolution** in India demonstrated importance of fisheries and aquaculture sector.

➤ The sector is considered as a sunrise sector with varied resources and potential, engaging several people at the primary level and many more along the value chain.

➤ In the recent past, Indian fisheries has witnessed a paradigm shift from marine dominated fisheries to inland fisheries, with the latter emerging as a major contributor of fish production from 36 per cent in the mid-1980 to 70 per cent in the recent past. Within inland fisheries, a shift from capture to culture based fisheries has paved the way for sustained blue economy.

Blue Revolution

◉ **Vision**: to achieve economic prosperity of the country and the fishers and fish farmers as well as contribute towards food and nutritional security through full potential utilization of water resources for fisheries development in a sustainable manner, keeping in view the bio-security and environmental concerns.

Pradhan Mantri Matasya Sampada :

➤ The scheme intends to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernisation and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fisher's welfare.

➤ **Objectives:** harnessing of fisheries potential in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner; enhancing of fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilisation of land and water; modernising and strengthening of value chain; robust fisheries management and regulatory framework.

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Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

18

INTRODUCTION

➤ The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution** is a ministry with two departments–

- **Department of Food and Public Distribution:** management of the food economy of the nation
- **Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA):** consumer advocacy

Department of Food and Public Distribution	Department of Consumer Affairs
◉ Procurement of food items, their storage, movement and delivery ◉ Ensure food security of the nation ◉ Efficient procurement and distribution of food grains	◉ Internal trade ◉ Prevention of black marketing ◉ Maintenance of supply of essential commodities act 1980 ◉ Regulation of packaged commodities ◉ Training in legal metrology

➤ India was a pioneer in consumer advocacy with the **Consumer Protection Act (CPA),** a path-breaking legislation at the time, enacted in 1986, and the establishment of a separate government department dedicated to consumer affairs as early as in 1997.

Consumer Awareness

➤ The DCA has been conducting a countrywide multimedia awareness campaign since 2005 on various issues related to consumer rights and responsibilities across diverse subjects.

➤ **"Jago Grahak Jago"** has today become a household axiom. Various publicity campaign are launched with government departments-

- For food- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**
- For Financial Services- **Reserve Bank of India**
- For Medicines- **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**

➤ The consumer awareness campaign is implemented through the Directorate of Audio and Visual Publicity (DAVP), the Doordarshan Network (DD), and the All India Radio (AIR) of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Consumer Welfare Fund

➤ The **Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944**, amended in 1991, enabled the Central government to create a **Consumer Welfare Fund** into which unclaimed central excise revenues not refundable to the manufacturers would be credited annually.

GSSCORE

- ➤ **Consumer Welfare Fund**
  - **Created in:** 1992
  - **Objective:** to provide financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of the consumer, create consumer awareness and strengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country, particularly in rural areas.
- ➤ The Department of Consumer Affairs operates the fund, set up by the **Department of Revenue** under the **Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.**

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

- ➤ This Act provided the **legislative framework** to better protect the interests of the consumer by creating a formal but quasi-judicial dispute resolution mechanism exclusively for consumers.
- ➤ It established the **three-tier quasi-judicial consumer dispute redress machinery** at the national, state, and district levels aimed at providing simple, speedy, and affordable redress to consumers

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Consumer Protection Act, 2019

- ◉ The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (New Act) became effective from August 2019.
- ◉ The **salient features** of the Act, include, establishment of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to:
  - ➤ Protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class, and prevent violation of consumers' rights under this Act
  - ➤ Prevent unfair trade practices and ensure that no person engages in unfair trade practices
  - ➤ Ensure that no false or misleading advertisement is made of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations made there under
  - ➤ Ensure that no person takes part in the publication of any advertisement which is false or misleading

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Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) App

- ➤ UMANG is one of the key initiatives under the **Digital India programme.**
- ➤ **Objective:** to develop a common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate a single point of access to all government services
  - A master application, which will integrate major government services from various sectors such agriculture, education, health, housing among others
  - Enable users to **access e-Government services** from the central government, the state governments, local bodies and their agencies.
  - **To abridge inconvenience faced by users** in managing multiple mobile apps and facilitate a onestop-solution to avail varied government services.
  - This app includes the **national consumer helpline** for the consumers.

National consumer helpline:

- ◉ A separate portal (**consumerhelpline.gov.in**) has been established to create awareness, advice, redress consumer grievances and act as a central registry for lodging consumer grievances.
- ◉ The portal also helps in **creating awareness** among consumers to protect their rights and inform them of their responsibilities.
- ◉ The registered grievances are passed on to the concerned agency instantly and action taken reflected on real time basis.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

➤ **Established under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act 2016**.

➤ It has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under **compulsory certification regime** any goods or article of any scheduled industry, process, system or service which it considers necessary in the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, the safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security.

➤ The Act enables the Central government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity.

➤ The Bureau of Indian Standards was set up as a statutory organization **taking over the assets and liabilities of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI)** that came into existence in 1947.

➤ **Headquarters**: New Delhi.

Consumer Grievance Redress

◎ Under the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986, a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism** has been set up in the country to adjudicate complaints fi led before them and to provide speedy redress to consumers.

◎ **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission)** at the apex level with territorial jurisdiction over the whole country pecuniary jurisdiction to consider consumer disputes/complaints involving claims above ₹1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over state/ commissions.

◎ **State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (State Commissions)** with territorial jurisdiction over the state/ UT concerned and financial jurisdiction to entertain consumer complaints involving claims above ₹ 20.00 lakh and up to ₹ 1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over the district for a **District Consumer Disputes Redressal For a (District Forum)** with territorial jurisdiction over the district and pecuniary jurisdiction up to ₹20.00 lakh

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National Test House (NTH)

➤ It is a premier **test and quality evaluation laboratory** for industrial, engineering and consumer products.

➤ It is under the administrative control of the Government of India since the year 1912.

➤ The NTH issues test certificates in scientific and engineering fields to certify conformity to national/ international specifications or customer standard specifications.

Price Monitoring

➤ **Set-up in**: 1998

➤ **Objective:** monitoring prices of selected food items and constraints affecting their availability.

➤ Retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential food items is released every day.

Food and Public Distribution

➤ The **primary objective** of the Department of Food & Public Distribution is to **ensure food security** for the country through:

• efficient procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP)

• storage and distribution of food grains

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22 Essential Items

◎ **Cereals:** rice, wheat

◎ **Pulses:** gram, tur, urad, moong, masur

◎ **Edible oils:** groundnut oil, mustard oil, Vanaspati, soya oil, sunflower oil, palm oil

◎ **Vegetables:** potato, onion, tomato

◎ **Other items:** atta, sugar, gur, milk, tea and salt

- ensuring the availability of food-grains sugar and edible oils through appropriate policy instruments

- including maintenance of buffer stocks of food-grains

- making food-grains accessible at reasonable prices, especially to the weaker and vulnerable sections of society under a **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**

PROCUREMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS

Food Corporation of India (FCI)

➤ **Statutory body** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, formed by enacting of **Food Corporation Act 1964.**

➤ **FCI with the help of state government agencies**, procures wheat, paddy and coarse grains in various states to provide price support to the farmers.

➤ **Before** each Rabi/Kharif crop season, the **central government** announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), based on the **recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

- CACP which takes into consideration the cost of various agricultural inputs and the reasonable margin for the farmers for their produce.

➤ State governments are encourage to adopt a decentralize procurement (DCP) system of procurement to maximize procurement, reduce transportation, an increase the reach of MSP operations.

➤ Procure quantities above state's requirements are taken in the Central Pool for distribution elsewhere.

Stock in Central Pool

➤ **Food-grain Stocking Norms** (Buffer Norms) were laid down to meet the prescribed minimum stocking norms for food security, to ensure monthly releases of food-grains for the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS),** Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), to meet emergencies arising out of unexpected crop failure, natural disasters, festivals, etc., and to use the food-grain stock in the Central Pool for market intervention to augment supply to help moderate the open market prices

Food Subsidy

➤ States are allocated food-grains at subsidised rates under the **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).**

National Food Security

➤ To strengthen the commitment to the food security of the people, the Government of India enacted the **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)**.

➤ **Aim:** to provide for **food and nutritional security** in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live with dignity.

➤ The Act marks a paradigm shift in approach to food security— **from welfare to rights-based one**.

Features

➤ The Act provides for **coverage of upto 75%** of the rural population and u**pto 50% of the urban population** for receiving subsidized food-grains under **Targeted Public Distribution System**, thus covering about two-thirds of the population.

➤ This coverage for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains is under two categories—households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the remaining households as priority households.

- ◎ **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security to the poorest of the poor and covers 2.5 crore households.
- ◎ Such households are entitled under the Act to receive 35 kg. of food-grains per household per month, at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice.
- ◎ Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg. of food grains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidized prices.

➤ NFSA is now being implemented in all the states/UTs covering about 80.55 crore beneficiaries, against intended coverage of 81.34 crore people.

➤ In Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the Act is being implemented in the cash transfer mode under which food subsidy is being transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries who then have a choice to buy food-grains from open market.

End-to-End Computerisation

➤ Under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) reforms**, the Department in collaboration with all state/UT governments had implemented a Plan scheme on 'End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations'

➤ **Objective:** to **introduce transparency and efficiency** in the TPDS operations all over the country.

➤ Such reforms became even more relevant after coming into force of **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).**

➤ The implementation of the scheme was initiated by the Department under the **12th Five Year Plan** and its validity was extended up to March 2020.

Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS)

➤ 'Integrated Management of PDS' (IM- PDS) is a **new central sector scheme.**

➤ It is to be implemented during FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 for establishing **Public Distribution System Network (PDSN)** to inter alia implement national level de-duplication of beneficiaries and portability.

➤ The Scheme will strengthen better targeting of food subsidy and help the beneficiaries to lift food-grains from the FPSs of their choice.

Other welfare schemes

➤ **Mid- Day Meal scheme**

- • **Implementation:** by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
- • The Scheme covers students of primary and upper primary classes in the government schools/ schools aided by the government and the schools run by local bodies.
- • Food-grains are supplied **free of cos**t at 100 grams for primary stage and at 150 grams for upper primary stage per child per school day where cooked/processed hot meal is being served or 3 kgs per student per month where raw food-grains are distributed.

➤ **Wheat Base Nutrition Programme**

- • **Implementation**: Ministry of Women and Child Development
- • The food grains allotted under it are utilized by the states/UTs under the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme** for providing nutritious/energy food to children in the age group of 0-6 years and expectant/lactating women.

➤ **Scheme for Adolescent Girls**

- • **Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development

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- However, food-grains for the Scheme are allotted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution at BPL rates to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- The **SABLA scheme** was launched in 2010 by merging two schemes namely, **Nutrition Programme and Adolescent Girls (NPAG)** and **Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)** into a single scheme**.**

  - **Aims**: empowering adolescent girls of 11-18 years by the improvement of their nutritional and health status and upgrading various skills useful to them.

  - Equipping the girls on family welfare, health hygiene, etc., and guiding them on existing public services.

  - The requirement of food-grains for nutrition is at 100 grams of grains per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year.

➤ **Supply of Foodgrains to Welfare Institutions**

- **Objective**: To meet the requirement of welfare institutions viz., charitable institutions such as beggar homes, nariniketans, another similar welfare institutions not covered under TPDS or any other welfare schemes.

- An additional allocation of food-grains (rice and wheat) not exceeding 5% of the BPL allocation is made to states/UTs at BPL prices.

➤ **Annapurna Scheme**

- **Implementation**: Ministry of Rural Development

- Indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting pension under the **National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS),** are provided 10 kgs of food-grains per person per month free of cost under it.

- Food-grains are provided by the **Department of Food and Public Distribution** under the scheme at **BPL prices**.

➤ **Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic)**

- Under it, the **FCI sells excess stocks of wheat and rice from the Central Pool** at pre-determined prices in the open market from time to time under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) through e-tender to enhance the supply especially during the lean season, especially in the deficit regions.

Storage of food grains

➤ The **Food Corporation of India (FCI),** set up under the **Food Corporation's Act 1964** aims to-

- Effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers

- Distribution of food grains throughout the country for public distribution system

- Maintaining satisfactory level of operational and buffer stocks of food grains to ensure National Food Security.

➤ **Capacity of FCI and State Agencies:** FCI has its grid of covered godowns in all states to safely stock the central pool food-grains. Besides, it hires capacity from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and state agencies like state warehousing corporations as well as private parties

Augmentation of Storage Capacity

➤ To cope with increasing production and procurement of food grains, the Department is implementing a private entrepreneurs guarantee (PEG) scheme for augmenting the covered storage capacity in the country.

➤ Under the PEG scheme, which was launched in 2008, godowns are constructed in PPP mode and the land and construction cost is borne by the selected partners.

➤ Locations for construction of godown are identified by the FCI base on recommendations of state-level committees to cover the gaps in storage.

> A central sector scheme for construction of godowns with a focus on augmenting storage capacity is being implemented in the North-Eastern state.

> Under it, funds are also provided for the construction of storage godowns to improve the supply chain logistics of PDS.

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority

> For the growth and development of warehousing sector, to bring reforms in the agricultural marketing and to increase credit flow in the farm sector, the government introduced a negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country by enacting the **Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.**

> The government constituted the **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)** in 2010 for the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

> The **Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs)** issued against stocks of farm produces deposited by the farmers in warehouses would help the farmers in seeking a loan from banks.

> Warehouses need to be registered with the WDRA for issuing NWRs.

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)

⊙ It is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) set up 1957 under this Department

⊙ **Objective:** to provide scientific storage facilities for agricultural produces, implements, another notified commodities

⊙ CWC also has a 100 percent owned subsidiary company namely, **Central Rail sided Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC)** for the development of Rail side Warehouse Complexes (RWCs).

POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT OF FOOD GRAINS

Quality Standard for Food grains

> The government exercises due to control over the quality of food-grains procured for the central pool.

> The Quality Control Cells of the Ministry at New Delhi and the field offices at 10 states monitor the quality of food-grains procured, stored, and issue for distribution by FCI and state governments and their agencies.

Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI)

> IGMRI Hapur, an its field stations at Ludhiana (Punjab) an Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) are engaged in the training and applied Research and Development (R&D) work relating to grain storage management.

Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL)

> CGAL located in New Delhi assists the Department in monitoring the quality of food-grains at the time of procurement, storage, and distribution by analyzing samples collected by quality control officers.

Export and Import of Food-grains

> **Export Policy of Rice and Wheat**

• The Government has allowed free export of non-basmati rice by private parties from privately held stocks from 2011.

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- State Trading Enterprises (STEs) including M/s NCCF and NAFED are also permitted to export privately held stocks on non-basmati rice.

- The export of wheat was also allowed from the same year. Export of non-basmati rice and wheat is permitted through Custom EDI ports.

- Export is also permitted through the non-EDI Land Custom Stations (LCS) on Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal Border subject to registration of quantity with DGFT.

- Export of rice of seed quality another [rice in the husk (paddy or rough) other than seed quality] is permitted under the licence.

Sugar

➤ **Sugar Production**

- **Significance**: It impacts the rural livelihood of about 50 million sugarcane farmers and their families and around 5 lakh workers directly employed in sugar mills.

- India is the second-largest producer of sugar in the world after Brazil and is also the largest consumer

➤ **Review of Distribution of Sugar to Antyodaya Anna Yojana Families**

- The Sugar Subsidy Scheme has been reviewed and it has been decided that it is imperative to give access to consumption of sugar as a source of energy in the diet, for the poorest of the poor section of the society i.e., AAY families.

- Accordingly, the government has decided that the existing system of sugar distribution through PDS may be continued as per the following:-

  - the existing scheme of supply of subsidized sugar through PDS may be continued for restricted coverage of AAY families only. They will be provide1 kg of sugar per family per month;

  - the current level of subsidy at ₹18.50 per kg provided by the central government to states/UTs may be continued for the AAY population.

  - The revised scheme was implemented in 2017

➤ **Ethanol Blending Petrol Programme**

- Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from a by-product of the sugar industry, namely molasses.

- The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme (EBP) seeks to achieve a blending of Ethanol with motor sprit to reduce pollution, conserve foreign exchange and increase value addition in the sugar industry enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers.

- The government has also notified new National Policy on Bio-Fuels, 2018 under which sugarcane juice has been allowed for the production of ethanol

➤ **Sugar Development Fund**

- Under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, a cess was collected as excise duty on all sugar produced and sold by any factory within the country which has now been abolished through Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 2017.

- The cess so collected provided funds for Sugar Development Fund (SDF) through the budgetary process.

Edible Oils

➤ The Department of Food and Public Distribution deals with issues related to edible oils and fats. The Directorate of Sugar and Vegetable Oils is staffed with qualified technical people who assist the Ministry in the coordinated management of Vegetable Oils Policy, particularly relating to production/ availability and monitoring of prices

SAARC Food Bank

◉ In pursuance of the decision taken in the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi in 2007, the Heads of States of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries signed the agreement to establish the SAARC Food Bank.

◉ As per this agreement, SAARC Food Bank is to have a reserve of foodgrains to be maintained by each member states consisting of either wheat or rice, or a combination of both as an assessed share of the country.

◉ **The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production, physical and economic access to food.

◉ **India is a member of both FAO and CFS**. Committee on World Food Security (CFS) monitors the progress of implementation of the WFS Plan of Action

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

➤ The new integrated food security scheme for providing **free food grains to Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) & Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries**, is rolled out from 1st January 2023.

➤ The integrated scheme is **expected to strengthen the provisions of NFSA, 2013** in terms of **accessibility, affordability and availability** of foodgrains for the poor.

➤ The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI)** along with state governments will look out for smooth roll out of the new scheme.

Food Processing Industries

➤ India ranks number one in the world in the production of milk, ghee, ginger, bananas, guavas, papayas, and mangoes.

➤ Further, India ranks second in the world in the production of rice, wheat, and several other vegetables and fruits.

➤ The food processing industry is one of the major employment intensive segments constituting **12.77%** of employment generated in all registered factory sectors in 2014-15.

➤ Cent percent FDI is permitted under the automatic route in food processing industries manufacturing sector.

➤ FDI is allowed through the approval route for trading, including through e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India.

➤ The food processing sector has been identified as one of the priority sectors under **'Make in India'.**

➤ According to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) data for 2014-15, the total number of persons engaged in registered food processing sector was 17.73 lakhs.

Contribution of the Food Processing Sector

➤ Over the years agricultural production in India has consistently recorded higher output.

➤ India ranks number one in the world in the production of milk, ghee, ginger, bananas, guavas, papayas and mangoes.

➤ Further, India ranks second in the world in the production of rice, wheat and several other vegetables and fruits.

➤ Abundant supply of raw materials, increase in demand for food products and incentives offered by the government has impacted food processing sector positively.

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FDI in Food Processing Sector

➤ Hundred per cent FDI is permitted under automatic route in food including through industries through government approval route, for trading including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India.

Food Processing and Make in India

➤ Food processing sector has been identified as one of the priority sector under 'Make in India'. With a view to attract investment to this sector, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing schemes for development of infrastructure for promoting food processing industries.

➤ Also, the ministry has been disseminating information to potential investors to attract investment to the sector through dedicated Investor Portal in which a range of information like resource base, availability of land, state specifics policies, fiscal incentives, etc., are shared with the potential investors.

➤ The Ministry is also collaborating with Invest India to help the investors in terms of locating joint venture partners, extending hand holding services, expediting regulatory approvals and providing investors with after care services.

➤ The Ministry is also organizing mega international events like World Food India and Road Shows.

Food Parks and Cold Chain

➤ A dedicated investors' portal called 'Nivesh Bandhu' was launched in 2017 to and assist potential investors in the food processing sector in taking an informed decisions.

➤ This portal is a 'one- stop information source' on central and state government policies, incentives offered, Agri Resources, and infrastructure facilities across the country.

➤ An investor-friendly Mobile APP- 'Nivesh Bandhu' was developed and launched to enable the investor to have access to relevant information very conveniently and from any destination from their mobile proving to be game-changers for the investors in making informed investment decisions.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

◉ " PMKSY is a comprehensive package resulting in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

◉ Not only has it provided a big boost to the growth of the food processing sector in the country but also helps in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling farmers' income, creating huge employment opportunities.

◉ Especially in rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the level of processing, and enhancing the export of processed foods.

◉ The following schemes are implemented under PM Kisan Sampada Yojana:

  ➤ mega food parks

  ➤ integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure

  ➤ creation/expansion of food processing and 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.

Mega Food Parks Scheme

➤ " It is being implemented since 2008, aims to create a modern food processing infrastructure for the processing units based on a cluster approach and hub and spoke model in a demand driven manner.

➤ The scheme intends to facilitate the establishment of an integrated value chain, with food processing at the core and supported by requisite " forward and backward linkages.

➤ The central processing centre is networked with the primary processing centres and collection centres located at the farm gate in production areas.

➤ The Scheme envisages a well-defi ned agri/horticultural processing zone containing state-of-the-art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well-established supply chain

National Mission on Food Processing

➤ The Ministry launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) during the 12th Plan in 2012.

➤ Five on going central sector schemes of the 11th Plan and four new schemes were merged in the Mission.

➤ The CSS-NMFP was implemented through states/UTs. However, the CSS-NMFP was de-linked from the central support in 2015 according to the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. Consequently, all nine schemes of the Mission stand discontinued.

➤ Government of India approved a new central sector scheme - Kisan Sampada Yojana - (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters).

➤ It is a comprehensive package that will result in the creation of modern " infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management (NIFTEM)

◉ The Ministry established the NIFTEM at Kundli, in Haryana in May 2012. NIFTEM has been declared a Deemed University under the de novo category.

◉ Under the Scheme, funds are to be provided to the Institute for the creation of academic and administrative infrastructure.

◉ Funds will also be provided to promote research activities, expand Village Adoption Programme (VAP), and skill development in the food processing sector.

Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT)

◉ The Ministry upgrade IIFPT, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu to a national level institute in 2008. Under the scheme, funds are to be provided to the Institute for the creation of infrastructure facilities including the purchase of additional land for expanding campus and creation of academic and administrative infrastructure.

◉ To enable the Institute to expand its activities, the North East States will include Sikkim and difficult areas.

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Planning

Planning in India is based on the Directive Principles of State Policy, with public and private sectors complementary.

NITI Aayog

➤ The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) was established in 2015 to serve as the think tank of the Government of India, with the Prime Minister of India as the Chairperson.

➤ It is built on the principle of cooperative federalism, a knowledge hub of internal and external resources, and a repository of good governance best practices. It works closely with state governments, serves as a knowledge hub, and monitors progress in the implementation of policies and programmes.

➤ NITI Aayog provides strategic and technical advice to the central and state governments on key policy elements, disseminates best practices from within the country and from other nations, fosters cooperative federalism, designs strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, monitors and evaluates implementation, publishes policy research papers, brings out books on best practices, prepares model laws, organises workshops and conferences, and serves as a repository of research on good governance. The composition of the NITI Aayog is as follows:

  • The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of the Governing Council, which consists of Chief Ministers of all states, Chief Ministers of union territories with legislatures, and Lt. Governors of other union territories.

  • The full-time organisational framework consists of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, full-time and part-time members from leading universities, research organisations and other relevant institutions, and an ex-officio member of the Union Council of Ministers.

  • The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India/Secretariat.

Erstwhile Planning Commission

➤ The Planning Commission was established in 1950 to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living by efficient exploitation of resources, increasing production, and providing opportunities for employment.

First Plan

➤ The First Plan (1951-56) allocated 44.6% of public sector investment to agriculture, aiming to increase investment to 7% of national income.

Second Plan

➤ The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-57 to 1960-61) aimed to promote a socialistic pattern of society in

India, with 25% increase in national income, rapid industrialisation, large expansion of employment opportunities, and reduction of inequalities.

Third Plan

- The Third Plan (1961-62 to 1965-66) was aimed at securing a marked advance towards self-sustaining growth. Its immediate objectives were to:
  - Secure an increase in the national income of over 5 per cent per annum and at the same time ensure a pattern of investment which could sustain this rate of growth in the subsequent plan periods.
  - Achieve self-sufficiency in food grains and increase agricultural production to meet the requirements of industry and exports.
  - Expand basic industries like steel, chemicals, fuel and power and establish machine building capacity so that the requirements of further industrialisation could be met within a period of about 10 years mainly from the country's own resources.
  - Fully utilise the manpower resources of the country and ensure a substantial expansion in employment opportunities.
  - Establish progressively greater equality of opportunity and bring about reduction in disparities of income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power.
- The Plan aimed at increasing the national income by about 30 per cent from 14,500 crore in 1960-61 to about 19,000 crore by 1965-66 (at 1960-61 prices) and per capita income by about 17 per cent, from 330 to 386, over the same period.

Annual Plans

- The Fourth Five Year Plan was delayed due to the Indo-Pakistan conflict, drought, devaluation, currency devaluation, inflation, and resource depletion, leading to three Annual Plans between 1966 and 1969.

Fourth Plan

- The Fourth Plan (1969-74) aimed to improve the conditions of the less privileged and weaker sections through employment and education, and to reduce concentration of wealth, income and economic power.

Fifth Plan

- The Fifth Plan (1974-79) was formulated against the backdrop of severe inflationary pressures.
- The major objectives of the plan were to achieve self-reliance and adopt measures for raising the consumption standard of people living below the poverty line.
- This Plan also gave high priority to bring inflation under control and to achieve stability in the economic situation.
- It targeted an annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent in the national income.
- Four Annual Plans pertaining to the Fifth Plan period were completed.
- It was subsequently decided to end the Fifth Plan period with the close of the Annual Plan 1978-79.

Sixth Plan

- The Sixth Plan (1980-85) aimed to remove poverty and strengthen infrastructure for agriculture and industry through a systematic approach with greater management, efficiency and monitoring.

Seventh Plan

► The Seventh Plan (1985-90) aimed at rapid growth in food-grain production, increased employment opportunities and productivity within the framework of basic tenets of planning, such as growth, modernisation, self-reliance and social justice.

► Special programmes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana were launched to reduce unemployment and poverty. Total expenditure during the Plan was 72,18,729.62 crore, resulting in a 21.52% increase in nominal terms.

Annual Plans

► The Eighth Five-Year Plan was focused on maximising employment and social transformation.

Eighth Plan

► The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97) was launched to address the worsening Balance of Payments position and the position of inflation during 1990-91.

► It aimed at an average annual growth rate of 5.6% and an average industrial growth rate of 7.5%.

► However, there was a shortfall in expenditure in the central sector due to inadequate mobilisation of internal and extra-budgetary resources, and a lack of mobilisation of adequate resources in the states sector due to deterioration in the balance of current revenues.

► The total expenditure during the entire plan stood at 74,95,669 crore, resulting in a 14.2% increase in nominal terms.

Ninth Plan

► The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) was launched to achieve a targeted GDP growth rate of 7 per cent per annum and focus on the seven identified Basic Minimum Services (BMS).

► It also pursued a policy of fiscal consolidation to reduce the revenue deficit of the government.

► The specific objectives of the Plan included priority to agriculture and rural development, accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices, ensuring food and nutritional security for all, providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary healthcare facilities, universal primary education, shelter, and connectivity to all in a time-bound manner, containing the population, ensuring mobilisation and participation of people at all levels, empowering women and socially disadvantaged groups, promoting and developing people's participatory institutions, and strengthening efforts to build self-reliance.

► The Ninth Plan scaled back its target growth rate to 5.5% per annum due to changes in the national and global economic situation.

Tenth Plan

► The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07) was approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 2002 to achieve the NDC mandate objectives of doubling the per capita income in ten years and achieving a growth rate of 8 per cent of GDP per annum.

► It also aimed to reduce poverty, reduce decadal population growth, increase gainful employment, reduce gender gaps in literacy and wage rates, provide potable drinking water to all villages, increase forest/tree cover, and clean major polluted river stretches.

► The Tenth Plan aimed to create 50 million job opportunities by focusing on employment intensive sectors of agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information and communication technology and other services.

► It also addressed the issue of poverty and the unacceptably low levels of social indicators.

- The Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) of the economy was expected to come down to 3.6 as against 4.5 during the Ninth Plan.

- The growth target required an investment rate of 28.4% of GDP and domestic savings of 26.8%.

- The average growth rate in the last four years of the Tenth Plan was 7.7%, the highest growth rate achieved in any Plan period.

Eleventh Plan

- The Eleventh Five-Year Plan set a target for 9% growth with acceleration to 10% by the end of the Plan.

Twelfth Plan

- The Twelfth Plan envisaged that the current slowdown in GDP growth can be reversed through strong corrective action, such as an expansion in investment and savings to keep inflationary pressures under control.

- The Prime Minister's Office advised the NITI Aayog to prepare a Fifteen Year Vision, Seven Year Strategy and Three Year Action Agenda framework to better align the development strategy with the evolving reality of the country.

Atal Innovation Mission

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the central government to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the country.

- It is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools across all 700+ districts, setting up world-class.

- Atal Incubators (AICs) at university, NGO, SME and Corporate Industry levels, providing scale-up support to existing incubators, and providing a grant of up to 10 crore to successful applicants for setting up green-field incubators or scaling up existing ones.

- The idea is that every one of the 110 named smart cities and the top 5-10 educational/industrial institutions of every state should aspire to have a world-class incubator that will provide the youth/start-up communities in the universities/industries opportunity to create new start-ups.

Atal Tinkering Labs

- Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) is a flagship initiative of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to nurture an innovative mindset amongst high-school students.

- ATLs encourage students to come up with innovative ideas and equip them with skills such as design thinking, critical thinking, computational thinking, and digital fabrication.

Mentor India

- Mentor India is a path-breaking initiative to catalyse the academia-industry partnership, with strong partnerships forged with stakeholders to ensure success.

- Mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors, providing technical know-how, innovation and design, and business and entrepreneurship.

Atal Incubation Centres

- AICs and Established Incubation Centres provide incubation facilities to innovative start-ups, mentoring, business planning support, seed capital, industry partnerships, training and other critical components.

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Atal New India Challenge

- ➤ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is supporting innovators to create products/solutions based on advanced technologies through a grant-based mechanism.
- ➤ In this regard, ARISE programme lunched to promote collaborative Applied Research and Innovation between various central ministries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Asset Monetisation

National Monetisation Pipeline

- ➤ The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) is a pioneering initiative to establish a medium-term pipeline and roadmap for monetisation-ready assets listed under various Ministries.
- ➤ It aims to raise 6 lakh crore through core assets of the central government and unlock value from brown field infrastructure assets.
- ➤ Asset monetisation is a paradigm shift in infrastructure operations, augmentation and maintenance by tapping into the private sector's resource efficiencies and ability to dynamically adapt to the evolving global and economic realities.
- ➤ New models, such as Infrastructure Investment Trusts and Real Estate Investment Trusts, will enable the public to participate in this asset class, opening new avenues for investment.

Technology Commons

- ➤ The NITI Aayog was entrusted with developing cutting-edge technology products to enable India to leapfrog in the post-Covid era.
- ➤ These products were to be grounded in the principles of 'Technology Commons', such as open architecture, modular design and interoperability, transparent and secure with ease of access, multilingual, rapid, iterative and agile.

Sam Shiskha

- ➤ Sam Shiksha is India's first virtual university with a curated catalogue of courses mapped to the UGC curricula with high-quality, low cost, flexible, outcome-driven degree offerings.
- ➤ Sam Shiksha is India's first virtual university with 1,200+ free courses relevant for 70% of students and educators, 22 subjects mapped to college syllabi, and three personalized learning pathways.

Unnati

- ➤ A technology platform to digitally enable livelihood access for 22 crore blue and grey collar workers, Unnati is open, multi-channel and uses artificial intelligence backend to match job providers with seekers. With the vision to empower 'Bharat ka Har Shramik', Unnati aims to become National Career
- ➤ Service 2.0—providing predictive intelligence-based skilling suggestions for job-seekers via integration with states, districts, blocks and ITIs of the country.

KYC Setu

- ➤ This is an instant, cost-effective and completely digital solution to enable KYC using UPI as an interoperable infrastructure layer.
- ➤ It requires minimal work by NPCI, banks and fintech and allows instant, secure and fully-digital e-KYC platform on any mobile phone.
- ➤ It has already completed over 5 million transactions with Sal cards and Phone Pe.

Kaashi

➤ Kaashi is a low-risk lending product for the lower-middle-income class that leverages Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) income for underwriting.

➤ The product, currently being led by the Department of Financial Services and NITI Aayog, is in the final stages of development and integration with various entities and systems, such as banks, UIDAI, NSDL, etc.

Krishi Neev

➤ Krishi Neev helped in identifying use cases of a technology platform to promote technology intervention in agriculture.

➤ However, it could not translate into conceptualising an actual common platform.

➤ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is currently working on an agri-stack, which essentially is a data aggregator platform.

INITIATIVES AND REFORMS

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

➤ The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) are the apex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) office of the Government of India, established in September 2015 by merging the erstwhile Programme Evaluation Office (PEO) and the Independent Evaluation Office (IE0).

➤ Its role is to monitor progress and efficacy of policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives.

➤ It has advisory powers across ministries and departments, and technical advisory to states.

Science & Technology Vertical

➤ The Science and Technology (S&T) Vertical of the NITI Aayog is playing a pivotal role in policy interventions to promote S&T in the country, in collaboration with the central ministries/departments.

➤ India has improved its global position from 48th to 46th in the Global Innovation Index.

Global Innovation Index

➤ The S&T Vertical is the nodal division of the Aayog in respect of improving Global Innovation Index ranking and has been continuously working towards improving India's ranking in the index.

➤ The NITI Aayog has constituted an Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee to monitor the progress of updating the Global Innovation Index and suggest reform actions to improve India's ranking.

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Rural Development

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INDIA has been a welfare state since independence and its policies and programmes have been designed to reduce rural poverty.

- ➤ Elimination of poverty, ignorance, diseases and inequality of opportunities and providing a better and higher quality of life are the primary objectives of planned development.
- ➤ To achieve this, increased participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralisation of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged.
- ➤ The Community Development Programme, inaugurated in 1952, was an important landmark in rural development and was handled by different ministries.
- ➤ In 1974, the Department of Rural Development was elevated to the status of a new Ministry of Rural Reconstruction.
- ➤ In 1991, the Department was upgraded as Ministry of Rural Development and in 1999, it was renamed as the Minister of Rural Development.
- ➤ Presently, the Ministry consists of two departments, namely, Department of Rural and Department of Land Resources.

Major Programmes for Rural Development

- ➤ The major programmes being operated by the Ministry of Rural Development are:
- ➤ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- ➤ National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)
- ➤ Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana—Grameen (PMAY-G)
- ➤ Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- ➤ National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
- ➤ Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission
- ➤ Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

Rural Employment

- ➤ The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a lifeline to millions of households in rural areas of the country.
- ➤ It aims to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- ➤ The objectives of the scheme are to create productive assets of prescribed quality and durability, enhance livelihood security of the rural poor by generating wage employment opportunities in works that develop the infrastructure base of the area concerned, strengthen and secure the livelihood resource base, ensure empowerment to women, and stimulate the local economy.

➤ The government has taken steps to strengthen the implementation of MGNREGS, such as eFMS, Aadhaar seeding, geo-tagging of assets, and strengthening of Social Audit System.

Direct Benefit Transfer

➤ The Ministry of Rural Development has implemented National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) to streamline the fund flow mechanism and reduce delay in payment of wages.

➤ 96% of wages are now paid electronically into bank/post office accounts of MGNREGA workers.

New Initiatives

➤ The Ministry has taken several initiatives for the betterment of livelihood of individual beneficiaries and promoted the involvement of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) compliant Cluster Level Federation (CLF) as Programme Implementing Agency (PIA).

➤ These include the Area Officer Monitoring App, National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App, Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool, Yuktdhara Portal, and Mission Amrit Sarovar.

➤ The NMMS App allows for capturing of attendance at worksite with geo-tagged time stamped photographs of the workers in a day, while the CRISP tool embeds climate information in the GIS based planning.

➤ The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

➤ The DAY-NRLMMission was launched in 2011 to reach out to 8-9 crore rural poor households and organise one woman member from each household into affinity based women SHGs and federations at village level and at higher levels.

➤ It ensures adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society, such as 50% of the beneficiaries are members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, 15% from minority groups and 3% from persons with disability, while keeping in view the overall target of 100% coverage of the rural poor households identified through Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC).

➤ The key components of the mission include promoting institutions of poor, training, capacity building and skill building, and providing community investment support funds.

➤ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) provides Vulnerability Reduction Fund (VRF), National Special Fund Support for Convergence, Infrastructure Creation and Marketing Support, Sensitive Support Structures, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) and Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY).

➤ VRF is provided to support the inclusion of very poor communities and make credit accessible to them with or without interest.

➤ Convergence is provided to help states mainstream convergence as an effective method to reduce poverty and empower rural poor.

➤ Infrastructure support is provided through market research, market intelligence, technology extension, developing backward and forward linkages, building livelihoods collectives and supporting their business plans.

➤ MKSP is a sub-component of NRLM to meet the specific needs of women farmers and achieve socio-economic and technical empowerment.

➤ AGEY provides safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities.

Rural Self Employment Training Institutes

➤ The Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) programme is a three-way partnership between MoRD, state governments and sponsor banks to provide training to rural youth to take up self-employment/entrepreneurship ventures.

➤ It runs with an approach of short-term training and long-term hand holding of entrepreneurs.

➤ MoRD provides grant-in-aid to RSETI-sponsored banks towards reimbursement of training cost of rural poor and capital grant of 1 crore to one RSETI in a district for creation of training infrastructure/construction of RSETI building.

➤ The RSETIs have become established as pioneers in capturing the aspirations of the rural poor youth and turning them into profitable entrepreneurs by training them in domain and entrepreneurial skills.

➤ The programme is currently being implemented in 28 states and 7 UTs with 585 functioning RSETIs sponsored by 23 leading banks.

➤ Six unique courses are being offered for women candidates. An Assessment and Certification Board has been established to ensure credibility.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

➤ The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) aims to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by providing 2.95 crore pucca houses with basic amenities to all houseless households and households living in kutcha and dilapidated house in rural areas by 2024.

➤ The unit assistance of 1.20 lakh is provided in plain areas and 1.30 lakh in hilly areas, difficult areas and IAP districts. The minimum size of the house is 25 square meters.

➤ Identification and selection of beneficiaries is based on housing deficiency and other social deprivation parameters in SECC¬2011 data and "Awaas+" survey databases and verification by Gram Sabha.

➤ Minimum 60% of the target at the national level is earmarked for SC/ST households and 5% of beneficiaries at the state level are from among persons with benchmark disabilities with priority to women with benchmark disabilities.

Major Initiatives

➤ **e-governance:** e-Monitoring through MIS – Awaas Soft and Awaas App: The physical and financial progress are monitored through various reports available on Awaas Soft.

  • All the functions through identification of beneficiaries, sanction, release of installments, reporting of completion, etc., are all done on Awaas Soft and using mobile application "Awaas App", which is open to public.

➤ **Performance Index:** A performance index dashboard for tracking and monitoring live performance on crucial implementation parameters was launched in 2017 to foster healthy competition and boost the pace of implementation, rank the states/districts /blocks.

➤ ABPS allows Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiary in his/her bank account linked with the Aadhaar number of the concerned beneficiary for safe and authentic transaction.

➤ **PMAY-G Dashboard**: The dashboard provides end-to-end insights to track the physical and financial progress of the scheme, including single screen visualisation, state level reports, gap/delays in release of instalments, speed of house construction, age-wise, category-wise data analysis, and trend analysis for sanction and completion progress.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

➤ The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) launched in 2000 to provide connectivity by way of an all-weather road to eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in plain areas.

➤ Special Category States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, former state of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), desert areas, tribal (Schedule V) areas and 88 selected tribal and backward districts are also included.

➤ To promote cost-effective and fast construction, roads are being constructed using new materials, waste materials, locally available materials, green technologies, cold mix technology, cement concrete block, cell filled concrete, panelled cement concrete and roller compacted concrete pavement and soil stabilisation technologies.

➤ OMMAS is a web-based, real time 'On-line Management, Monitoring and Accounting System' for PMGSY.

➤ Data on OMMAS is available in the public domain, and a three-tier quality assurance mechanism has been established.

➤ eMARG is an end-to-end solution for ensuring maintenance of rural roads, and a mobile app called Meri Sadak has been launched for citizen feedback and complaints.

➤ PMGSY roads have created positive impact at the level of the household and the community, increasing access to market and livelihood opportunities, health and education facilities, and building the foundations for long-lasting poverty reduction in rural India.

National Social Assistance Programme

➤ Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the state to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.

➤ NSAP is a centrally sponsored scheme providing 100% central assistance to states/UTs to provide benefits in accordance with norms, guidelines and conditions laid down by the central government. States are free to add on and expand coverage.Presently NSAP comprises the following schemes for Below Poverty Line (BPL) households:

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** Under the scheme, Assistance is provided to those who are 60 years and above and belongs to a family living below poverty line, with central assistance of 200 per month and 500 per month for those over 80.

- **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS):** The scheme provides central assistance of 300 rupees per month to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years and belonging to a family living below poverty line. After 80 years, the beneficiary is shifted to IGNOAPS for a pension of 500 rupees.

- **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS):** The scheme provides central assistance of 300 rupees per month to persons aged 18-79 with severe or multiple disabilities and belonging to a family living below poverty line. After attaining 80 years, the beneficiary is shifted to IGNOAPS for a pension of 500 rupees.

- **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS):** Under the scheme, a BPL household is entitled to a lump sum amount of money on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 59 years. The amount of assistance is 20,000 rupee.

- **Annapurna:** Under the scheme, 10 kg of foodgrains per month is provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible under IGNOAPS, are not receiving pension under IGNOAPS.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

➤ The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

➤ It aims to convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend by providing sustainable employment to 55 million poor rural youth.

➤ It is a pioneer in standards-led delivery of skilling, introducing IT solutions for skilling, mandatory tablets for trainees, Aadhaar-linked biometric information on attendance, and geo-tagged time stamped record of training centres and classes.

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Key Features

➤ DDU-GKY is a 3-tier implementation architecture in PPP mode, with the National Unit responsible for policy, central investments and technical support, SRLMs/State Skills Missions responsible for state investments, implementation and monitoring controls, and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) responsible for mobilisation, training and placements.

➤ The focus is on rural youth from poor families, belonging to MGNREGA worker households, RSBY households, Antyodaya Anna Yojana card households, BPL PDS card households, NRLM-SHG household, and households covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011.

➤ Placement in wage employment is mandated for 70% of successful candidates, with a minimum salary of 6,000 per month or the minimum wages, whichever is higher.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

➤ The SPMRM was launched in 2016 to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.

➤ Rurban clusters are identified across the country's rural areas showing increasing signs of urbanisation.

➤ Cluster development requires preparation of Integrated Cluster Action Plans (ICAPs), undertaking spatial planning, completion of projects proposed in DPRs, institutionalisation of local government's ownership and O&M(operations and maintenance), and total investment of Convergence and Critical Gap Funds.

Convergence

➤ SPMRM relies on a convergence framework to ensure efficient utilisation of public resources and minimum 70% of investment is sourced from convergence, supplemented by Critical Gap Fund for gap filling/service quality enhancement.

Critical Gap Fund

➤ The Critical Gap Fund (CGF) is capped at 30% of project capital expenditure for plain areas and 15% for desert, hilly and tribal areas.

➤ The exact CGF cost of a Rurban Cluster is based on the requirements identified by the Integrated Cluster Action Plan and approved by the Empowered Committee.

Rural Housing

➤ The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) has been restructured to achieve the vision of 'Housing For All by 2022'.

➤ It provides assistance for construction of houses in rural areas, financial assistance to states, difficult areas and districts, and identication of beneficiaries through Gram Sabha.

➤ The cost for PMAY-G is shared between the Government of India and state governments in the ratio of 60:40 in plain areas, 90:10 in North-Eastern and Himalayan states, and 60% of the target is to be earmarked for SC and ST.

➤ An android based mobile application- 'AwaasApp' is used for inspection of houses, and a real-time web link has been developed with NREGA Soft to create an NREGA work against each house sanctioned.

Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme

➤ The Ministry has launched Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHISS) to provide interest subvention on housing loans to any rural household that does not appear on the Permanent Wait List.

➤ NHB is the central nodal agency for channelising the subsidy and monitoring its progress.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

➤ Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched in 2014 with the aim to develop one village by each Member of Parliament as a model village by 2016 and two more by 2019. Five more villages are to be selected and developed by 2024.

➤ This scheme is unique and transformative as it envisages integrated development of the selected village across multiple areas such as agriculture, health, education, sanitation, environment, livelihoods, etc.

➤ It also aims to instill values such as people's participation, Antyodaya, gender equality, dignity of women, social justice, spirit of community service, cleanliness, eco-friendliness, maintaining ecological balance, peace and harmony, mutual cooperation, self-reliance, local self-governance, transparency and accountability in public life, etc., to transform the villages and their people into models for others.

Key features:

➤ The most important details in this text are the Village Development Plans (VDPs) prepared by Gram Panchayats, the Panchayat Darpan, the 35-point impact monitoring tool, the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan campaign, and the saturation of eligible households/persons under seven flagship pro-poor programmes.

➤ The VDPs contain prioritised time-bound activities to achieve holistic progress of the village, while the PDPs contain outcome indicators covering basic amenities, education, health, sanitation, livelihood, women empowerment, financial inclusion, food security, social security and e-governance.

➤ The impact monitoring tool measures the impact of SAGY on quarterly, half yearly, and yearly basis.

National Level Monitoring

➤ The scheme of National Level Monitoring INLM was introduced in 2003-04 to ensure unbiased, independent and third party monitoring of the schemes of the Ministry.

➤ NLMs are deputed to monitor and report on various aspects of implementation of RD & MoPR schemes in the districts in two phases in a year.

➤ They are also required to interact with district functionaries and prepare scheme-wise, state-wise and All India reports.

➤ These reports are shared with the state governments for taking necessary action.

Complaints / Enquiries

➤ In case of complaints of serious nature regarding mis-utilization of funds, irregularities, etc., relating to various schemes/programmes of MoRD, NLMs are deputed in the concerned District to verify the facts or for preliminary enquiry.

District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA)

➤ DISHA is a monitoring mechanism to ensure that resources deployed over various schemes of the Government of India are being utilised optimally.

➤ It was constituted in 2016 and is designed to function at two tiers, operating at district and state levels.

➤ DISHA Committees monitor the implementation of schemes in accordance with prescribed procedures and guidelines and promote synergy and convergence.

➤ The DISHA Dashboard is a data driven governance solution for elected representatives to plan, monitor and evaluate multiple parameters of various schemes under DISHA.

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National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)

➤ The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Rural Development, recognised internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence.

➤ It is located in Hyderabad in Telangana and has a North-Eastern Regional Centre in Guwahati, Assam.

➤ Its vision is to focus on policies and programmes that benefit the rural poor, strive to energize democratic decentralization processes, improve the operation and efficiency of rural development personnel, promote transfer of technology through its social laboratories, Technology Park and create environmental awareness.

➤ It is also mandated to organise training programs, conferences, seminars and workshops for senior level development managers, elected representatives, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders, undertake, aid, promote and coordinate research on its own and/or collaborate with state, national and international development agencies.

Land Reforms

➤ The Department of Land Resources is implementing two schemes namely:

➤ Digital India Land Records **Modernizsation Programme**(DILRMP)

➤ Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY)

Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)

➤ The Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) was launched in 2008 and converted to a central sector scheme in 2016 with 100% funding from the Centre.

➤ Substantial progress has been made in the basic component of Computerisation of Land Records, including Record of Rights (RoR), Cadastral Maps, Computerisation of Registration, and Integration of SROs with Land Records.

➤ Besides these, some more innovative initiatives have also been taken under DILRMP as detailed here:

Integrated Land information Management System (ILIMS)

➤ The ILIMS is being implemented under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) to improve real-time information on land, optimise use of land resources, benefit both land owners and prospectors, reduce disputes, check fraudulent/benami transactions, and enable timely credit supports to farmers.

➤ It provides online single-window access to all available, relevant information to give a fair comprehensive position of any plot of land to land owners, concerned officers/agencies, and interested persons/entrepreneurs. Components include linking with banks, courts, circle rates, registry, Aadhaar number, etc.

Unique Land Parcel identification Number (ULPIN)

➤ The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) system is a 14-digit unique ID for each land parcel based on geo-coordinates of vertices and a general boundary geometry.

➤ It is used to provide integrated land services to citizens.

National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)

➤ NGDRS is a common, generic and configurable application for registration departments, allowing states to create state specific instances and configure the software.

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Linkage of e-Court with Land Record/Registration Data base

➤ Pilot test for linking of e-Court with land record and registration data base has undertaken successfully in three states namely, Haryana, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in association with Department of Justice. The benefits inter alia include:

- The court will have first-hand information on substantive and authentic evidence of Record of Rights, Cadastral map including Geo referenced and legacy data

- The information will be advantageous to a great extent to the courts in deciding admission as well as disposal of the disputes

- Courts will be able to easily know whether any case relating to a particular property is pending in any court (though an affidavit is given by the petitioner to this effect)

- Reduction in quantum of land disputes

- Prospectors will know the disputes status in respect of a property to enable them to take an informed decision after considering risk factor in transacting such property

- Litigants will have access of status of the case online in place of visiting courts/lawyers

- The system will lead to ease of doing business and promote ease of living, etc.

Transliteration of Land Records in Scheduled languages

➤ The government has undertaken an initiative to transliterate the Records of Rights to 22 languages recognised by the Constitution, with a pilot test underway in some states/UTs.

Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana(WDG-PMKSY)

➤ The Department of Land Resources has been implementing area development programmes on watershed-basis to address the concerns of land degradation and wastelands and enhance productivity in rainfed areas.

➤ Management of a watershed entails rational utilisation of land and water resources for optimum productivity, with minimum hazards to human settlements.

➤ Watershed management is the process of guiding and organising land use and use of other natural resources in a watershed.

➤ It is a multi-disciplinary field for sustainable natural resource management and contributes towards mitigation and adaptation to global warming.

➤ The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) aim to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water.

➤ The outcomes are prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table.

Panchayati Raj

➤ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) was set up in 2004 to ensure compliance with the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution, District Planning Committees, and PESA.

➤ Its mission is to empower, enablement, and accountability of PRIs to ensure inclusive development, social justice, and efficient delivery of services.

Constitutional Mandate

➤ The Constitution of India provides for the setting up of three tiers of Panchayats:

- gram panchayats at village level

- districts at district level

- intermediate panchayat at sub-district level

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➤ It also provides for gram sabha (general assembly of registered voters) as a forum for direct participation of villagers in local governance.

➤ The reservation of seats for women and marginalised sections (scheduled castes and scheduled tribes) is in proportion to their share in population, and many states have increased the reservation of seats and chairperson posts for women to 50 per cent.

➤ State legislatures have a critical role in determining various aspects of panchayati raj in their states, and states play a crucial role in devolution of powers.

➤ Panchayats will function as institutions of local government and prepare plans and implement schemes for economic development.

Fifteenth Finance Commission

➤ The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) has recommended devolution to all tiers of the Panchayati Raj, including the Traditional Bodies of Non Part IX States and Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas.

➤ Grants are divided into two parts: Basic (Untied) Grant and Tied Grant.

➤ Health Grants are to be created for primary health care facilities, establishing block level public health units, grants for building less sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres, and conversion of rural primary health centres into Health and Wellness Centres.

➤ MoPR implemented the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) and Capacity Building-Panchayat Sagara (CBPSA).

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

➤ The government has implemented the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) w.e.f. 2018-19, which aims to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for achieving sustainable development goals.

➤ The scheme has both central and state components, with the state component being 60:40 and the central component being 100%.

➤ The central components include National Plan for Technical Assistance (NPTA), collaboration with academic institutions/institutions of excellence, Mission Mode Project (MMP) on e-Panchayat, and Incentivisation of Panchayats.

➤ The state components include capacity building and training, HR support for training, strengthening of Gram Sabhas in PESA areas, distance learning facility via IP based support for innovations, and programmatic focus for phased saturation mode on ensuring basic orientation training for elected representatives.

Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

➤ The Gram Panchayats are mandated to prepare GPDPs for economic development and social justice.

➤ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj prepared model guidelines for GPDP and launched People's Plan Campaign to accelerate participation.

➤ Campaigns were implemented in partnership with state and local governments to make the process participatory and convergent.

e-Panchayat

➤ e-Gram Swaraj is a simplified work based accounting application for Panchayati Raj, developed by amalgamating the functionalities of all the applications under e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP).

➤ It facilitates decentralised planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting, and provides a platform for effective monitoring by higher authorities.

SVAMITVA

➤ SVAMITVA is a central sector scheme launched in 2020 to provide the 'Record of Rights' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages and issuance of property cards to facilitate monetisation of rural residential assets for credit and other financial services.

➤ Drone-based survey of properties in rural habitations is done, which is turned into geo-referenced property parcel maps. CORS is a nationwide network for accurate location.

➤ The objectives of the SVAMITVA aims to provide people with property cards, create accurate land records, GIS maps, and reduce property disputes in rural India.

Media and Publicity

➤ The Media and Publicity Scheme aims to build capacity and enhance performance of Panchayats through advocacy, awareness and publicity.

Drinking Water and Sanitation

➤ The Department of Drinking Water Supply was created in the Ministry of Rural Development in 1999 and renamed in 2010.

➤ In 2011, the Government of India created the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation as a separate Ministry.

➤ In June 2019, the Ministry was renamed as the Department of Drinking water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

➤ The Ministry is responsible for policy, planning, funding and coordination of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) ESBM (G)1 for sanitation in the country.

Swachh Bharat Mission

The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014 to provide everyone access to sanitation facilities, including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, and village cleanliness. The Mission was initiated with an aim to increase the access to sanitation from 39% in 2014 to 100% by October 2019. To strengthen delivery mechanism in rural areas, measures have been taken such as signing MoU with states, releasing funds to states with 'Just in Time' concept, enabling small loans to households, identifying a Swachhagrahi (motivator) for each village, equipping him/her with skills on sanitation and giving him/her performance linked incentives, and intensive monitoring at the household level.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

➤ The government introduced the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) in 1986 to improve the quality of life of the rural people and provide privacy and dignity to women.

➤ The "Total Sanitation Campaign" (T5C) and the "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan" (NBA) were launched in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

➤ The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) was launched in 2014 to provide flexibility to state governments to decide on their implementation policy and mechanisms, taking into account state-specific requirements.

➤ The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM(G) aims to improve the quality of life in rural areas by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation, accelerating sanitation coverage, and encouraging cost-effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.

➤ The Ministry is reforming the sanitation sector by shifting metric from building toilets to Open Defecation Free villages, and promoting gender sensitive information, behaviour change guidelines and mass education activities.

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➤ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has developed a 10-year Rural Sanitation Strategy to achieve and maintain the sustainability of ODF outcomes and solid and liquid waste management in rural areas.

➤ The Government of India approved Phase-II in 2020, with the focus on creating ODF Plus villages which include ODF sustainability and to cover the villages with SLWM.

Jai Jeevan Mission – Har Ghar Jal

➤ The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was announced in 2019 to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural home by 2024.

➤ The aim is to improve quality of life and enhance 'ease-of-living' in rural areas, with 15.70 crore households to be provided with tap water by 2024.

➤ This will benefit more than 19 crore rural families, bridging rural-urban divide and improving public health.

➤ The Mission is not about infrastructure creation, but rather ensuring long-term drinking water security in such a way as to avoid emergency arrangements.

Jal Jeevan Survekshan

➤ The Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS) was introduced by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation to assess districts and states on their performance in achieving the objectives of the JJM.

➤ The districts will be evaluated on two criteria: self-reporting in the JJM-IMIS portal and assessment of functionality of tap connections and ground truthing through an independent agency.

➤ A functionality assessment exercise is also conducted every year to understand the status of water service delivery to households.

➤ Samples for the assessment were drawn for all 33 states/UTs in 2021-22.

Namami Gange

➤ The Namami Gange Programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti aimed at making villages on the bank of river Ganga ODF and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management.

➤ The Ministry has taken up 25 villages to transform them as Ganga Grams in coordination with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

➤ Gram Panchayats have been empowered to play an active role in ownership and maintenance of Ganga Gram activities, and Ganga Gram Swachhta Sammelans have been organised to strengthen the initiative.

Swachhata Pakhwada

➤ Swachhata Pakhwada was launched in 2016 to engage all ministries and departments in swachhata related activities, making it "everyone's business".

Swachhata Action Plan (SAP)

➤ The SAP is a first-of-its-kind inter-ministerial programme to ensure that Swachhata is everyone's business, with budget provisions from all Union ministries/departments.

Swachh Iconic Places

➤ The Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative to clean up 100 places across the country that is "iconic" due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance.

➤ This initiative is in partnership with the ministries of Urban Development, Tourism and Culture, and 30 iconic places have been selected in the first three phases. All these iconic sites have designated PSUs for financial and technical support.

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Housing & Urban Affairs

➤ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal ministry for planning and coordination of urban transport matters at the central level. Urban development is a state subject and the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act, 1992, enjoins upon the state governments to delegate many functions to urban local bodies.

➤ The 2030 development agenda of the United Nations has emphasised the role of sustainable cities by incorporating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), i.e., Sustainable Cities and Communities for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. As per the Census of India 2011, the population of India is 1,210.50 million, of which 377.10 million (31.2 per cent) is urban and 833.40 million (68.8 percent) is rural.

➤ While India continues its journey to become the 3rd largest economy in the world by 2050, the role of urban India in its contribution to growth is noteworthy. Today, urban India contributes 65 per cent to India's GDP, which is estimated to rise to 70 percent by 2030, an unprecedented expansion that will change the economic, social and political landscape of India.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana — Housing of All

➤ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing its flagship programme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana — Urban (PMAY-U) since 2015. The overarching aim of the scheme is to provide all weather pucca houses with basic amenities including water supply, electricity to all eligible beneficiaries in urban areas covering entire statutory towns of the country including areas under development authorities.

➤ The primary focus of the Scheme is on the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG) including slum dwellers. However, Middle Income Group (MIG) category was also included under Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) vertical since 2017 till March 2021 to avail interest subsidy under the scheme apart from EWS/LIG.

Progress of the Scheme

➤ The Scheme entered its eighth year of implementation and emerged as one of the largest affordable housing schemes of the world. The mission has been extended till December 2024 to complete the houses sanctioned up to March 2022.

Promotion of Innovative Construction Technology

➤ Under Technology Sub-Mission (TSM) of PMAY — Urban, MoHUA is implementing Light House Project (LHP) in 6 states (Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh) demonstrating 6 global distinct innovative construction technologies with the aim to mainstream a basket of innovative construction technologies from across the globe that are cost effective, fast paced, sustainable, resource efficient and disaster resilient to foster paradigm shift in construction technologies.

Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)

➤ Covid-19 pandemic threw a lot of challenges on the entire economy -the biggest being reverse migration of urban migrants/poor in the country. These urban migrants stay in slums, informal

settlements, unauthorised colonies, peri-urban areas to save cost on housing. Hence, they need decent rental housing at affordable rate near their worksites. In order to address this need and to promote economic activities post pandemic, MoHUA Initiated ARHCs, a sub-scheme under PMAY(U).

Smart Cities Mission

► In the approach of the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'smart' solutions.

► Under it, 100 Smart Cities have been selected in 4 Rounds based on an All India Competition. All 100 cities have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), City Level Advisory Forums (CLAFs) and appointed Project Management Consultants (PMCs).

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

► The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) was launched in 2005 as the first flagship scheme of this Ministry. The JnNURM implemented by MoHUA has two components: Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), which are aimed at integrated development of slums through projects for provide shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to providing utilities to the urban poor.

► Under IHSDP, project cost is shared in the ratio of 80:20 for remaining smaller cities and 90:10 for North Eastern and special category states.

► Since 2015, the mission has been continued as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

► The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in 2015. In all, 500 cities have been included in the mission. Approximately 60 percent of urban population in the country is covered under AMRUT. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with a total outlay of 1 lakh crore.

► AMRUT 2.0 was launched in 2021 with the target of making cities water secure and providing functional tapwater connections to all households in all statutory towns. It also targets universal coverage of sewerage and septage management in 500 AMRUT cities.

Heritage City Development

► The National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), a central sector scheme of the Government of India was launched in 2015 with the aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner with the objective of preserving the heritage character of each Heritage City.

► The scheme is being implemented in 12 identified cities, namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

► The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) since 2013 for reducing the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households.

Its major components include:

► Social Mobilisation and Institutional Development (SM&ID)

► Employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P)

- Self-Employment Programme (SEP)
- support to urban street vendors
- Innovative and Special Projects (I&SP)

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- Covid-19 pandemic and consequent lockdowns have adversely impacted the livelihoods of street vendors. To address the urgent need to provide credit for working capital to street vendors to resume their business, the Ministry launched 'PM Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, as part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat package', to facilitate collateral free working capital loans upto Rs. 10,000 for 1 year.
- It provides for incentives in the form of interest subsidy @ 7 per cent per annum on regular repayment of loan and cash-back upto Rs. 1,200 per annum on undertaking prescribed digital transactions.

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016

- Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was passed by the Parliament in March 2016, heralding a new era of transformation in the real estate sector. About 26 states/UTs have operationalised online web portals. More than 56,000 Real Estate Projects and 43,000 Real Estate Agents have been registered under RERA across the country.

Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014

- The objective of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood **and** Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, is to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities. The Ministry being the appropriate Government for UTs (without Legislature) has framed Rules and Schemes under the said Act.

National Mission on Sustainable Habitat

- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH) as a part of National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) aims at (i) promoting low-carbon urban growth towards reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions intensity for achieving India's NDC; (ii) building resilience of cities to climate change impacts and strengthening their capacities to bounce back better from climate related extreme events and disaster risks.
- The revised NMSH identified five thematic areas, namely (i) energy and green buildings, (ii) urban planning, green cover and biodiversity, (iii) mobility and air quality, (iv) water management, and (v) waste management. Key mitigation and adaption strategies to facilitate the development of sustainable habitat have also been recommended under each thematic areas.
- Climate Smart Assessment Framework (CSCAF), a first-of-its-kind assessment framework with 28 climate-relevant parameters across the five thematic areas, will serve as a tool for cities to access their present situation via-avis objectives and targets of NMSH 2.0.

Urban Transport

- It is estimated that more than 50 per cent of India's population will be living in cities by 2050. Most cities in the country are expanding at a rapid pace and the steady mushrooming of urban clusters demand new innovative transit systems, which will be the future of mobility in cities across India.
- The Ministry is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of urban transport matters at the central level. However, technical planning of rail transport continues to be with Ministry of Railways.

GSSCORE

➤ With the vision to increase the public transport share, this Ministry has introduced modern yet affordable mass transit systems, including MetroLite, MetroNeo, Regional Rapid Transit Systems and City Bus System to fulfil the aspirations of smaller towns and cities.

➤ Rapid growth of mass rapid systems with multimodal integration, intelligent transport management systems, fare integration through National Mobility Card, green mobility including cycling and pedestrianisation would be among the key areas of thrust in the urban transport scenario of the country.

National Urban Transport Policy

➤ Realising the rapidly growing challenges of urban transport, Government of India formulated a National Urban Transport Policy in April, 2006. The objective of the policy is to ensure accessible, safe, affordable, quick, comfortable, reliable and sustainable mobility for all. It seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorised modes of travel along with use of cleaner technologies.

Metro Rail Policy

➤ The Metro Rail policy which was framed in consultation with various metro rail corporations, state governments, central ministries and domain experts was launched in, 2017 for ascertaining and enhancing the feasibility of metro rail projects from economic, social and environmental perspective.

Metro Lite

➤ Standard specifications for Light Urban Rail Transit System named "MetroLite" have been issued by the Ministry in July, 2019. This system is suitable for Peak Hour Peak Direction Traffic (PHPDT) up to 15,000 and can be developed at about 40 per cent cost of conventional metro system due to its lighter civil structure, low axle load, smaller stations with basic amenities, requirement of low power rated electrical equipment, etc.

Metro Neo

➤ Standard specifications for Rubber Tyre Electric Coaches Powered by Overhead Traction System with exclusive right of way named Metro Neo were issued in November, 2020. This mass rapid transit system is suitable for Tier-2 cities with PHPDT up to 8,000 and can be developed at a cost of about 25 percent of conventional metro system.

Metros (Indian Metro Rail Organisations' Society)

➤ The "Indian Metro Rail Organisations' Society", registered in 2019, is providing a common platform for all the Metro/RRTS companies in India for sharing knowledge, experience, information, best practices, innovations in various aspects of urban rail transport, to facilitate cross learning and to nurture excellence in metro sector.

Delhi Metro- Unattended Train Operations

➤ The country's first ever fully-automated train service/Unattended Train Operations (UTO) also known as Driverless Train Operations (DTO), was flagged off in Delhi in 2020. With the launch of these fully automated DTOs, India enters into the elite league of few countries having this facility in their metro system.

Technology Indigenization of Communication Based Train Control

➤ Technology Indigenization of Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) System — a modern communication based system that uses radio communication to transfer timely and accurate train control information. Its aim is to reduce the dependency on foreign countries, as part of 'Make in India' initiative, under the aegis of MoHUA, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Research Design and Standards organisation (RDSO) are to develop indigenised i-CBTC technology.

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Transport

A well-knit and coordinated system of transport plays an important role in the sustained economic growth of a country. The present transport system of the country comprises several modes of transport including rail, road, coastal shipping, air transport etc.

Railways

➤ The Railways in India provide the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers. The Indian Railways have been a great integrating force for so many years now. From a very modest beginning in 1853, when the first train steamed off from Mumbai to Thane, a distance of 34 km, Indian Railways have grown into a vast network of 7,337 stations spread over a route length of 68,103 km with a fleet of 12,734 locomotives, 71,733 passenger service vehicles, 8,102 other coaching vehicles and 3,02,624 wagons. It has played a vital role in the economic industrial and social development of the country. The network runs multi-gauge operations extending over 68,103 route kilometres.

Central Public Sector Enterprises

➤ There are 12 Central Public Sector Enterprises under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways, viz., (i) RITES Limited (RITES), (ii) IRCON International Limited (IRCON), (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (RFC), (iv) Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), (vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC), (vii) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IROC), (viii) Railtel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL), (ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), (x) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), (xi) Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRCL), and (xii) Braithwaite and Company Limited (BCL).

Research and Development

➤ The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) at Lucknow is the R&D wing of Indian Railways. It functions as a consultant in technical matters. It also provides consultancy to other organisations connected with railway manufacture and design.RDSO, in collaboration with CSIR-CSIO has developed and deployed UV-C based anti-viral and anti-pathogen system for AC coaches by way of a deterrent to Covid.

Railway Finance

➤ Though a part of the overall financial figures of the Government of India, the Railway Budget was presented separately to Parliament since 1924-25 owing to the Separation Convention of 1924. The government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the General Budget from the 2017-18. The unified budget brings the affairs of the Railways to centre stage and presents a holistic picture of the financial position of the government. This merger facilitates multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and waterways. Instead of the erstwhile scheme of sixteen demands for grants, the Ministry of Finance introduced one demand for grant for the Ministry of Railways.

Railway Electrification

➤ With a view to reduce the dependence on imported petroleum-based energy and to enhance energy security of the country as well as to make the railway system more eco-friendly and to modernise the system, Indian Railways has been progressively electrifying its rail routes. By March 2022, electrification was extended to 52,247 RKMs out of the total broad gauge rail network of 65,141 RKMs. including Konkan Railway. This constitutes 80.20 per cent of the total broad gauge railway network.

Catering Services

➤ The Catering Policy 2017 mandates the service of meals in trains from the base kitchen owned, operated and managed by IRCTC. During the Covid-19 period, IR provided approximately 1.96 crore meals and 2.19 crore packed drinking water bottles to the migrants travelling by Shramik Special Trains.

➤ At the time of shortage of oxygen, Indian Railways ran Oxygen Express at the shortest possible time and ramped up the delivery. More than 899 Oxygen Express Trains completed their journey and more than 36,840 tonnes of liquid oxygen was delivered to 15 states.

Vande Bharat Express

➤ The Vande Bharat Express, formerly known as Train 18, is a semi-high speed, electric multiple-unit train operated by Indian Railways. In 2019, it was renamed as Vande Bharat Express to highlight the fact that it was manufactured entirely in India. It began its operations in 2019 when the first of its kind was flagged off between New Delhi-Kanpur-Prayagraj-Varanasi route.

➤ The latest route between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam is the eighth in series which was inaugurated recently. Vande Bharat 2.0 kicked off with Gandhinagar to Mumbai route in 2022.

Rail Tourism

➤ IR is the prime mover of tourism in the country by connecting various tourist destinations across the country by rail. Railways has been operating the luxury tourist train 'Palace on Wheels' since 1982. Four more trains namely 'Deccan Odyssey', 'Golden Chariot', 'Heritage Palace on Wheels' and 'Maharajas' Express' on similar lines have been added over the years.

Roads

➤ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was formed in 2009 by bifurcating the erstwhile Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways into two independent ministries. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to road transport and transport research. It encompasses construction and maintenance of national highways (NHs); administration of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989; National Highways Act, 1956 and National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008; formulation of broad policies relating to road transport, environmental issues, automotive norms, etc., besides making arrangements for movement of vehicular traffic with neighbouring countries.

➤ India has about 62.16 lakh km of road network, which is the second largest in the world. This comprises national highways, expressways, state highways, major district roads, other district roads and village roads. The breakup is: national highways/expressways-1,36,440 km; state highways-1,76,818 kms; other roads-59,02,539 km.

Development and Maintenance of National Highways

➤ The government is implementing the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), the largest highways project ever undertaken in the country since 2000. The NHDP is mainly being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL).

➤ Some of the major National Highways constructed under this programme include Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) connecting 4 major metropolitan cities, viz., Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata, North-South & East-West Corridors (NS-EW) connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Porbandar with a spur from Salem to Cochin, road connectivity of major ports of the country to national highways.

Bharatmala Pariyojana

➤ The Ministry has taken up detailed review of NHs network with a view to develop the road connectivity to border areas, development of coastal roads including road connectivity for non-major ports, improvement in the efficiency of national corridors, development of economic corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes along with integration with Sagarmala, etc., under Bharatmala Pariyojana.

➤ The Bharatmala Pariyojana envisages development of about 26,000 km length of economic corridors, which along with Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West (NS-EW) Corridors are expected to carry majority of the freight traffic on roads. Further, about 8,000 km of inter corridors and about 7,500 km of feeder routes have been identified for improving effectiveness of economic corridors, GQ and NS-EW Corridors.

Green National Highways Corridor Project

➤ The Green National Highways Corridor Project (GNHCP) was launched in 2016. The project includes upgradation of about 781 km of various national highways passing through Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. It was launched under the Green Highways Policy that was unveiled in 2015 to actualise the vision of developing eco-friendly and green national highways.

➤ Greening of one km of highway provides employment to ten people. The objectives of the project include: to evolve a policy framework for plantation along national highways; to reduce the impact of air pollution and dust as trees and shrubs are known to be natural sink for air pollutants; 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; etc. The project is being run with World Bank aid.

Bhoomi Rashi

➤ The Ministry launched Bhoomi Rashi portal to digitise the land acquisition notification process and avoid parking of public funds with the Competent Authority for Land Acquisition (CALA). The system helps in expediting the process by providing simultaneous Hindi translation and has been made compatible with the e-gazette for expeditious publication of notification.

Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana

➤ This project envisages development of easy access routes to the four prominent Dhams, namely, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, situated in Uttarakhand. These four Dhams are prominent pilgrimage centres. The project entails development of 889 km of roads with configuration of two-lane with paved shoulders.

National Highways Authority of India

➤ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up under the NHAI Act, 1988. It has been entrusted with National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which along with other minor projects, has vested in it 50,329 km of national highways for development, maintenance and management. Its objective is to ensure that all contract awards and procurements conform to the best industry practices with regard to transparency of process, adoption of bid criteria to ensure healthy competition in award of contracts, implementation of projects conform to best quality requirements, and the highway system is maintained to ensure best user comfort and convenience.

➤ The total length of NH (including expressways) in the country is 1,32,499 km. While highways/expressways constitute only about 1.7 percent of the length of all roads, they carry about 40 per cent of the road traffic.

National Highways Development Project

➤ The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in the country to a higher standard. The project was started in 1998. This project is managed by NHAI under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. It represents 49,260 km of roads and highways work and construction in order to boost economic development of the country. The NHDP has been subsumed in the ongoing Bharatmala project.

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National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation

➤ The NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry that exclusively carries out the task of construction/upgrading/widening of national highways in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries in order to promote regional connectivity with neighbouring countries on a sustainable basis.

Indian Academy of Highway Engineers

➤ Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) is a registered society under the administrative control of the Ministry. It is a collaborative body of both central and state governments and was set up in 1983 with the objective of fulfilling the long felt need for training of highway engineers in the country, both at the entry level and during the service period.

Indian Road Congress

➤ Indian Road Congress (IRC) has over 16,850 registered members comprising engineers and professionals of all stakeholders of the road sector, from central and state governments; public sector; research institutions; academic institutions, local bodies; private sector; concessionaires; contractors; consultants; equipment manufacturers; machinery manufacturers; material producers and suppliers; industrial associations; and multilateral & institutional organisations like World Bank.

PM Gati Shakti Plan

➤ PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, 2021 is essentially a digital platform to bring 16 ministries, including Railways and Roadways together, for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate the last mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

Important features of the PM Gati Shakti include:

➤ **Comprehensiveness:** It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various ministries and departments with one centralised portal. Every department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning and execution of projects in a comprehensive manner;

➤ **Optimisation:** The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after identification of critical gaps. For the transportation of the goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost; *Analytical:* It will provide the entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency;

➤ **Dynamic:** All ministries and departments will now be able to visualise, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects, through the GIS platform, as the satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and progress of the projects will be updated on a regular basis on the portal.

Parvatmala Pariyojana

➤ Parvatmala Pariyojana–National Ropeways Development Programme is being implemented for development of ropeways to improve accessibility and convenience for passengers and to promote tourism. Along with hilly areas, ropeways are being developed as alternative mode of transportation in congested urban areas e.g., those of Varanasi, Ujjain.

Other Initiatives

➤ National highways constitute just 2 per cent of the country's road network but carry 40 per cent of the traffic load. The North-East region, backward and interior areas, border connectivity roads, coastal roads and economically important routes are being given special attention in terms of building road connectivity.

National Registry of Vehicle and License Records

➤ Transport Mission Mode Project has successfully automated RTO operations, set up a consolidated transport database. Along with it, a host of citizen and trade-centric applications have also been implemented. The salient aspects of this Mission Mode Project are two flagship applications—Vahan and Sarathi. While Vahan consolidates vehicle registration, taxation, permit, fitness and associated services across the country, Sarathi looks after the driving license, learner licence, driving schools and related activities.

Road Transport and Road Safety

➤ Road transport is the dominant mode of transport in country, both in terms of traffic share and in terms of contribution to the national economy. Apart from facilitating the movement of goods and passengers, it plays a key role in promoting equitable socio-economic development across regions of the country.

e-tolling

➤ National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme, the flagship initiative of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has been implemented on pan-India basis in order to ensure seamless movement of traffic through fee plazas and increase transparency in collection of user fee using FASTag. The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) is the Central Clearing House (CCH). Towards the objective of achieving 100 per cent collection through electronic payment, it has been mandated to declare all lanes, except one in each direction as FASTag lane from 2019.

Shipping

➤ The Ministry of Shipping was formed in 2009 by bifurcating the erstwhile Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways into two independent ministries. Maritime Transport is a critical infrastructure for the economic development of a country. The Ministry encompasses within its fold shipping and port sectors which also include shipbuilding and ship repair, major ports and inland water transport. It is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws related to shipping.

Maritime Development

➤ India has a long coastline of about 7,517 km, spread on the western and eastern shelves of the mainland and also along the Islands. It is an important natural resource for the country's trade. There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports. Approximately 95 per cent of the country's trade by volume and 68 per cent by value is moved through maritime transport.

Sagarmala Programme

➤ To harness the coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes, the government of India has embarked on the ambitious Sagarmala Programme to promote port-led development in the country.

➤ The vision of the Programme is to reduce logistics cost of EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment. This includes: reducing the cost of transporting domestic cargo; lowering logistical cost of bulk commodities by locating future industrial capacities near the coast; improving export competitiveness by developing port proximate discrete manufacturing clusters, etc.

➤ The objectives of the Programme include: port modernisation, new port development, port connectivity, coastal community development, etc.

Shipping Industry

➤ Shipping industry is one of the most globalised industries operating in a highly competitive business environment that is far more liberalised than most of the other industries and is, thus, intricately linked to the world economy and trade. Shipping plays an important role in the transport sector of India's economy especially in Exim trade.

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Coastal Shipping

➤ For making coastal shipping viable, MoPSW is taking numerous steps towards improving ease of doing business and promotion of coastal shipping in India by developing coastal berth infrastructure, making policies supporting transport of goods through waterways, and providing concessions at major ports. Water transport being economical as well as eco-friendly, various projects have been undertaken which specifically focus on promotion of cruise passenger transport, ro-ro ferry and ro-pax movement across several routes.

Maritime India Vision

➤ With the objective of propelling India to the forefront of the global maritime sector, the Ministry has formulated Maritime India Vision, 2030- a blueprint to ensure coordinated and accelerated growth of India's maritime sector in the next decade. The Vision document identified over 150 initiative across 10 themes covering all the facets of the Indian maritime sector and is a comprehensive effort to define and meet national maritime objectives.

Ship Building

➤ The Indian shipbuilding industry continues to concentrate on defence, coastal and inland vessels. The fleet expansion plans of Indian Navy and the vessels for the Indian Coast Guard are the two prime segments which are targeted by the Indian shipyards. There are 28 shipyards in the country, 6 under central public sector, 2 under states and 20 under private sector. To promote shipbuilding in Indian shipyards, a new Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy was put in place in 2015, for Indian shipyards for contracts signed during a 10-year period - 201626.

Ship Repair

➤ India is located strategically on the international trade route, whereby it attracts ships plying from west to east for its ship repair activity. Repair and maintenance services market is estimated to reach USD 40 billion in 2028, supported by developments in the markets in South East Asia and India. Though India's share in global ship repair is less than 1 per cent, the country's location is favourable with 7-9 percent of the global trade passing within 300 nautical miles of the coastline. Amongst public sector dockyards, Cochin Shipyard Ltd. has the highest capacity for ship repairing (125 deadweight tonnage).

Ship Recycling

➤ Ships at the end of their operational lives are broken down and various non-ferrous and ferrous metals obtained there from are recycled; hence the term `ship recycling'. In India, ship recycling is carried out mainly at Alang-Sosiya in Gujarat. It has high recycling potential of more than 450 ships (approximately 4.50 million LDT) per annum. Alang offers direct employment to 15000 personnel and 5 lakh personnel indirectly. Ship recycling is also carried out on a limited scale at Mumbai Port, Kolkata Port and also at Steel Industrials Kerala Ltd near Beypore Port, Calicut. Currently, ship recycling in India is regulated by Ship Breaking Code (Revised), 2013.

Major Ports

➤ There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports along India's coastline which is about 7,517 km. The 6 major ports—Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar (Ennore), Chennai and V.O. Chidambaranar, are on the east coast and the other major ports, viz., Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Sheva, Navi Mumbai) and Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla) are on the west coast. The major ports are under the direct administrative control of the central government and fall in Union List (7th Schedule of the Constitution). Of the total traffic handled by all Indian ports, 57 per cent is handled by major ports and 43 by others.

➤ **Kolkata Port**: Kolkata Port is the only riverine major port in the country having been in existence for more than 100 years. It has a vast hinterland comprising the entire Eastern India including West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, MP, Assam, North East hill states and the two landlocked neighbouring countries namely, Nepal and Bhutan.

➤ **Paradip Port:** Paradip Port is one of the major ports of the country. Government of India took over the management of the port from the state government in 1965.

- **New Mangalore Port***:* New Mangalore (now Mangaluru) Port was declared the ninth major port in 1974, and was inaugurated in 1975. The port has 16 berths and one single point mooring with a total capacity of 87.63 MTPA.

- **Cochin Port:** The modern port of Cochin was developed during the period 19201940 due to the untiring efforts of Sir Robert Bristow. Cochin Port is strategically located on the south-west coast of India and at a commanding position at the crossroads of the east-west ocean trade.

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port:** Constructed in the mid-1980s and commissioned in 1989, Jawaharlal Nehru Port has come a long way by becoming a world-class international container handling port. Jawaharlal Nehru Port is an all-weather tidal port.

- **Mumbai Port:** Mumbai Port is a fully integrated multi-purpose port handling container, dry bulk, liquid bulk and break bulk cargo. It has extensive wet and dry dock facilities to meet the normal needs of ships using the port.

- **Chennai Port:** Chennai Port is an all-weather artificial harbour with one outer harbour and one inner harbour with a wet dock and a boat basin with round the clock navigation facilities.

- **Mormugao Port:** Mormugao Port, situated on the west coast of India, is more than a century old port. It has modern infrastructure capable of handling a wide variety of cargo. A deep draft channel with 14.4 mtrs depth permits large vessels to enter the harbour.

- **V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin):** V.O. Chidambaranar Port is located strategically close to the east-west international sea routes on the south eastern coast of India at latitude 8°45'N and longitude 78°13'E. It is located in the Gulf of Mannar, with Sri Lanka on the south-east and the large landmass of India on the west.

- **Deendayal Port (Kandla):** Deendayal Port (erstwhile Kandla Port) was established in 1950 as a central government project and Union Government took over Kandla for its development as a major port.

- **Visakhapatnam Port:** Port of Visakhapatnam, a natural harbour, was opened to commercial shipping in 1933. It has mechanised handling facilities for iron ore, iron pellets, alumina, fertiliser raw material, crude oil and POL products, liquid ammonia, phosphoric acid, edible oil, caustic soda and other liquid cargoes.

- **Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore):** Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), the 12th major port under the Ministry of Shipping was commissioned in 2001, primarily as a coal port dedicated to handling thermal coal requirements of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB).

Inland Water Transport

- India has one of the longest navigable and inland water networks. However, cargo transport through these inland waterways is, presently less than 1 per cent of the total cargo movement in the country. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was constituted in 1986, for the development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation. About 111 inland waterways have been declared as 'National Waterways' under the National Waterways Act, 2016.

Jai Marg Vikas Project

- Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is being implemented by the IWAI for the capacity augmentation of National Waterway I on the Haldia—Varanasi stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank.

Cruise Shipping

- 'Cruise Tourism' is a fast-growing component of the leisure industry, worldwide. Through this segment of niche tourism, huge amount of foreign exchange can be earned and income generated onshore by providing the right policy environment and infrastructure.

Indian Maritime University

- Indian Maritime University (IMU) was set up in 2008 in Chennai as a central university with campuses at Chennai, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam.

GSSCORE

Lighthouses and Lightships

➤ Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) provides service to enable the mariners to know their position with respect to a fixed point on the land with the help of visual aids to navigation such as lighthouses, light vessels, buoys, beacons and radio aids to navigation like differential global positioning system (DGPS); radar beacons (Racons); vessel traffic service (VTS); and automatic identification system (AIS).

Directorate General of Shipping

➤ The Directorate General of Shipping, an attached office of the Ministry of Shipping, was established in 1949 for administering the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 on all matters relating to shipping policy and legislation.

Shipping Corporation of India Limited

➤ The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) was formed in 1961 by amalgamation of Eastern Shipping Corporation and Western Shipping Corporation through Shipping Corporation Amalgamation Order 1961.

Cochin Shipyard Limited

➤ Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), located in Kochi in Kerala, is one of the largest shipyards in the country which can build ships up to 1,10,000 DWT and repair ships up to 1,25,000 DWT. The yard has built and delivered over 100 ships including tankers, bulk carriers, port crafts, offshore vessels, tugs and passenger vessels.

Dredging Corporation of India

➤ Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. (DCIL) was formed in 1976 to provide integrated dredging and related marine services for promoting the country's national and international maritime trade, beach nourishment, reclamation, inland dredging, environmental protection and ultimately to become a global player, in the field of dredging.

Andaman and Lakshadweep Harbour Works

➤ Andaman and Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW), a subordinate office under Ministry of Shipping was established in 1965 for the service of A&N Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. The ALHW is entrusted with the responsibilities of formulating and implementing the programme of Ministry of Shipping for providing port and harbour facilities in the islands.

Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd

➤ Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL), Kolkata became a Central Public Sector Undertaking in 1984. The Company has two working units in Howrah district of West Bengal, one at Saikia and another at Nazirgunge. The installed capacity in shipbuilding is 1,100 tonnes per annum and in ship repairs 125 ships per annum.

Civil Aviation

➤ The Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for formulation of national policies and programmes for the development and regulation of the civil aviation sector in the country. It is responsible for the administration of the Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937, and various other legislations pertaining to the aviation sector in the country.

Regional Connectivity Scheme

➤ The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was envisaged in National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016.

➤ The primary objective of RCS-UDAN is to facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable to masses through measures such as concessions by the central government, state governments/UT administrations and airport operators to reduce the cost of airline operations on

regional routes; and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to meet the gap, if any, between the cost of airline operations and expected revenues on such rout.

Air Sewa

➤ Air Sewa is an initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched in 2016 to offer a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience to people. It works through an interactive web portal (airsewa.gov.in) and a mobile app for both android and iOS platforms that includes a mechanism for grievance redressal, back-office operations for grievance handling flight status/schedule information, airport information and FAQs.

FDI Liberalisation

➤ Government of India has raised the FDI limit to 49 to 100 per cent in scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services, FDI in scheduled airlines up to 49 per cent is permitted under automatic route and FDI beyond 49 per cent through government approval. For NRIs, 100 percent FDI will continue to be allowed under automatic route.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation

➤ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and is headed by Director General (Civil Aviation). In order to provide ease of doing business, the services of DGCA have been moved to a digital platform called eGCA. The eGCA project was initiated in 2019 and completed in 2021.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

➤ The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) was initially set up as a cell in the DGCA in 1978, to coordinate, monitor, inspect and train personnel in Civil Aviation Security matters. . Its main responsibility is to lay down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India and Indian aircraft operators at foreign airports.

Airports Authority of India

➤ Airports Authority of India (AAI) came into being in 1995. AAI is a Mini Ratna Category-I PSE involved in building, upgrading, maintaining and managing airport infrastructure across the country. It owns 104 airports, which include 21 international airports, 6 customs airports, 77 domestic airports (including 22 non-operational airports). In addition, AAI operates 3 international civil enclaves, 4 customs civil enclaves and 22 domestic civil enclaves (including 1 nonoperational civil enclave).

GAGAN

➤ GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision approach requirements in civil aviation and it is being implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO.

Drones or Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)

➤ In order to make India a global hub for the research and development, testing, manufacturing and operation of drones, the central government has notified the Drone Rules 2021 in 2021. To promote domestic manufacturing of drones, the government notified the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and drone components in 2021.

➤ A Digital Sky Platform was also launched to regulate the entire gamut of activities pertaining to drone operations. The airspace map for drones has been released on digital sky platform.

Digi Yatra

➤ Digi Yatra for contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports launched in 2022. It is based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT). Initially this has been done from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru.

Disinvestment of Air India

➤ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) - empowered Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) approved the highest price bid of M/s Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary

of M/s Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd for sale of 100 per cent equity shareholding of Government of India in Air India along with equity shareholding of Air India in AIXL and AISATS.

► The 'Operation Ganga' was launched with the aim of safe evacuation of Indian nationals stranded in Ukraine in the month of February-March 2022. Consequent upon the closure of Ukrainian airspace for international operations, efforts were made to rescue and bring back the stranded Indian nationals by operating flights from Kyiv, Ukraine and cities of neighbouring countries of Romania (Bucharest and Suceava), Hungary (Budapest), Poland (Rzeszow) and Slovakia (Kosice). More than 22500 Indian nationals were safely rescued from Ukraine by operating a total of 90 evacuation flights.

Resumption of International Connectivity

► The operations of scheduled international commercial passenger services to/from India were suspended from March, 2020 in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Subsequently, the 'Vande Bharat Mission' was launched to help repatriate Indian nationals in foreign countries.

International Flights

► India operates a wide ranging network of international flights and currently has Air Services Agreements (ASAs) with 116 countries. In terms of consistent efforts, India presently provides direct connectivity to more than 40 countries, whereas, connecting more than 100 countries through indirect routes.

Krishi Udan

► Krishi Udan 2.0 which was announced in 2021 will focus on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, north-eastern states and tribal areas. Under the scheme, AA! provides full waiver of landing, parking, Terminal Navigational Landing Charges (TNLC) and Route Navigation Facility Charges (RNFC) for Indian freighters and P2C (Passenger-to-Cargo) Aircraft primarily around 58 airports focusing on north eastern, hilly and tribal region and 28 airports in other regions/areas.

Lifeline UDAN

► Ministry of Civil Aviation launched 'Lifeline UDAN' in March 2020. It is an initiative to ensure a steady supply of essentials as well as medical supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), test kits, etc., to all parts of the country. The Ministry facilitated establishing Lifeline UDAN mechanism to match the requirements/consignments of states/ UTs/ MoHFW (HLL & ICMR)/other ministries with special flight plans.

Pawan Hans Limited

► Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) was incorporated in October 1985 (under the name of 'Helicopter Corporation of India Limited') as a government company under the Companies Act. It was established with the primary objective of providing helicopter support services to the oil sector in offshore exploration, operating in hilly and inaccessible areas and making charter flights available for promotion of travel and tourism.

New MRO Policy

► Keeping in view India's growing aviation market, technology and skill base, government announced new Maintenance Repair Overhaul (MRO) guidelines in 2021 with a view to creating a congenial atmosphere in the country for the development of the MRO industry for aircraft / helicopter / drones and their engines and other parts.

Greenfield Airports Policy

► Government of India formulated a Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008 which provides guidelines, procedure and conditions for establishment of new Greenfield Airports in the country. As per the Policy, an airport developer, including the state government, willing to establish an airport is required to send a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in the prescribed format for a 2-stage process i.e., 'Site Clearance' followed by 'In-Principle' approval.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

► The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is a statutory body constituted in 2009 under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008, with its head office at Delhi. AERA

determines the tariff for the aeronautical services, the amount of the Development Fees in respect of major airports, and the amount of the Passengers Service Fee levied under rule 88 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 made under the Aircraft Act, 1934.

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

➤ Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is an attached office of the Ministry and has its headquarters in New Delhi. The bureau provides independence of investigation function from the regulatory function in accordance with the ICAO SARPs. AAIB coordinates investigation into accidents and serious incidents, with the ICAO.

➤ The sole objective of investigation is accident prevention.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi

➤ The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) was set up at Fursatganj, Amethi (Uttar Pradesh), to bring about a quantum improvement in the standards of flying and ground training of commercial pilots in the country. The Akademi is equipped with most modern and sophisticated trainer aircraft along with their associated simulator with 180° view, up-to-date audio-visual training aids and other facilities for effective ground training.

Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University

➤ Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) is a central university under the administrative control of the Ministry. The university has been established by the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Act, 2013. It is situated at Fursatganj, Raebareli, (Uttar Pradesh).

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Energy

Energy is an essential input for economic development and improving the quality of life. Development of conventional forms of energy for meeting the growing energy needs of society at a reasonable cost is the responsibility of the government. Development and promotion of nonconventional/alternate/new and renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and bio-energy, etc., are also getting sustained attention. Nuclear energy development is being geared up to contribute significantly to the overall energy availability in the country.

Power

► The Ministry of Power is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country. The construction and operation of generation and transmission projects in the central sector are entrusted to Central Sector Corporations, viz., the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

► Two joint-venture power corporations namely, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) (formerly known as NJPC) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) are responsible for the execution of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project in Himachal Pradesh and projects of Tehri Hydro Power Complex in Uttarakhand respectively.

► Three statutory bodies, i.e., the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the Bhakra-Beas Management Board (BBMB) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.

Power Sector Initiatives

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

☐ The erstwhile rural electrification scheme was subsumed in DDUGJY as a separate rural electrification component and the approved outlay of the erstwhile scheme has been carried forward to the DDUGJY. In order to realise the objectives of the scheme, participation of all the stakeholders, particularly public representatives, have been institutionalised through constitution of District Electricity Committees (now DISHA).

Saubhagya—Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bill! Har Ghar Yojana

► To achieve universal household electrification in the country by March 2019, the government launched Saubhagya scheme with a total cost of 16,320 crore including gross budgetary support of Z 12,320 crore during the entire implementation period. The scope of the Scheme includes: providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas.

► Above Poverty Line (APL) households will get electricity connections on payment of 500 (which is payable in 10 instalments in the electricity bill); providing Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) based stand-alone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages/habitations, where

grid extension is not feasible or cost effective; and providing electricity connections to all remaining economically poor un-electrified households in urban areas.

UDAY—Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana

➤ UDAY scheme was launched in 2015 for a sustainable solution to the operational and financial inefficiencies of DISCOMs across the country, through targeted interventions in the form of lower interest costs, reduction of cost of power, increased revenues and improved operational efficiencies.

Universal Access

➤ In 2014, thousands of villages and lakhs of hamlets did not have access to electricity. . The International Energy Agency called this the most seminal development in the energy sector in the world in 2018.

Power Distribution

➤ A scheme for modernising the distribution system to make it future ready and taking it upto world standards was launched in 2021. The scheme seeks to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of all DISCOMs/ power departments by providing financial assistance for strengthening and modernising the system, making it digital and reducing interruption.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan Scheme

➤ PM KUSUM Scheme aims to provide energy security to consumers. This scheme provides funding support to promote installation of solar energy installations for provision of electricity to agriculture pump-sets.

Liquidity Infusion Scheme

➤ Under the scheme, the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Ltd. and REC Ltd have provided long term concessional transition financing to the distribution utilities to clear the dues of Central Gencos, Transcos, IPPs and RE Gencos.

Reforms in Transmission Sector

Separation of CTU from Powergrid

➤ Over a period of time, many private transmission developers also emerged in the Transmission Sector. As CTU, Powergrid was engaged in transmission planning. Further, it, as developer was engaged in implementation and participating in bidding process for development of transmission system.

Revamping Transmission Planning Process

➤ In order to take leadership role in Climate Change Adaptation, and to bring its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030, the Ministry of Power has taken following reform measures to simplify and fast-track the planning and approval process of Inter State Transmission System (ISIS) required for connecting non-fossil fuel capacity including Renewable Energy capacity in the National Grid.

Revised Standard Bidding Documents

➤ The major changes in the revised SBD include reduction in equity lock in period,signing of transmission service agreement by DU, provision for quoting of single tariff in the bid, changing from Build Own Operate Maintain (BOOM) model to Build Own Operate Transfer (BOOT) model, provision of independent engineer during construction phase for monitoring, quality assurance and quantification of cost/time related issues, etc.

Performance Improvement of Sub-Transmission System

➤ Sub-transmission System plays important role to feeding quality power to the consumers on 24x7 basis. However, sub-transmission system is often plagued with higher technical losses and more outages.

Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

➤ The task force suggested a multi-pronged approach, which encompasses change in the design philosophy, better planning and adoption of modern technological solutions required to safeguard the T&D infrastructure from natural disasters and to increase resilience, reliability and availability of the system.

Standard Specifications for Transformers and Reactors

➤ Earlier, the specification of each transformer and reactor was unique and manufacturers used to take inordinate time to design them. Accordingly, the manual to adopt country wide standard designs of power transformers and reactors was prepared and the same was approved in 2021.

Securing Energy Supply

➤ Coal stock position for thermal power plants is monitored in Central Electricity Authority on daily basis for regular/smooth supply of coal.

Revised Coal Stocking Norms

➤ Central Electricity Authority (CEA), monitors the coal stocks being maintained at the power stations along with their daily coal consumption requirements. The earlier stocking norms were advisory in nature, at times, power plants do not maintain coal stock as per the norms, which is not desirable for a sustained plant operation. The revised norms mandates 12 to 17 days of coal stock at pit head stations and 20 to 26 days coal stock at non-pit head stations with month-wise variation based on coal dispatch / coal consumption pattern during the year corresponding to 85 per cent PLF.

Empowering Consumers

➤ Ministry of Power promulgated the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 in 2020 for better services.

Energy Conservation

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All

➤ Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All or UJALA was launched in 2015 programme to provide LED bulbs to domestic consumers for replacement of incandescent bulbs at an affordable price. It is the world's largest lighting replacement programme.

Street Lighting National Programme

➤ The Programme was launched in 2015 to replace conventional street lights with smart and energy efficient LED street lights. Till December, 2021, over 1.2 crore LED street lights were installed by EESL.

Reform Initiatives

Real Time Market

➤ Government introduced pan India Real Time Market (RTM) of electricity in 2020. The introduction of 1RM, as an organised platform for energy trade closer to real time to the buyers and sellers, has not only facilitated grid integration of renewable but also brought greater market efficiency.

Security Constrained Economic Despatch

➤ A new system initiative called has been put in place to reduce the cost of power procured by the distribution licensees, which in result maximised the plant with lowest variable cost.

Go Electric Campaign

➤ Ministry of Power launched a nation-wide Go Electric Campaign in 2021 to educate the general public on the benefits of e-mobility, inform the potential Electric Vehicle (EV) owners about the incentives for EV adoption, generate curiosity and transform the same into demand, discredit misinformation against such vehicles and bring together multiple stakeholders under single platform.

Privatisation of Power Departments/Utilities

➤ Government announced privatisation of power departments and utilities in UTs under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. The decision is guided by sub-optimal performance of power distribution utilities and privatisation and the need to provide better service to consumers with improvement in operational and financial efficiencies.

Petroleum and Natural Gas

➤ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is concerned with exploration and production of oil and natural gas (including import of liquefied natural gas), refining, distribution and marketing, import, export and conservation of petroleum products.

➤ India has become the 3rd largest energy consumer in the world after China and USA. Oil and gas accounted for around 35 per cent share in India's energy consumption.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

➤ **In** order to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households especially in rural areas, the government had launched PMUY to provide deposit free LPG connections to 8 crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

Ujjwala 2.0

➤ **Ujjwala** 2.0 was launched in 2021, to provide additional one crore **LPG connections** to adult women of poor households under PMUY.

PAHAL

➤ The government, as a measure of good governance, introduced well targeted systems of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers through PAHAL. This initiative was aimed at rationalising subsidies based on an approach to cut subsidy leakages, but not subsidies per se.

Refining Capacity

➤ Indian refinery industry has done well in establishing itself as a major player globally. The country's refinery capacity has increased over the years which is 251.21 MMTPA.

Imports and Exports of Petroleum Products

➤ The import of petroleum products during 2020-21 was 43.25 MMT valued at f 1,09,430 crore against the import of 43.79 MMT valued at Z1,25,742 crore in 2019-20 which is lower by 1.2 per cent in quantity terms and 13 per cent in value terms vis-a-vis 2019-20.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package

➤ The Scheme for providing free of cost LPG cylinders for three months to PMUY beneficiaries was started from April, 2020 under PMGKP.

Make in India

➤ The policy aims to encourage participation of domestic and overseas players in the domestic oil and gas sector, create employment opportunities, help higher value addition in the products manufactured in the country and services rendered for the oil and gas sector and reduce dependence on imports.

Sahaj

➤ Sahaj was a digital initiative launched by oil marketing companies for release of LPG connection with online payment and issuance of le-SV[1] under the Digital India initiative and the facility is now available on pan-India basis.

Direct Benefit Transfer of Kerosene

➤ In order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices, the government modulated the retail selling prices of Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene. From March 1, 2020 the retail selling price of PDS Kerosene is being maintained at NIL under-recovery level on pan India basis.

GSSCORE

Atma Nirbhar in the Energy Sector

➤ Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, a portal namely, Lakshya Bharat Portal was launched in 2021. This portal is accessible to all stakeholders, i.e., the Government of India, all Oil and Gas PSUs (OGPSUs), the manufacturers/ traders.

Pricing of Petroleum Products

➤ The Administered Pricing Mechanism (RPM) or cost plus pricing for petroleum products which was introduced in 1976 was abolished from 2002, consequent to the de-regulation of the oil sector in India.

Customer Centric Initiatives in LPG

➤ Public sector oil marketing companies under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have been undertaking various customer centric initiatives leveraging on the possibilities enabled by emerging trends in the information technology sector.

National Gas Grid

➤ Over the last several years, gas pipeline infrastructure in the country is being developed in synchronisation with the development of gas sources (domestic + Imported LNG) and upcoming projects of major gas consuming sectors i.e., fertiliser, power, LPG manufacturing, refinery, petrochemical, steel, etc.

Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga

➤ In order to develop the national gas grid, the government decided to develop the 2655 km long Jagdishpur-Haldia/Bokaro-Dhamra Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project, popularly known as the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga of Eastern India. It will pass through 50 districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

City Gas Distribution Network

➤ City Gas Distribution (CGD) network is the interconnected network of pipelines for supply of gas to domestic, industrial or commercial premises and CNG stations situated in a specified Geographical Area (GA).

Energy Diplomacy

➤ India is the 3rd largest consumer of energy resources in the world, next only to USA and China. It is also the 3rd largest importer of crude oil and 4th largest importer of LNG in the world. Dependency on imported crude oil and natural gas was 85 per cent and 53 per cent respectively for the year 2019-20. The high dependency on imports and over-reliance on the Middle-East and OPEC has significant implications on the energy security.

Ethanol Blending

➤ Domestically produced ethanol is a potential opportunity to reduce reliance on oil imports by blending it with conventional fossil fuels for consumption. India started blending ethanol in petrol on a pilot basis in 2001.

➤ Based on state-of-the-art indigenous technology, the second generation, Ethanol Plant in Haryana will turn a new chapter in India's waste-to-wealth endeavours by utilising about two lakh tonnes of rice straw *(parali)* annually to generate around three crore litres of Ethanol annually and will reduce greenhouse gases equivalent to about three lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per annum.

Ethanol Blending Programme

➤ The government is promoting the use of ethanol as a blend stock with main automotive fuel like petrol in line with the National Policy on Biofuels - 2018 under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. Under this programme, an indicative target of 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol by 2030 was laid out. Subsequently, the target year for achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol was also advanced to 2025.

International Organisations

➤ India has been persistently elevating the engagement with prominent International organisations (OPEC, IEA, IEF) through interaction on regular basis at ministerial levels including forums like Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable, G20, etc.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves

➤ Government of India, through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd. (ISPRL), has set up Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at three locations with a capacity of 5.33 MMT located at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur. The crude oil stored can be used in emergency situations. These three SPRs can meet approximately 9.5 days of national demand.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

➤ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is a mega Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) with 'Maharatna' status. It has two refineries: one in Mumbai (west coast) having a capacity of 6.5 MMTPA and the other in Visakhapatnam (east coast) with a capacity of 8.3 MMTPA.

Gas Authority of India Limited

➤ GAIL, having started as a gas transmission company, it grew organically over the years by building a large network of natural gas trunk pipelines covering a length of over 8,700 km.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited

➤ The Indian Oil Group of companies own and operate 10 of India's 22 refineries with a combined refining capacity of 213.2 million metric tonnes per annum. Indian Oil's cross-country network of crude oil and product pipeline spans 10,909 km with a capacity of 75.55 MMTPA of crude oil and petroleum products and 96 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD) of gas.

➤ The Corporation's Indane cooking gas reaches the doorsteps of about 65 million households through about 5,934 distributors. These efforts are backed by supplies from 139 terminals and depots, 96 aviation fuel stations and 89 Indane bottling plants.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

➤ BPCL has refineries at Mumbai and Kochi with a combined refining capacity of 21.5 MMTPA. Both the refineries are certified under Integrated Management System (IMS) which aims for a unified approach in processes, interfaces, structures and documentation systems by combining the individual management systems under ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 reflecting the continuing commitment towards quality, environment, health and safety.

Bharat Petro Resources Limited

➤ While BPCL is engaged in the midstream and downstream segment in India, BPRL carries out upstream activities both in India and overseas.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

➤ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), engaged in exploration and production of crude oil, natural gas and value added products was incorporated in 1993 under Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to government's decision to transform the statutory commission into a Public Limited Company, through an Act of Parliament (Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal, Act, 1993)].

ONGC Videsh Limited

➤ The company was rechristened as ONGC Videsh Limited from 1989. It has participated either directly or through its wholly owned subsidiaries/joint venture companies in 30 projects in 15 countries of which nine projects are operated by OVL, 7 are jointly operated and 14 managed through participating interest.

Oil India Limited

➤ In 1981, OIL India Pvt. Ltd. became a wholly-owned Government of India enterprise. In-country operational areas are spread over Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman and Rajasthan. OIL has presence in nine countries, viz., Venezuela, Libya, Gabon, Iran, Nigeria, Yemen, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Egypt, pursuing various activities.

New and Renewable Energy

➤ In 1982, a separate Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES) was created in the Ministry of Energy to look after all the aspects relating to New and Renewable Energy. The Department was upgraded into a separate Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) in 1992 and was re-named as Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), in 2006.

Indian Scenario

➤ India has achieved a cumulative installed renewable energy capacity (excluding large hydro) of 92.54 GW out of which 5.47 GW was added in the period form April 2020 till January, 2021.

➤ During the period from April 2014 to January 2021, the installed RE capacity of India has increased by two-and-half times, and in the same period, the installed solar energy capacity has increased 15 times.

➤ Globally, today India stands 4th in RE power capacity, 4[9]' in Wind power, and 5[111] in Solar Power capacity.

➤ India has one of the highest rates of growth for renewable energy in the world.

➤ As per Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2020 report, during the period 2014-2019, renewable energy programmes and projects in India attracted an investment of US$ 64.2 billion (Rs. 4.7 Iakh crore).

Drivers for Development

➤ Around 69.5 per cent of India's power generation capacity is based on coal. In addition, there is an increasing dependence on imported oil, which is leading to imports of around 33 per cent of India's total energy needs.

➤ Despite an increase in installed capacity by more than 113 times, India is still not in a position to meet its peak electricity demand as well as energy requirement. The peak power deficit during the financial year 2001-02 was 12.2 per cent, approximately 9,252 MW, however, at the end of 2014-15, the peak power deficit decreased to the order of 2.4 per cent.

➤ Almost 85 percent of rural households depend on solid fuel for their cooking needs and only 55 percent of them have access to electricity. India has taken a voluntary commitment of reducing emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Renewable Energy Potential

➤ India has an estimated renewable energy potential of about 900 GW from commercially exploitable sources, viz., wind - 102 GW (at 80 metre mast height); small hydro - 20 GW; bioenergy - 25 GW; and 750 GW solar power, assuming 3 per cent wasteland is made available.

Major Ongoing Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM -KUSUM)

➤ PM-KUSUM scheme is one of the largest initiatives in the world to provide clean energy to more than 3.5 million farmers by solarising their agriculture pumps.

Rooftop Solar (RTS) Programme

➤ Rooftop Phase-II was launched in February 2019 with a target of achieving cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW by 2022.

Solar Parks

➤ The Ministry introduced the Solar Parks programme with the objective of facilitating solar project developers to set up projects in a plug-and-play model. The scheme for development of solar parks has a target capacity of 40 GW.

Green Energy Corridors

➤ To facilitate evacuation of electricity from RE projects, Green Energy Corridor scheme was launched in 2015 for setting up of transmission and evacuation infrastructure. The Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) component consisting of 3200 ckm transmission lines and 17,000 MVA substations has been completed in March 2020.

Solar Cities

➤ At least one city, (either the state capital city or a well-known tourist destination) in each of the states of the country is being developed as a solar city. All electricity needs of the city will be fully met from RE sources, primarily from solar energy. All houses in the solar city will have roof-top solar energy plants. Every solar city will also have solar street lights and waste to energy plants among others. The balance of energy needs will be met by ground mounted solar plants.

Renewable Purchase Obligations

➤ Uniform Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) have been introduced wherein all electricity distribution licensees have to purchase or produce a specified minimum quantity of their total requirements from Renewable Energy Sources.

Waiver of Inter State Transmission System Charges

➤ Inter State Transmission System Charges and losses for inter-state sale of power from solar and wind power projects have been waived for all projects to be commissioned up to June 2023.

One Sun One World One Grid

➤ The objective of One Sun One World One Grid is to interconnect generators and loads across continents with an international power transmission grid. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Government of India, and the World Bank was signed in 2020 to implement the OSOWOG initiative.

Hydrogen Energy Mission

➤ The Mission is to enable cost competitive green hydrogen production, storage, distribution and application technologies; developing globally competitive manufacturing expertise; and putting in place regulations, codes, safety, performance and quality standards in consonance with technology and market development stages.

Off-shore Wind

➤ Off-shore wind in India has a potential of approximately 70 GW mainly off-Tamil Nadu and Gujarat coasts. Eight zones each in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been identified as potential off- shore zones.

Renewable Energy for Rural Applications

➤ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is implementing and supporting Biogas Schemes for dissemination and deployment of biogas plants in remote, rural and semi-urban areas of the country. The biogas plant digested slurry contains enriched organic Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash (NPK) and also other major plant micronutrients free from weed seeds, smell and pathogens. The application of recommended dose of biogas slurry increase the yield by 12 per cent to 35 per cent of all types of crops, fruits and vegetables.

New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme

➤ The New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme (NNBOMP) is being implemented with the objective to provide clean cooking fuel and to meet lighting, thermal and small power needs of farmers/dairy farmers/users including individual households and to improve organic manure system based on bioslurry from biogas plants in rural and semi-urban areas by setting up of biogas plants.

National Solar Mission

➤ Launched in January 2010, the National Solar Mission (NSM) was the first mission to be operationalised under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Using a three-phase approach, the mission's objective is to establish India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for solar technology diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.

➤ The revised tariff policy requires all states to reach 10.5 per cent solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) by the year 2022.

Institutions

➤ To support the Ministry, there are five institutions consisting of three autonomous bodies i.e., National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) and National Institute of Bio Energy (NIBE) and two public sector undertakings, i.e., Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

Coal

➤ The Ministry of Coal (MoC) has the overall responsibility of determining policies and strategies in respect of exploration and development of coal and lignite reserves, sanctioning of important projects of high value and for deciding all related issues. These key functions are exercised through its public sector undertakings, namely Coal India Limited (CIL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a joint sector undertaking of Government of Telangana and Government of India with equity capital in the ratio of **51:49.**

Coal Reserves

➤ About **352.12** billion tonnes of coal reserves have been estimated by the Geological Survey of India as in April 2021. The reserves have been found mainly in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

Lignite Reserves

➤ The lignite reserves in the country have been estimated at around 46.02 billion tonnes by the Geological Survey of India as in April 2021. The major deposits are located in Tamil Nadu, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal and union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry.

Coal Production

➤ During 2021-22 (upto Nov.21) actual raw coal production was 447.557 MT against the annual target of 848.000 MT.

Coal India Limited

➤ Coal India Limited (CIL) is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Coal, with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal. CIL is the single largest coal producing company in the world. CIL operates through 82 mining areas spread over eight provincial states of India. It has 429 mines of which 237 are underground, 166 open-cast and 26 mixed mines.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited

➤ NLCIL operates three open-cast lignite mines of total capacity of 30 million tonnes per annum at Neyveli and one open-cast lignite mine of capacity of 2.1 million tonnes per annum at Barsingsar, Rajasthan. NLCIL has also ventured into coal mine projects and has commenced coal production in Talabira II and III coal mine, Odisha, with an installed capacity of 20 MTPA by 2020.

➤ NLCIL has made rapid strides in renewable energy and is presently producing 1,370 MW of solar power from its solar power plants situated in Neyveli and various districts of Tamil Nadu besides Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

➤ NLCIL also produces 51 MW of wind power.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited

➤ Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is first and the oldest government owned coal mining company in the country with registered office at Kothagudem in Telangana.

➤ The Company is currently operating 18 opencast and 24 underground mines in 6 districts of Telangana. SCCL achieved the coal production of 65.02 million tonnes and planned to achieve 80 million tonnes by 2024-25. Naini coal block (rated capacity of 10 MTPA) is expected to start production in the last quarter of 2022-23. SCCL is operating its own 2X600 MW thermal power plants from 2016.

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Water Resources

The Ministry of Water Resources was renamed in 2019 as Ministry of Jal Shakti (Jal Shakti Mantralaya) with two departments, i.e., Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Water Availability

➤ India receives mean annual precipitation of about 3,880 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM).

➤ The average annual water availability, after evaporation, is assessed at 1,999.20 BCM.

➤ Due to geological and other factors, the utilisable water available is limited to 1,122 BCM per annum, comprising of 690 BCM of surface water and 432 BCM of groundwater.

➤ Out of this, the water potential utilised is around 699 BCM, comprising 450 BCM of surface water and 249 BCM of groundwater.

➤ For India, the average annual per capita water availability of water for the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed at 1,816 cubic metres and 1,545 cubic metres, respectively.

➤ As per the commonly used Falkenmark Indicator, annual per capita water availability of less than 1,700 cubic metres is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per capita water availability below 1,000 cubic metres is considered as a water scarcity condition.

National Water Policy

➤ The policy emphasises the need for a national water framework law; comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-state rivers and river valleys; evolving a system of benchmarks for water uses for different purposes to ensure efficient use of water; setting up of water regulatory authority by each state; and incentivising recycle and reuse of water.

National Water Mission

➤ National Water Mission (NWM) was set up as per the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The main objective of the NWM is "conservation of water, minimising wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within states through integrated water resources development and management".

NWM Web Portal

➤ NWM has identified eight river basins (Mahanadi, Mahi, Luni, Tapi, Sutlej, Sabarmati, Subarnarekha and west- flowing rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari) for study of impact of climate change in association with research institutes like IITs, NITs, DSc and NIH under the R&D scheme of the Ministry.

National Water Awards

➤ The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has instituted National Water Awards for various categories including Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat,

Best Municipal Corporation/Other Municipal Bodies, Best Schools, Best TV Show, Best Newspaper, etc., in the field of water conservation.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan

➤ Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken up the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA:CTR) with the theme "Catch the Rain - Where it Falls When it Falls" to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country.

➤ The five major interventions of the campaign include water conservation and rainwater harvesting; renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks; reuse and recharge of bore wells; watershed development; and intensive afforestation.

Sahi Fasal Campaign

➤ 'Sahi Fasal' campaign was launched in 2019 by NWM to push farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which are not water intensive, but use water very efficiently and are economically remunerative, are healthy and nutritious, suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics.

Water Talk/Water Tech Talks

➤ A monthly Water Talk lecture series is an important activity undertaken by NWM with the aim to stimulate awareness, thinking, build capacities of the stakeholders and encourage people to become active participants in saving water on earth.

National Mission for Clean Ganga

➤ The Ganga basin is the most populous in the world, with more than 400 million people in the country alone living around it. It accounts for 28 per cent of India's water resources, holds about 26 per cent of landmass and hosts 43 per cent of the population.

➤ The major source of pollution in the river is untreated domestic and industrial liquid waste thrown into it. About 70 per cent of the pollution is from untreated domestic sewage; 20 per cent is from toxic industrial waste water; and 10 per cent is from non-point sources such as agricultural runoff, open defecation, dumping of solid waste, etc.

➤ Authorities Order 2016, National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) was replaced with National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has also been converted to an authority.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

➤ The PMKSY was launched with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

➤ The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched in 199697 to provide central assistance to major/medium irrigation projects in the country, with the objective to accelerate implementation of such projects, which were beyond resource capability of the states or were in advanced stages of completion.

Command Area Development and Water Management

➤ The programme is under implementation as a sub-component of Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from 2015-16 onwards. The ongoing CAD&WM

programme has been restricted to the implementation of CAD works of 99 prioritised AIBP projects from 2016-17 onwards.

Participatory Irrigation Management

➤ The National Water Policy stresses participatory approach in water resource management. It has been recognised that participation of beneficiaries helps greatly in the optimal upkeep of irrigation system and effective utilisation of irrigation water.

➤ One-time functional grant at ?1,200 per hectare to be shared by the centre, state and farmers in the ratio of 45:45:10, respectively is being paid to outlet level Water Users Associations as incentive, the interest from which is to be used for maintenance.

Flood Management

Flood Management Programme

➤ During the XI Plan, the government launched Flood Management Programme for providing central assistance to the state governments for undertaking the works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing, restoration of damaged flood management works and anti-sea erosion works.

River Management Activities related to Border Areas

➤ It is responsible for hydrological observations and flood forecasting on common border rivers with neighbouring countries like

- flood forecasting on rivers common to India and Nepal

- hydrological observations on rivers originating in Bhutan

Ganga Flood Control Commission

➤ With the objective to effectively tackle critical and chronic flood problems in the Ganga Basin, Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) was set up in 1972. GFCC, a subordinate office of Ministry of Jal Shakti with its headquarters at Patna, was also created in 1972 to act as the secretariat and executive limb of GFCB and to deal with the floods and its management in the Ganga Basin states.

Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme

➤ Major objective of the scheme is to provide scientific inputs for ground water management. Activities like preparation of aquifer maps and management plans, monitoring of ground water levels; assessment of ground water quality; estimation of dynamic ground water resources; implementation of innovative projects on aquifer rejuvenation and spring shed mapping; regulation and control of ground water extraction and other related activities are taken up under this scheme in various parts of the country.

Ground Water Development

➤ There is considerable variation in groundwater potential in different parts of the country. While some areas like Indo-Gangetic Alluvium have huge ground water potential, many hard rock areas have limited groundwater resources.

➤ The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out periodic assessment of groundwater resources jointly with the state groundwater departments.

Aquifer Mapping and Formulation of Aquifier Management Plan

➤ In the XII Plan, CGWB has taken up the National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) to facilitate identification, delineation, characterisation and effective management of aquifers to ensure sustainability of groundwater resources. The major activities envisaged under the project include compilation of existing data, data gap analysis, generation of additional data for preparation of aquifer map and formulation of aquifer management plans.

Demonstrative Projects on Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting

➤ CGWB has implemented demonstrative projects on artificial recharge to groundwater and rainwater harvesting in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, former state of Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telengana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and UT of Chandigarh.

Central Ground Water Authority

➤ The Authority performs the following functions: exercise of powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all the matters referred to in sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the said Act; to resort to penal provisions contained in Sections 15 to 21 of the said Act; to regulate and control management and development of groundwater in the country; and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose.

Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training and Research Institute

➤ The institute caters to the training requirements of the Board and other central and state government organisations, academic institutes, NGOs, etc.

Central Water Commission

➤ Central Water Commission (CWC) is headed by a chairman, with the status of an ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India. The work of the Commission is divided among 3 wings, namely, Designs and Research Wing (D&R), Water Planning and Projects Wing (WP&P) and River Management Wing (RM).

Water Quality Monitoring

➤ Central Water Commission is monitoring water quality at 764 key locations covering all important river basins of the country (as on January, 2021).

Flood Forecasting

➤ CWC has been modernising and expanding its flood forecasting network in order to have automatic system of data collection and real time data transmission. . CWC is providing flood forecasting service at 333 stations, of which 199 are level forecasting stations on major rivers and 134 are inflow forecasting stations on major dams/barrages.

Morphological Studies

➤ The study of river morphology and implementation of suitable river training work as appropriate have become imperative as large areas of the country are affected by floods every year causing severe damage to life and property in spite of existing flood control measures taken both by central and state governments.

Planning and Design of Water Resources Projects

➤ Central Water Commission is actively associated with design of large water resources projects in India and neighbouring countries, viz., Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and African countries by way of design consultancy or in the technical appraisal of the projects.

Dam Safety Act

➤ It provides for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of the specified dam for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning.

➤ The National Committee of Dam Safety (NCDS) was also constituted in 2022 and established the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA).

National Register of Large Dams

➤ The National Register of Large Dams (NRLD) is compiled by Central Water Commission. Based upon the data provided by the dam owners, there are 5,745 large dams in the country, out of which 5,334 have been commissioned and 411 are under construction.

Hydrological Studies

➤ CWC carries out hydrological studies in respect of the water resources projects in the country. During 2022-23, such studies of 46 projects were completed. Among these, 22 projects have been cleared.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

➤ Under the scheme, 221 dams were rehabilitated, Emergency Action Plan (EAP), Operation and Maintenance (O&M) manual prepared for all DRIP dams, 13 guidelines/ manuals published, design flood review of 250 dams and dam safety review panel inspection of 260 dams carried out, web-based management tool called Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) developed, and 191 customised national and international trainings conducted for about 5,500 officials.

Water Resource Information System

➤ CWC and ISRO jointly developed Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) in 2010. The version 4.1 was launched in 2015 and is available in public domain at 1:250000 scale.

➤ The information system contains several GIS layers on water resources projects—thematic layers like major water bodies, land use/land cover, wastelands, land degradation, etc., environmental layers as well as infrastructure and other administrative layers.

➤ As per the provision of Hydro-Meteorological Data Dissemination Policy, 2013 (MoWR), all unclassified data of CWC G&D stations has been made available on this website

Training & Capacity Building

➤ Central Water Commission offers training to water sector professionals every year. These training programmes are organised at National Water Academy (NWA), CWC Headquarter and field offices of CWC.

National Water Academy

➤ National Water Academy (NWA) is an institute established under Central Water Commission at Khadakwasla, Pune. NWA conducts training programmes on the whole gamut of water resources development and management comprising both technical and non-technical areas.

Central Soil and Materials Research Station

➤ It is a premier organisation in the country dealing with the field explorations, laboratory investigations, and basic and applied research in the field of geotechnical engineering and civil engineering materials, particularly for construction of river valley projects and safety evaluation of existing dams.

Central Water and Power Research Station

➤ It is an apex research and development institution in the field of hydraulics and allied research in the water and power sector. It has continued to serve the needs of the nation for more than 100 years by evolving safe and economical planning and design of water resources structures, river engineering, hydropower generation, and ports and waterways projects fulfilling the mandate of 'Service to the Nation through Research'.

National Water Informatics Centre

➤ It was set up as a subordinate office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2018 to act as a central repository of water resources data and allied themes.

Water Information Management System

➤ It is an integrated web-based data collection platform through which different agencies update the latest available data on water. This application also has a provision to send flood and disaster mitigation alerts through SMS and email to central and state disaster management authorities.

The India Water Resources Information System

➤ It is a single-window platform for the dissemination of data on water resources and allied themes. The India-WRIS portal provides the users with information that is segmented based on simplified themes such as surface water, groundwater, land resources, hydro-meteorological, allied themes and projects.

Farakka Barrage Project

➤ The Farakka Barrage Project Authority was set up in 1961 with the mandate to execute and thereafter operate and maintain the Farakka Barrage Project Complex comprising Farakka Barrage, Jangipur Barrage, Feeder Canal, Navigation Lock, and associated structures.

Betwa River Board

➤ It was constituted in 1976 to execute the Rajghat Darn Project and Power House. The project authority started construction of the project under the overall guidance of Betwa River Board Act, 1976. The benefits and cost of the above project are shared equally by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee

➤ The Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee (SSCAC) was constituted by the Government of India in accordance with the directives of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) in 1980.

Tungabhadra Board

➤ The Tungabhadra Board was constituted in 1953. The Board consists of representations from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Government of India. The governments of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka provide funds in agreed proportions and also depute staff to man the various specified posts, as per an agreed proportion.

Upper Yamuna River Board

➤ Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) is a subordinate office under this Ministry. The Board was constituted in 1994. It consists of a member from the Central Water Commission and one nominee each from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Brahmaputra Board

➤ Brahmaputra Board, an autonomous statutory body, was set up and started functioning in 1982. The jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board includes both Brahmaputra and Barak valley and covers all the states of north-eastern region, Sikkim and northern part of West Bengal falling under Brahmaputra basin.

Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal

➤ The Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal (NWDT) was constituted in 1969 to adjudicate upon the water dispute pertaining to river Narmada. Accordingly, the central government framed the Narmada Water Scheme interalia constituting the Narmada Control Authority (NCA).

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Krishna River Management Board

➤ Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) was constituted in 2014 with autonomous status under this Ministry.

Polavaram Project Authority

➤ Polavaram Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project which is on the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village of Polavarammandal about 42 km upstream of Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage, where river emerges out of last range of the Eastern Ghats and enters the plains in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh.

Indo-Bangladesh Water Resources Cooperation

➤ An Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (WC) is functioning since 1972 with a view to maintain liaison in order to ensure most effective joint efforts in maximising the benefits from common river systems.

India-Nepal Water Resource Cooperation

➤ The management of floods due to the rivers flowing into India from Nepal has been a concern and the related issues are discussed in the existing IndoNepal bilateral mechanisms.

Indus Waters Treaty

➤ Under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, India and Pakistan have each created a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters. The waters of Western rivers—Indus, Jhelum and Chenab averaging were allocated to Pakistan except for specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the treaty.

National Water Development Agency

➤ It was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of the links under peninsular component of national perspective plan. Its functions were subsequently modified from time to time and the present functions.

National Institute of Hydrology

➤ The National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), established in 1978 as an autonomous organisation under this Ministry, is a premier R&D institute in the country to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate basic, applied and strategic research on all aspects of hydrology and water resource development.

National Projects Construction Corporation Limited

➤ National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) was established in 1957 as a premier construction company to create necessary infrastructure for economic development of the country.

Water and Power Consultancy Services

➤ To utilise the expertise of the engineers who had carried out pioneering work and to share the knowledge and experience with other developing countries and in turn earning foreign currency, Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) was established in 1969.

➤ Some of the multipurpose projects like Bhakra Dam, Hirakud Dam, Nagarjuna Dam and Dantewada Dam find mention amongst the world's largest projects.

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North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management

➤ The North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) was established at Tezpur, Assam by North Eastern Council (NEC) in 1989.

➤ The main objective of the Institute is to provide capacity building, undertake research and provide technical services to the line departments in order to improve agricultural production and socio-economic status of the people in the north east.

Minor Irrigation and Water Bodies Census

➤ A centrally sponsored scheme, Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation Statistics (RMIS) was launched in 1987-88 in the Ministry of Water Resources, with cent per cent assistance to the states/UTs. In 2017-18, the scheme was renamed as "Irrigation Census" and brought under the umbrella scheme, Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.

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Environment

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the central government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals and prevention and abatement of pollution.

- The Ministry is also the nodal agency for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

- The Ministry also coordinates with multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and regional bodies such as Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment.

Botanical Survey of India

- Botanical Survey of India (BSI) is the apex research organisation under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on wild plant resources of the country.

Zoological Survey of India

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a premier research institution under the Ministry has completed 100 years of service to the nation, undertaking survey, exploration and research leading to the advancement of our knowledge on the exceptionally rich faunal diversity of the country since its inception in 1916.

- Indian landmass has been classified into 10 bio-geographic zones and ZSI documented the faunal resources in eight biogeographic zones, Himalayas with 30,377 species, Trans-Himalayas with 3,324 species, islands with 11,009 species, north-east with 18,527, desert with 3,346, semi-arid with 7424, coasts with 11,883 species, and Western Ghats with 17,099 species.

- ZSI has contributed towards revision of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and has advised on matters related to faunal diversity and conservation in different international forums viz., UNCBD, UNCCD-COP, UN-CMS-COP, BOL, BOBLME, IUCN and CITES and at national level, viz., for MoEFCC, ESZ, wetlands conservation, curbing wildlife crime, etc.

New Discoveries

- A total of 233 new discoveries were published of which 126 are new species whereas 107 are new record to Indian fauna.

- The new species described belong to 1 species of Mammal, 5 species of Reptilia, 1 of Amphibia, 9 species of Pisces, 12 of Crustacea, 2 of Arachnida, 1 of Platyhelminthes, 1 species of Psocoptera, 2 species of Neuroptera, 9 of Ephemeroptera, 2 species of Thysanoptera, 3 of Trichoptera, 9 of Lepidoptera, 12 species of Hemiptera, 15 of Coleoptera and 42 species of Hymenoptera.

Forest Survey of India

➤ The Forest Survey of India succeeded the "Preinvestment Survey of Forest Resources" (PISFR), a project initiated in 1965 by Government of India with the sponsorship of Food and Agriculture Organisation and United Nations Development Programme. The main objective of PISFR was to ascertain the availability of raw material for establishment of wood based industries in selected areas of the country.

Biodiversity Conservation

➤ India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 to give effect to the provision of this Convention. India also prepared a National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) in 2008, and an Addendum to NBAP in 2014 with 20 national targets on biodiversity.

➤ The Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS) adopted under the aegis of CBD in 2010, is aimed at fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources.

Biosphere Reserves

➤ The idea of 'Biosphere Reserves' was initiated by UNESCO in 1973-74 under its Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The Indian National Man and Biosphere (MAB) Committee identifies and recommends potential sites for designation as Biosphere Reserves, following UNESCO's guidelines and criteria. Out of 18 Biosphere Reserves, 10 Biosphere Reserves have been included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO.

Biodiversity Conservation Scheme

➤ The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was adopted during the Earth Summit on June 5, 1992. It is the most comprehensive international agreement covering different aspects of biodiversity.

➤ The three objectives of the CBD are the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

➤ India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 to achieve the three objectives of CBD. The Act is implemented through a three-tier institutional mechanism, at national, state and local levels: the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)/ Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) set up by the state/UT governments, and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) set up by the elected bodies at the local level.

➤ *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB):* It was negotiated under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and adopted in 2000. India is a party to the Protocol.

Forest Policy

➤ Forest Policy Division deals with the National Forest Policy, 1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, and its amendments including policy matters and legislative matters of other ministries and state governments related to forests.

➤ As per Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometres which is 21.71 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

➤ The tree cover is estimated as 95,748 square kilometres which is 2.91 per cent of the geographical area. The total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,09,537 square kilometres which is 24.62 per cent.

Forest Conservation

➤ Forest Conservation division of the Ministry deals with the proposals seeking approvals for use of forest land for non-forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Act provides regulatory

mechanism to permit only unavoidable use of forest land for various developmental purposes such as for drinking water projects, irrigation projects, transmission lines, railway lines, roads, power projects, defence related projects and mining.

Forest Protection

➤ Forest Protection Division deals with protection related issues like illegal felling of trees, deforestation, encroachment of forest land, invasive weeds, forest fires etc. Forest Protection Division is the nodal Division for disaster management related matters.

➤ The Division administers Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme (FPM) which is a centrally sponsored scheme which deals within forest fire management, to address the growing concern over adverse effects of forest fire.

Forest (Conservation) Rules - 2022

➤ The central government, in suppression to Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003, notified new Rules namely the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022. All linear proposals, proposals involving forest land up to 40 hectares except cases of de-reservation, mining proposals of more than 5 hectares and regularisation of encroachment will be explicitly dealt by the IROs.

Wildlife Conservation

➤ There is a Wildlife Division of the Ministry that has two sub-divisions, namely, Project Elephant Division and Wildlife Division. In addition, there are three autonomous bodies. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for wildlife research and training, Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for conservation and zoo management and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

➤ The centrally sponsored scheme, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. The scheme has following three components: support to Protected Areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves); protection of wildlife outside protected areas; and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.

Asiatic Lion Conservation Project

➤ The Project is aimed at strengthening the ongoing measures for conservation and recovery of Asiatic Lion with the help of state-of-the-art techniques/ instruments, regular scientific research studies, disease management and modern surveillance/patrolling techniques.

Enhancement of Protected Area Network

➤ The number of Protected Areas in the country has increased to 903. The total area under Protected Areas is now 1,65,812.59 sq.kms.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

➤ Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established under the Ministry, to combat organised wildlife crime in the country. It is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organised wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to state and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals.

Central Zoo Authority

➤ The main objective of the Central Zoo Authority formed under **the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** is to enforce minimum standards and norms for upkeep and healthcare of animals in the Indian zoos; to control the mushrooming of ill-conceived, ill-planned zoos; to monitor and evaluate the existing zoos and to suggest ways and means for the improvement of zoos in the country so that they can be transformed into potent centres for ex situ conservation of endangered wild fauna.

National Zoological Park

➤ The main objective of the Park is to complement and strengthen the national efforts in conservation of the rich biodiversity of the country, particularly the wild fauna.

Project Elephant

➤ Project Elephant (PE) was launched by the Government of India in 1991-92 as a centrally sponsored scheme with the objectives: to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors; to address issues of man-animal conflict; and ensure the welfare of domesticated elephants.

National Tiger Conservation Authority / Project Tiger

➤ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under this Ministry constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation. 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme providing funding support to tiger range states, for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction.

Project Tiger

➤ Project Tiger was launched in 1973 for conserving the tiger. From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 50, spread out in 18 of tiger range states. Due to the concerted efforts under the Project, India has the distinction of having the maximum number of tigers in the world - 2,967 - to be precise, as per the results of the 4th cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation.

➤ International Tiger's Day is held every year on 29th July. The idea behind such an event came up at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010. It was also decided that 29th July would be known as Global Tiger Day.

Cheetahs in India

➤ Under the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project wild cheetahs have been relocated in India. Wild Cheetahs - which had become extinct from India were released in Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh.

➤ Cheetahs will help restore open forest and grassland ecosystems in India. This will help conserve biodiversity and enhance the ecosystem services like water security, carbon sequestration and soil moisture conservation, benefiting society at large.

Animal Welfare

Animal Welfare Board of India

➤ AWBI is a statutory body and its basic mandate is to advise the government on animal welfare issues, and create awareness in animal welfare and to implement the regular schemes of AWBI and also the central sector schemes for the welfare of animals.

Free Mobile Animal Clinic

➤ The Board is providing free, on-the-spot veterinary treatment to sick and injured animals belonging to the poor through its Mobile Animal Clinic (MAC) programme spreading awareness rallies conducted during World Animal Day Week.

Environmental Impact Assessment

➤ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), is a planning tool to integrate environmental concerns into the developmental process from the initial stage of planning. It was first used in India as early as 1978 with river valley projects, and was subsequently extended to large public sector projects requiring Public Investment Board (PIB) clearance.

Pollution Control

Air Pollution

➤ Air quality regulation and actions for abatement of air pollution is undertaken under various provisions

of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986 which prescribes the mechanism and authorities for handling the issue.

➤ As per the available data for Delhi and NCR for the last five years, Particulate Matter (PM 10 and PM 2.5) concentrations are a major concern for the entire area; and a few violations are observed in NO_2 concentrations in Delhi, Meerut and Faridabad. The concentration of SO, has been within the standard limit at all the locations in the last five years. PM10 are inhalable coarse particles, which are particles with a diameter between 2.5 and 10 micrometres (pm) and PM 2.5 are fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 pm or less.

Measures to Combat Air Pollution

➤ National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been notified for 12 pollutants under the EPA, 1986 along with 115 emission/effluent standards for 104 different sectors of industries, besides 32 general standards. Government is executing a nation-wide programme of ambient air quality monitoring known as National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).

➤ National Air Quality Index (AQI) was launched in 2015 starting with 14 cities and then extended to 34.

➤ A Graded Response Action Plan for control of air pollution in Delhi and NCR region has been notified. This plan specifies actions required for controlling particulate matter (PM) emissions from various sources and prevent PM 10 and PM 2.5 levels to go beyond 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.

➤ Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued a comprehensive set of directions for implementation of 42 measures to mitigate air pollution in major cities including Delhi and NCR.

National Clean Air Programme

➤ It is implemented under the Control of Pollution Scheme since 2019. It is a national-level strategy outlining the actions for reducing the levels of air pollution at city and regional scales in the country. The NCAP is implemented to achieve 20 to 30 per cent reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 (base 2017) across the country in 131 identified non-attainment cities.

➤ The Ministry also launched "**PRANA**" **,** a portal for monitoring the implementation of NCAP. This portal will be a platform for monitoring and feedback on all efforts made for air quality improvement.

Noise Pollution

➤ As a follow-up of Section 5.2.8 (IV) of National Environmental Policy (NEP)- 2006, ambient noise has been included as a regular parameter for monitoring in specified urban areas. Central Pollution Control Board in association with state pollution control boards established Real Time National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network in 7 metropolitan cities and installed 70 noise monitoring systems in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Hyderabad.

Plastic Waste

➤ The Ministry notified the phase out of 12 Single-Use Plastics (SUP) items from July, 2022 through amendment in the Rules in August, 2021: ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocol] for decoration; plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

➤ The Ministry launched an Awareness Mascot **'Prakriti'** for spreading awareness among the citizens and youth on green initiatives for protection of environment.

Scheme of Common Effluent Treatment Plants

➤ The concept of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) arose in order to make a co-operative movement for pollution control. The main objective of the CETPs is to reduce the treatment cost to be borne by an individual member unit to a minimum while protecting the environment to a maximum.

➤ A centrally sponsored scheme has been undertaken by the government for enabling small scale industries (SSI) to set up new and upgrade the existing common effluent treatment plants to cover all the states in the country.

Hazardous Substance Management

➤ The Hazardous Substances Management Division (HSMD) is the nodal point within the Ministry for management of solid waste including hazardous substances and chemical emergencies. The activities of the Division are carried out under three main thrust areas, viz., hazardous waste management, solid waste management and chemical safety.

Chemical Safety

➤ In order to ensure chemical safety, the Ministry notified two sets of Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, viz., (i) The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC); and (ii) The Chemical Accidents (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness, and Response) Rules (EPPR), 1996. The Chemical Accidents (EPPR) Rules, 1996, envisage a four-tier crisis management system in the country at the central, state, district and local levels.

Hazardous Waste Management

➤ To address the issue of ensuring environmentally sound management of hazardous waste for safety of health and environment during handling of such waste, Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, were notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

➤ It also provides for establishment of Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for disposal of hazardous wastes.

e-Waste Management

➤ The e-waste rules apply to e-waste generated from IT and telecommunication equipment and consumer electrical and electronics namely television sets (including LCD & LED), refrigerators, washing machines and air-conditioners.

Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

➤ The new rules are now applicable beyond municipal areas and extend to urban agglomerations; census towns; notified industrial townships; areas under the control of Indian Railways; airports, airbase; port and harbour; defence establishments' special economic zones; state and central government organisations, places of pilgrimage, religious and historical importance.

➤ The Rules mandate local bodies to frame their bye-laws to impose a 'User Fee', to be paid by the generator to waste collector and a 'Spot Fine' for littering and non-segregation.

➤ All resident welfare and market associations, gated communities and institutions with an area >5,000 sq.m., new townships and group housing societies have been made responsible to develop in-house waste handling, and processing arrangements for biodegradable waste.

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

➤ **The Rules provide for**

● increase in minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns;

● first time cover and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 microns for plastic sheets being used for packaging and wrapping commodities to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste;

● revamped pricing mechanisms for plastic carry bags by introducing plastic waste management fee to be paid by retailers/street vendors willing to provide carry bags as pre-registration charge;

● ways and means to promote gainful utilization of plastic waste such as energy recovery, in road construction, etc.; and

● introducing user charge and spot fines by the local authority.

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Construction & Demolition Waste Management, 2016

➤ The new rules regulate waste generated from construction, re-modeling, repair and demolition of any civil structure and make a way forward to reuse, recycle such waste in gainful manner. The new rules will apply to everyone who generates construction and demolition waste-building materials, debris, *and* rubble waste from construction, re-modeling, repair and demolition of any civil structure of individual or organisation or authority.

Fly Ash Utilisation

➤ The fast-increasing demand of power coupled with its dependence on coal for about 2/3rd of its energy requirement is leading to generation of large volume of fly ash.

➤ The utilisation of fly ash has increased from 6.64 million ton in 1996-97 to a level of 107.77 million ton in 2015-16. The objectives of this notification are to protect the environment, conserve the topsoil, prevent dumping of fly ash from thermal power stations on land and to promote utilisation of ash in the manufacture of building materials and construction activity.

International Conventions

The Basel Convention

➤ Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland. Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as "hazardous wastes" based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as "other wastes" (household waste and incinerator ash).

Rotterdam Convention

➤ The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade came into force in 2004. The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are designated in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. There are 47 chemicals listed in Annex III to this Convention, which include 33 pesticides and 14 industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons.

Stockholm Convention

➤ The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs. The Convention sought initially 12 chemicals, for restriction or elimination of the production and release. Now, the Convention covers 23 chemicals.

Minamata Convention on Mercury

➤ At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, the "Minamata Convention on Mercury", a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury, was formally adopted.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

➤ In 2006, over 190 countries including India acceded to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), an international policy framework to foster sound management of chemicals.

National River Conservation Plan

➤ The river conservation programme was initiated with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in 1985. It was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in 1995.

➤ The objective of NRCP is to improve the water quality of rivers, which are major water sources in the country, through implementation of pollution abatement works in various towns along identified polluted stretches of rivers on cost sharing basis between the central and state governments.

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems

➤ The National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) is a single conservation programme for both wetlands and lakes. It covers activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning, i.e., desilting and de-weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, etc.

Conservation of Wetlands

➤ To control degradation and conserve wetlands, the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) was initiated in 1987 and financial assistance is being provided to the state governments for implementing action plans for conservation and management of identified wetlands.

Ramsar Convention

➤ As per this Convention, India is committed for international cooperation and to take national action for conservation and wise use of wetlands. At present there are 75 Ramsar sites in India.

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules

➤ To implement the objectives of the convention, a regulatory mechanism was put in place through Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December 2010 vide GSR-951(E).

➤ Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA) has been constituted under the Wetlands Rules, 2010. About 25 wetlands spread over 14 states have already been notified under these Rules.

World Wetlands Day

➤ In 2021 the Ministry announced the launch of a Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management as part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai.

National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board

➤ In order to promote afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country, the National Afforestation and EcoDevelopment Board (NAEB) was set up in 1992.

➤ Special attention is also given by NAEB to the regeneration of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats etc.

National Afforestation Programme

➤ National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is a major afforestation scheme of the NAEB in the Government of India launched in 2000-02.

➤ The programme is now implemented through a three-tier system of State Forests Development Agencies (SFDAs) at the state level, Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the district/forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level.

Eco-Development Forces Scheme

➤ It was established in the 1980s as a scheme under the Ministry of Defence for ecological restoration of terrains, rendered difficult either due to severe degradation or remote location or difficult law and order situation. It is based on twin objectives of ecological regeneration in difficult areas, and promotion of meaningful employment to ex-servicemen.

National Mission for Green India

➤ The Mission embarks on meeting the challenge of climate change adaptation and mitigation through sub-missions and a cross-cutting intervention: (a) enhancing quality of forest cover and improving ecosystem services; (b) ecosystem restoration and increase in forest cover; (c) agroforestry and social forestry; and (d) promoting alternative fuel energy.

Declaring Eco-Sensitive Areas in Western Ghats

➤ The Western Ghats is a global biodiversity hotspot and a treasure trove of biological diversity harbouring many endemic species of flowering plants, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates.

➤ The concept of Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) provides a mechanism to conserve biological diversity of an area while allowing for sustainable development to take place.

National Natural Resources Management System

➤ The prime objective of this is utilisation of remote sensing technology for inventorisation, assessment and monitoring of country's natural resources.

Forestry Research

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

➤ ICFRE Dehradun, is an apex body in the national forestry research system, has been undertaking the holistic development of forestry research, education and extension covering all aspects of forestry.

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

➤ The Academy imparts professional training to the Indian Forest Services (IFS) Probationers and has been accorded the status of "Staff College" for imparting mid-career training for officers of the Indian Forest Service (IFS).

Wildlife Institute of India

➤ The Institute has emerged as a premier training and research institution in the field of wildlife and protected area management in South Asia and South East Asia.

Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project

➤ Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is one of the implementing partners in this project for enhancing capacities of the project implementers and as a knowledge management centre on landscape approach to biodiversity conservation.

Environmental Education and Awareness

➤ Environmental Education, Awareness and Training scheme is a central sector scheme launched during financial year 1983-84 which aims to promote environmental awareness and mobilise student participation for environment conservation.

➤ There are five programmes operational under this scheme - National Green Corps 'Ecoclub' programme, National Nature Camping programme, GLOBE programme, Green Good Deeds and Capacity Building Activities.

National Green Corps Programme

➤ NGC was formulated in 2001-02 for creating environmental awareness among children. There are presently around 1,50,000, Ecoclubs across the country. A financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 per school and college is provided under this programme.

National Nature Camping Programme

➤ The 'Nature experience' to children and teachers has a huge potential to trigger the sensitivity towards nature appreciation and conservation, leading to positive environmental actions at different levels.

➤ Under this programme, field visits (nature camps) are organised in different Protected Areas/Nature parks/ Tiger Reserves of the country for three days to create awareness amongst school/ college students on environment and nature.

GLOBE

➤ The Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) —an international science and education programme—provides a unique opportunity to the school students to carry out various experiments so that they can learn about scientific protocols and perform environmental learning activities.

Centre of Excellence

➤ The objective of the scheme is to provide selective support to the universities, reputed institutions including NGOs, professional organisations and other scientific and technological institutions to enable them to develop into advanced centres at the national level in that particular subject area to cater the need of the Ministry.

National Green Tribunal

➤ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was set up in 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010, for the purpose of effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Climate Change

➤ The earth's climate is continually changing and evolving. Some of these changes have been due to natural causes but others can be attributed to human activities such as deforestation, emissions from industries and transport, etc., which have led to accumulation of gases and aerosols in the atmosphere.

➤ Many important bilateral and multilateral meetings and negotiations are held at regular intervals, the 26th Conference of Parties being one of the most crucial meets.

National and State Action Plans on Climate Change

➤ The NAPCC is being implemented through the nodal ministries in specific sectors/areas including eight national missions in the area of solar energy, enchanted energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, sustainable habitat, water, Himalayan eco-system, Green India and strategic knowledge for climate change form the core of NAPCC.

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

➤ National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) is a central sector scheme under implementation in the 12th Five Year Plan with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as National Implementing Entity (NIE).

➤ The overall aim of the fund is to support concrete adaptation activities which are not covered under ongoing activities.

Climate Change Action Programme

➤ The objective of CCAP is to create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country, putting in place appropriate institutional framework for scientific and policy initiatives and implementation of climate change related actions in the context of sustainable development.

➤ The National Carbonaceous Aerosols Programme (NCAP) is a major multi-institutional and multi-agency study. In this initiative, MoEFCC will collaborate with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Space Research Organisation, the Ministry of Science and Technology and other associated agencies to enhance understanding of the role of black carbon in climate change through monitoring and assessment using modelling techniques.

Paris Agreement

➤ India ratified the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC in 2016. The action plan for implementation of the Paris Agreement and its components is being developed.

Green Climate Fund

➤ Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC. It aims to deliver a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation allocations in its portfolio. So far, three projects have been approved to India with a total cost of USD 177.8 million GCF funding.

Climate Change Knowledge Portal

➤ India's Climate Change Knowledge Portal (www.cckpindia.nic.in) was launched in 2020. The portal is a single point information resource which captures sector-wise adaptation and mitigation actions that are being taken by the various line ministries in one place including updated information on their implementation.

Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment

➤ An autonomous research and development (R&D) institute, established in 1988.

➤ The Institute is mandated to undertake R&D studies; strengthen local knowledge of environment; and evolve & demonstrate suitable technological packages.

➤ The Institute functions in a decentralized manner with its headquarters at Almora, Uttarakhand and five Regional Centres spread across the Indian Himalayas i.e., in Ladakh (Leh), Himachal Pradesh (Mohal-Kullu), Uttarakhand (Srinagar), Sikkim (Gangtok), Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar).

National Museum of Natural History

➤ The NMNH is a subordinate office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, aiming to create environmental awareness on nature and environment through non formal medium such as thematic galleries, exhibitions, film shows and educational activities to all masses of society in respect of to promote environmental awareness. NMNH, New Delhi has four Regional Museums of Natural History (RMNH) located at different parts of the country viz., Mysuru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and RGRMNH Sawai Madhopur.

Ozone Cell

Ozone Layer Protection

➤ The UV-B radiation has the potential to cause skin cancer, cataract, suppress body's immune system, decrease crop yield etc., which led to the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1985 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987.

➤ The mandate of the Montreal Protocol is to phase out the production and consumption of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs).

➤ India is a party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and all its amendments/adjustments.

➤ The MoEFCC has set up the Ozone Cell as a National Ozone Unit (NOU) to render necessary services for effective and timely implementation of the protocol and its ODs phase-out programme in India.

Vienna Convention

➤ The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are the international treaties specific for the protection of the Stratospheric Ozone.

➤ In the 34 years of operation of the Montreal Protocol, extraordinary international cooperation under this agreement has led to phase-out of production and consumption of several major ODSs such as CFCs, CTC and halons globally from 2010.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

➤ The concern for arresting and reversing land degradation and desertification gets reflected in many of the national policies [for e.g., National Water Policy 2012; National Forest Policy 1988; National Agricultural Policy 2000; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, National Environmental Policy, 2006; National Policy for Farmers, 2007; National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)-20071 which have enabling provisions for addressing these problems.

➤ India became a signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994. MoEFCC is the nodal ministry in the Government of India for the UNCCD, and Desertification Cell is the nodal point within MoEFCC to co-ordinate all issues pertaining to the convention.

International Cooperation and Sustainable Development

➤ The International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (IC&SD) Division of the Ministry coordinates matters related to international environmental cooperation and sustainable development including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

➤ India is a member of UNEP and provides annual financial contribution of USD 1,00,000 to UNEP Environment Fund. Three of the thirty-three members on UNEP's International Resource Panel (IRP) are currently from India. The Ministry is a member of the IRP Steering Committee.

Global Environment Facility

➤ India is a founding member of Global Environment Facility (GEF). Set up in 1991, GEF is the designated multilateral funding mechanism of 183 countries to provide incremental finance for addressing global environmental benefits which are also identified as national priorities.

➤ The GEF grants are available under five focal areas, namely, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals and waste.

COP-27

➤ The 27th Session of Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27) was held in Sharm EL-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022. The India Pavilion hosted a side event on Transformative Green Education: Experiences from India.

➤ The Parties at the Conference came together to advance global collective action on mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, etc. with a view to achieve the goals under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

➤ NMNH and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), jointly launched **"In Our LiFEtime"** campaign to encourage youth between the ages of 18 to 23 years to become message bearers of sustainable lifestyles.

➤ In the Session India also presented its document for rational utilisation of national resources, increased use of biofuels, especially ethanol blending in petrol, the drive to increase electric vehicle penetration, and the increased use of green hydrogen fuel, etc.

➤ COP 27 has been termed as an 'Implementation COP'. Major outcomes of COP 27 inter-alia include decision on establishing a loss & damage fund and work programs for mitigation, just transition and climate action in agriculture.

➤ The 'Sharm EI-Sheikh Implementation Plan' urges the developed countries to provide enhanced support, including through financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building.

➤ The NDC update is also a step towards achieving India's long term goal of reaching net-zero by 2070; for which India prepared and submitted a separate framework document titled 'India's Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategy' to the secretariat of the UNFCCC in November 2022.

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Communications & Information Technology

Introduction

➤ Communications and Information Technology in the country are handled by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** and **Ministry of Communications.**

➤ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology promotes e-governance and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT and ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in internet governance while the Ministry of Communications looks after the Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications.

Main activities and initiatives of these departments are given here:

Posts

➤ The modern postal system, the most preferred facilitator of communication, was established in India by **Lord Clive** in 1766 and it was further developed by **Warren Hastings** in1774.

➤ The expansion of its network was made during 1786 to 1793.

➤ For the first time, the post offices were regulated through an Act of 1837 on a uniform basis to unite all the post office establishments throughout the then existing three Presidencies into one all-India service.

➤ The statute presently governing the postal services in the country is the **Indian Post Office Act, 1898**. With the introduction of the **Post Office Savings Bank in 1882** banking facilities were accessible to all.

Financial services provided by Post

➤ **Small Savings Schemes**

• **Department of Posts** is operating **Small Savings Schemes** on behalf of **Ministry of Finance.**

• Savings bank facility is provided through a network of 1.57 Iakh post offices across the country.

• The **Post Office Savings Bank** operates savings accounts, **Recurring Deposit (RD), Time Deposit (TO), Monthly Income Scheme (MIS), Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)** and **Sukanya Samriddhi** account.

➤ **Mutual Funds**

• Provide reach to the capital Markets and ease of access to common man to market based investment options.

• Presently, mutual fund products of UTI only are being retailed through over 2000 post offices.

> **International Money Transfer Services**

- In collaboration with Western Union Financial Services, India post proves the service to 195 countries.

> **Core Banking Solution & installation of ATMs**

- The **Core Banking Solution (CBS)** is a part of the India Post IT modernization project that aims to bring in various IT solutions with the required infrastructure to the post offices.

- The project aims to implement Core Banking Solution in all the post offices for small savings schemes during current plan period.

- There is a network of 1000 ATMs at all district headquarters and prominent locations.

> **Social security schemes**

- Jan Suraksha Schemes like **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBM)** and **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** were launched in 2015 in all CBS post offices for all post office savings account holders.

- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** was launched in all head post offices in 2015.

- MoU with National Insurance Company and LIC for PMSBY and PMJJBY respectively.

> **Sukanya Samriddhi Account**

- Sukanya Samriddhi Account, a new Small Savings Scheme for the welfare of girl child, was launched in 2015.

- Under the scheme, a legal/natural guardian can open only one account in the name of one girl child and maximum two accounts in the name of two different girl children up to 10 years from the date of birth of the child.

> **India Post Payments Bank**

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was set up in 2016 with a mandate to build a most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man by removing the barriers for the unbanked and promote the adoption of cashless transactions in a predominantly cash based economy.

- IPPB got incorporated as a Public Limited Company with 100 per cent GOI equity under Department of Posts.

- **IPPB recently launched the following services:**

  - Life and General Insurance
  - Domestic money transfer
  - Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan)
  - PMJJBY
  - Virtual Debit Card
  - DakPay UPI
  - Child Enrollment Lite Client and Adhaar mobile updation
  - Cash management services

- **IPPB is offering a bouquet of payments and their salient features are:**

  - deposits—savings accounts, currents accounts
  - money transfer—simple and secure, instant, 24x7
  - direct benefit transfers—MGNREGA, scholarships, social welfare benefits and other government subsidies
  - third party products—loans, insurance, investments, post office savings scheme
  - bill and utility payments—mobile and DTH recharge, electricity/water/gas bills, donations and insurance premium

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◆ enterprises and merchant payments—postal products, digital payment of e-commerce delivery(CoD), small merchants/kirana stores/unorganised retail, offline payments, cash management services

➤ **Rural business**

- **Department of Posts** has a predominantly rural network of 1,40,964 post offices in rural areas out of the total 1,56,636 post offices in the country.

- The **Rural Business (RB) Division** has been given the mandate of leveraging the rural network spread across the length and breadth of country to provide accessible and affordable financial and postal services to the people in rural areas.

➤ **Post Office Common Service Centre**

- A MoU was signed between India Post with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited to set up "Common Service Centres" (PO-CSCs) in Post Offices across the country.

- Through this, it provide various G2C (Government to Citizen) and B2C (Business to Citizens) services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

- G2C (Government to Citizen) include **Pradhan Mantri Fasal BimaYojana,Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat); Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana; National Pension Scheme; and PAN card eKYC**. Election Card Printing and e-Stamp Service would be provided in states where CSC e-Governance Services India Limited have a tie-up with state governments. Various e-District services of some of the states would also be available to the members of public.

- The B2C (Business to Citizens) services offered include Bharat Bill payment system bills (electric, gas, water bills, etc.), renewal premium collection for Life Insurance policies and General Insurance such as motor vehicle, health and fire insurance, etc.

➤ **Postal Life Insurance**

- Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced on February 1, 1884, as a welfare scheme for the benefit of postal employees and later extended to the employees of telegraph department in 1888.

- It now covers employees of central and state governments, central and state public sector undertakings, universities, government aided educational institutions, nationalised banks and local bodies.

- PLI also extends the facility of insurance to defence services and para-military forces.

- **PLI offers following 6 types of policies**: Whole Life Assurance (Suraksha), Convertible Whole Life Assurance (Suvidha), Endowment Assurance (Santosh), Anticipated Endowment Assurance (Sumangal), Joint Life Assurance (Yugal Suraksha), and Children Policy (Bal Jiwan Bima).

➤ **Rural Postal Life Insurance**

- RPLI was started in 1995 with the objective to provide insurance cover to the rural public in general and to benefit weaker sections and women workers of rural areas in particular and also to spread insurance awareness among the rural population.

- **RPLI also offers 6 (six) types of plans:** whole life assurance; convertible whole life assurance (Gram Suvidha); endowment assurance (Gram Santosh); anticipated endowment assurance (Gram Sumangal); 10 years RPLI (Gram Priya); and children policy (Bal Jiwan Bima).

New and Value Added Services

➤ **Mail Network Optimisation Project**

- Mail Network Optimisation Project (MNOP) was undertaken by the Department with the objective of consolidation and optimisation of its mail network and with a view to improve quality of mail operations.

- The project covers Speed Post, International Mail, Registered and Unregistered Mail. MNOP project has been implemented in the entire country comprising 23 postal circles.

- It has resulted in benefits to the customers in terms of improved delivery efficiency of Speed Post and increased number of Speed Post and registered articles having end to end tracking.

➤ **Postman Mobile Application (PMA)**

- Postman Mobile Application (PMA) is an android-based mobile application which has been designed and developed in-house by the **Center for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT), Mysuru.**

- Department of Posts has provided around 50,000 smart phones in urban areas and more than 1 lakh smart phones to the delivery staff in the rural areas for the deployment of PMA. It is being used by the delivery staff both in urban and rural areas for delivering Speed Post/parcels, business parcels, registered post and money orders and for capturing real-time delivery information.

➤ **Speed Post**

- Speed Post was started in 1986 for providing a time-bound and express delivery of letters and parcels.

- It is the flagship product of Department of Posts and the market leader in the domestic express industry.

- Insurance facility up to 1 lakh is also provided as an add-on service for speed post articles.

➤ **Leveraging Post Office Network for Setting up Passport Seva Kendra**

- The Department is associated with the passport services right from its inception as passports are being delivered through speed post.

- In order to extend passport services on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage, Department of Posts and Ministry of External Affairs have mutually agreed for leveraging the network of post office as Passport Seva Kendras for benefit of citizens.

➤ **Electronic Clearance of Letter Boxes**

- Department has introduced electronic monitoring of the clearance of letter boxes through the Nanyatha software, which provides a mechanism for checking the clearance of letter boxes.

- The members of public can also track the status of letter box clearance in any particular locality through web tool. This step has resulted in ensuring regular clearance of letter boxes thereby improving timely delivery of unregistered mail posted in letter boxes.

➤ **Parcel Network Optimisation Project**

- India Post being traditionally letter-oriented operations, has undertaken Parcel Network Optimization Project (PNOP) during 2016 to revamp the parcel operations.

- India Post provides various types of parcel services like ordinary parcel, registered parcel, insured parcel, value payable parcel, business parcel and speed post parcel to cater to the needs of different customer.

➤ **Logistics Post**

- Logistics Post was started to provide distribution solutions to the corporate customers and it has created a niche market in providing express logistics services with a large network in the country.

- As a part of Supply Chain solution, Full Truck Load (FTL) services; Less Than Truck Load (LTL) services; warehousing services; order processing and fulfillment services; and reverse logistics services are being provided by Department of Posts under Logistics Post.

- **Logistics Post Air service has started from 2013 and links the following 15 cities:** Agartala, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Imphal, Guwahati, Patna, Lucknow and Thiruvananthapuram.

➤ **Business Posts**

- A lot of pre-mailing activities like folding, inserting, franking, addressing and pasting, etc., are required to be completed before a mail article is posted.

- Large organisations were finding it difficult to carry out these pre-mailing activities, Department of Posts introduced 'Business Post' service in 1996 to offer a comprehensive solution to corporate/ government organisations/PSUs and other corporate houses for their pre-mailing requirements.

- Besides bringing in additional revenue, this activity is meeting the need of corporate and bulk mail customers.

➤ **Media Post**

- India Post offers a unique media concept to help the Indian corporate and the government organisations reach potential customers through Media Post.

- Media Post offers a range of advertising mediums such as letter boxes, postal stationery, postal premises, etc.

➤ **Magazine Post**

- Magazine Post was launched in 2022 to address the concerns of publishers of various magazines. The main features of include track and trace facility, SMS alert to sender and receiver, etc.

- The booking facility of Magazine Post is available at 10 locations across the country.

➤ **Direct Post**

- Direct Mail, which can be defined as printed matter usually carrying a sales message or announcement designed to elicit a response from a carefully selected consumer or business market, is the most potent medium for direct advertising.

- Direct Post would comprise un-addressed postal articles like letters, cards, brochures, questionnaires, pamphlets, samples, promotional items like CDs and cassettes etc., coupons, posters, mailers or any other form of printed communication that is not prohibited by the Indian Post Office Act 1898 or Indian Post Office Rules 1933.

➤ **Retail Post**

- Post Office is being developed as a one-stop shop to provide a range of utility services to the customers providing convenience and affordability at their doorsteps.

- Retail Post leverages the vast network of post offices and the services under it include collection of electricity bill, telephone bills, taxes, fees, sale of Rakhi envelopes, address verification service, sale of application forms of various educational institutions and recruiting agencies, etc.

➤ **Post Shoppe**

- The 'Post Shoppe' is a convenient store format, located in the premises of important post offices, which essentially keeps wide range of collectable philatelic items such as stamps, first day covers, frames, albums.

- It also has 'My Stamp' corner where one can get stamps with own photograph.

- Besides, 'Post Shoppes' are also a prominent place for items of cultural heritage and traditional items of local importance prepared by artisans.

➤ **Passenger Reservation System**

- A MoU was signed between India Post and Ministry of Railways to provide computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals in some post offices.

➤ **Sovereign Gold Bond**

- Department is actively engaged in the premier scheme — Sale of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) — introduced in 2015-16 by Ministry of Finance, and operated through RBI.

- The objective of the scheme is to popularise Taper Gold' among masses and to reach out to the small investors at the grassroot level.

➤ **Electronic Indian Postal Order (e-IPO)**

- Based on the proposal received from Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), India Post agreed to facilitate acceptance of RTI fees from Indian citizens abroad through e-IPO on ePost Office web portal.

- e-IPO facility was further extended to Indian citizens living in India in 2014 to facilitate them to pay RTI fee online.

➤ **e-Post Office**

- e-Post Office is an e-commerce portal of the Department which provides selected postal facility through the internet.

- It aims at providing a convenience to the public for availing select postal services from their home/office using their own computer and internet. Customers can buy philatelic stamps and pay PLI/RPLI premium online using credit/debit card through this portal.

➤ **e-Post**

- It is an unregistered hybrid mail provided for both retail as well as corporate customers providing electronic transmission of messages which may include text messages, scanned images, pictures and their delivery in hard copies at the destination through postman/delivery staff.

- Online recharge facility for pre-paid customers is available using credit/debit card.

➤ **e-Payment**

- It is an option for businesses and organisations to collect their bills or other payments through post offices.

- e-Payment is a many-to-one-solution which allows collection of money (telephone bills, electricity bills, examination fee, taxes university fee, school fee, etc.) on behalf of any organisation electronically.

➤ **Post Office Aadhaar Enrolment and Updation Centres**

- Post offices are also facilitating citizen centric services and thereby extending the reach of government schemes.

- Department of Posts is acting as registrar to UIDAI for Aadhaar in order to provide Aadhaar enrolment and updation facilities in the vicinity of the residents in a safe and secure manner.

➤ **Holy Prasad**

- For facilitating the devotees, the Department entered into agreements with various Shrine Boards for delivery of holy Prasad at the doorstep of devotees across the country.

➤ **Digital Life Certificate**

- Jeevan Pramaan/Digital Life Certificate (DLC) is a biometric enabled digital service for pensioners for submitting their Life Certificates, which was introduced in 2015 as a Digital India initiative.

- In this service, all life certificates earlier submitted manually by the pensioners are now being submitted digitally by using Aadhaar number.

Philately

➤ **My Stamps**

- My Stamps are personalised sheets of postage stamps of India Post.

- It can be logos of institutions, or images of artwork, heritage buildings, famous tourist places, historical cities, wildlife, other animals and birds, etc., alongside the selected commemorative postage stamp.

➤ **Personalised 'My Stamp'**

- Personalised 'My Stamp' is a personalised sheet of postage stamps. Alongside these personalised theme stamps, customers may opt for printing of their own, parents, family, etc., pictures to be printed.

- Some of the themes of Personalised My Stamps are Taj Mahal, Hawa Mahal, Mysore Palace, Indian Army, rose, happy anniversary, Vaishno Devi, etc.

➤ **Customised 'My Stamps'**

- Customised 'My Stamps' is a customised sheet of postage stamps wherein corporates organisations and institutions can get customised sheets printed from India Post. Alongside these customised themed stamps, organisations may opt for printing of their logo and images of their organisation/institute.

➤ **Printing of Innovative Stamps**

- A set of seven Circular Commemorative Postage Stamps was issued to mark the commencement of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

- In a first, a uniquely designed miniature sheet was issued on Hockey World Cup held at Bhubaneshwar, other than the usual rectangular and square shaped miniature sheets.

➤ **Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana**

- A philately scholarship scheme called Deen Dayal Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as a Hobby Yojana was introduced in 2017-18 to promote philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and supplement the academic curriculum in addition to providing a hobby that can help them relax and de-stress.

Public Grievances

➤ **Computerised Customer Care Centres**

- The Department has a well laid out procedure for handling public grievances for its services. A monitoring mechanism to ensure the quality of services and prompt redressal of public grievances is in place.

➤ **Social Media Cell**

- Social Media Cell is an independent entity and deals with the Twitter and Facebook accounts of the Department of Posts. The social media complaints are time-bound and are replied within 24 hours. The social media cell monitors the complaints sent to all the circles on a daily basis.

Information Technology

➤ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** deals with policy matters relating to information technology, electronics, internet (other than licensing of Internet Service Providers—ISPs) and cyber security.

➤ MeitY functions around the ambit of two major Acts: Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) and The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

➤ The IT Act provides framework for governing the Cyber Space in the country.

➤ The Act provides for security of sensitive personal data and due diligence to be followed by Online Intermediaries. It is a special Act and supersedes Indian Penal Code (IPC) provision if the crime is squarely covered through IT Act.

➤ The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 201 6 as amended the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for which is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India and the states, to individuals residing in India through assigning of a unique identity number to such individuals.

➤ It covers enrolment of residents for issuing of Aadhaar number, authentication of Aadhaar number holders and others matters related thereto.

Digital Infrastructure

➤ **Digital Identity: Aadhaar**

- Aadhaar is the world's largest digital identity programme that provides biometric and

demographic-based unique digital identity; which can be authenticated anytime, from anywhere and also eliminates duplicate and fake identities. More than 134.6 crore Aadhaar numbers were generated.

➢ **National Knowledge Network**

• It interconnects all institutions of higher learning and research with a high-speed data communication network to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative research.

Digital Services

➢ **MyScheme**

• It is a scheme Marketplace, where user will be able to discover eligible schemes based on his/her demography.

• It will help reducing the time and effort of users by doing away with requirement of searching multiple websites of government departments, studying of multiple scheme guidelines to check for their eligibility.

➢ **API Setu**

• The Policy on Open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) was notified in 2015.

• The policy intended to promote efficient sharing of data among data owners and inter-and-intra governmental agencies to achieve the objective of interoperable systems in order to deliver services in an integrated manner.

➢ **National Single Sign-On**

• National Single Sign-On (NSSO) (www.meripehchaan.gov.in) is a user authentication service wherein single set of credentials provide access to multiple online applications or services.

• It has been envisaged by MeitY with three SSOs at back end, namely Parichay/Jan-Parichay, e-Pramaan, DigiLocker for seamless access of services by citizens. NSSO was launched in 2022 with the mandate to serve as national SSO.

➢ **DigiLocker**

• DigiLocker has provided a dedicated cloud based platform as a personal space to residents for storage, sharing, verification of documents and certificates, thus it is helping in eliminating use of physical documents.

➢ **OpenForge**

• OpenForge platform promotes collaborative way of application development through sharing and reuse of e-governance related source code.

➢ **UMANG**

• Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) has been developed as a unified platform to deliver major government services through mobile. It enables residents to access primarily G2C services from the central government, states/UT governments and local bodies as well as from their agencies from a single Mobile app.

➢ **Mobile Seva (Mobile Service Delivery Gateway)/Mobile Seva Appstore**

• Mobile Seva platform enables a government department to integrate both web and mobile based services seamlessly and enhances the access to electronic services tremendously due to the very high penetration of mobile phones, especially in rural areas.

➢ **eSign**

• eSign provides easy, efficient, and secure signing of electronic documents by an Aadhaar holder.

➢ **Secure email Service**

• The email policy of the Government of India was released in 2015 and the services under e-mail are offered without any charges to all officials under ministries/ departments/statutory bodies/ autonomous bodies of both central and state / UT governments.

- ➤ **Electronic transaction Aggregation and Analysis layer (eTaal-3.0)**
  - A large number of e-Governance initiatives are being implemented in the country by the central and state governments and organizations for ensuring efficient, affordable, transparent and convenient service delivery to citizens.

- ➤ **Open Government Data**
  - Micro Services Based Architecture Leveraging Cloud Technology under Open Government Data (OGD) Platform (www.data.gov.in) aims to provide proactive access to government owned shareable data along with its usage information in open/machine readable format, through a wide area of network across the country.

- ➤ **PRAGATI 2.0**
  - Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) Project is to strengthen the central videoconferencing infrastructure with robust, state-of-the-art technology for conferences and enhancement of videoconferencing setup at office of Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretaries, and others.

- ➤ **Global Indices**
  - e-Government Development Index (EGDI) presents the state of e-Government Development of the United Nations Member States. The EGDI incorporates the access characteristics, such as the infrastructure and educational levels, to reflect how a country is using information technologies to promote access and inclusion of its people. MeitY is the nodal ministry for EGDI.

- ➤ **e-Way Bill**
  - e-Way Bill Application provides a self-service platform to taxpayers and transporters to generate single e-Way Bill for movement of goods from one place to another, as per the GST Rules. Following implementation of GST, a need was felt to further improve the trade facilitation as well as to strengthen the existing tax collection measures.

- ➤ **e-Courts**
  - e-Courts provides efficient and time bound, litigant centric, affordable, accessible, cost effective, transparent and accountable justice delivery system. The services under the project cater to all key stakeholders including the judiciary, the high courts, the district and subordinate courts.

- ➤ **National Scholarship Portal**
  - National Scholarship Portal has been developed as a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries. There are 104 registered schemes from 14 ministries / departments.

- ➤ **e-Office**
  - e-Office is a Digital Workplace Solution which provides simplified, responsive, effective and transparent working in government offices for inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes.

- ➤ **Public Financial Management System**
  - PFMS provides real time monitoring of utilization of funds across government, direct payment to beneficiaries by reduction in float with the help of a centralized database of all recipient agencies integrated with core banking solution of banks.

- ➤ **e-Sampark**
  - e- Sampark database is developed to send messages and emails to public representatives and government employees.

Digital Skilling

- ➤ **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan**
  - It aims to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household).

➤ **Future Skill PRIME**

- MeitY and NASSCOM have jointly conceived a programme titled FutureSkills PRIME (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability). It is envisaged to provide re-skilling / up-skilling opportunities for B2C beneficiaries in 10 emerging technologies viz., internet of things, big data analytics, artificial intelligence etc.

➤ **Digital Payments**

- The vision is to provide facility of seamless digital payment to all citizens of India in a convenient, easy, affordable, quick and secured manner.

➤ **Promotion of Electronics Manufacturing**

- The domestic demand for electronics hardware is expected to rise rapidly to about USD 400 billion by 2025**.**

- With a view to building a robust manufacturing ecosystem which will be an asset to the global economy government is looking forward to developing a strong ecosystem across the value chain and integrating it with global value chains.

- Various schemes namely, Programme for Development of Semiconductors & Display Manufacturing ecosystem in India; Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing; Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS); Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme; and Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware have been started.

➤ **Research and Development**

- The National Language Translation Mission was started in March 2022.

- Mission aims to develop a public digital platform for enabling an easy and responsive ecosystem for translation among various Indian languages and English using the latest technologies.

➤ **Quantum Simulator**

- It is accomplished as a collaborative effort of C-DAC, BSc and IIT Roorkee. QSim is made available over cloud and being used by 250 users including academia, industry and students**.**

➤ **Cyber Security**

- As per ranking published by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2021, India is ranked among top 10 countries in cyber security posture for the year 2020. This ranking is based on five parameters namely, legal measures, technical measures, organizations measures, capacity development measures and cooperation measures.

➤ **Cyber Surakshit Bharat**

- Cyber Surakshit Bharat programme initiated by MeitY in partnership with industry consortium in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode with the objective to educate and enable the Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and broader IT community of central/state governments, banks and PSUs to address the challenges of cyber security.

➤ **National Cyber Co-ordination Centre**

- National Cyber Co-ordination Centre (NCCC) has been set up by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing.

➤ **Cyber Threat Intelligence Sharing**

- CERT-In is operating an automated cyber threat exchange platform for proactively collecting, analysing and sharing tailored alerts with organisations across sectors for proactive threat mitigation actions by them.

➤ **CVE Numbering Authority**

- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has been authorized by the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) Programme, as a CVE Numbering Authority (CNA) for vulnerabilities impacting all products designed, developed and manufactured in the country.

► **Cyber Security Assurance**

- Under Security Assurance Framework, CERT-In has created a panel of 'IT security auditing organisations' for auditing, including vulnerability assessment and penetration testing of computer systems, networks & applications of various organizations of the government, critical infrastructure organizations and those in other sectors of Indian economy.

► **NIC-CERT**

- Analyses and responds to cyber threats on critical Government cyber infrastructure like websites, emails and various services.

► **Centre of Excellence for Blockchain Technology**

- It intends to foster stronger collaboration between the government, public and private sectors, CoE in Blockchain Technology promotes the use of blockchain technologies.

Attached Offices

► **National Informatics Centre**

- It has built a large number of digital solutions to support the government at various levels, making the last-mile delivery of government services to the citizens a reality.

- ICT infrastructure of NIC viz., NICNET, NKN, LAN, mini data centre, video conference studios, messaging service, Webcast facilities are the key constituents of NIC services.

► **Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification**

- It provides quality assurance services in electronics and IT through countrywide network of laboratories and centres. The services include tesing, calibration, IT & e-Governance, training and certification.

► **Controller of Certifying Authorities**

- The CCA has established the Root Certifying Authority of India (RCM) to digitally sign the public keys of Certifying Authorities (CAs) in the country.

- The IT Act 2000 provides the CCA to license and regulate the working & functioning of CAs.

► **Unique Identification of India**

- Its aim is to empower residents of India with a unique identity and a digital platform to authenticate anytime, anywhere.

- A key objective of Aadhaar programme is to provide an identity infrastructure for delivery of various social welfare programmes and for effective targeting of welfare services.

► **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing**

- It is a premier R&D organisation of MeitY for carrying out R&D in IT, electronics and associated areas.

- In addition to carrying out research and development in high performance computing, the R&D of C-DAC expanded to various other areas such as cloud computing, multilingual computing, heritage computing, professional electronics.

► **Semi-Conductor Laboratory**

- It is engaged in research and development in microelectronics to meet the strategic needs of the country.

- SCL has integrated facilities / supporting infrastructure all under one roof and undertakes activities focused on design, development, fabrication, assembly & packaging, testing and quality assurance of CMOS and MEMS devices for various applications.

► **Digital India Corporation**

- Digital India Corporation (DIC) has been set up and promoted by MeitY as a not for profit company. The objective of the Company is to bring the benefits of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for socio¬economic upliftment at the grass-root level of society.

- ➤ **National &Governance Division**

  - It was established as amalgamation of experts from the private sector and the government.

  - NeGD has been playing a pivotal role in discharging the key tasks including programme management and technical support of various components of the digital India programme.

- ➤ **MyGov**

  - MyGov is the world's largest citizen engagement platform, aims to ensure citizen centric and citizen-led governance through participative challenges and activities.

- ➤ **National Internet Exchange of India**

  - National Internet Exchange of India (NIX]) is a not for profit organisation set up under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 for peering of ISPs among themselves and routing the domestic traffic within the country.

- ➤ **Telecommunications**

  - The telecom sector exhibited strong growth over the last few years triggered by the strong consumer demand and supportive policies of the government.

  - India currently has the world's second-largest subscriber base of 1.2 billion.

  - India's growing mobile now constitutes about 98 per cent of all telephone subscriptions.

  - The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of the telecom sector.

  - It has enabled functioning of emergency services, provided connectivity to the citizens and contributed towards keeping much of workforce gainfully productive.

- ➤ **Tele-density and broadband penetration**

  - The overall tele-density in the country which was 75.23 per cent in March 2014 rose to 85.10 per cent in July 2022.

  - Rural and urban internet subscription registered a growth of 199.6 per cent and 156 per cent respectively between 2015 to 2021. Internet density increased from 24.09 per cent in March 2015 to 60 per cent in March 2022.

- ➤ **National Broadband Mission**

  - It was launched to fast-track growth of digital communication infrastructure, bridge the digital divide, facilitate digital empowerment and inclusion, and provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.

- ➤ **PM — WANI Scheme**

  - Prime Minister Wireless Access Network Interface (PM-WANT) scheme was launched for proliferation of broadband across the country.

- ➤ **Production Linked Incentive**

  - The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom and networking products is effective for 5 years from April 2021. Its guidelines were amended in June 2022 to introduce the design-led manufacturing with additional incentive rates.

- ➤ **Telecom Technology Development Fund**

  - Telecom Technology Development Fund (UDE) aims to fund R&D in rural-specific communication technology applications and form synergies among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry to build and develop the telecom ecosystem.

- ➤ **5G Services for Connectivity**

  - Indigenously developed 5G NSA Core by the Centre for Development of Telematics (CDoT) was launched.

  - 5G technology will bolster and propel India's position as an economic and tech powerhouse globally and will provide new opportunities for start-ups to come up with innovative solutions to solve existing challenges, create jobs and contribute to India's economic resilience.

➤ **India's ranking in Global Indices**

- India climbed 21 spots in **Network Readiness Index 2021** (released in December 2021), and reached to 67th position. The report reveals that India not only improved its ranking but also improved NRI score from 41.57 in 2020 to 49.74 in 2021. In addition, India ranks among top 10 in ITU's Global Cyber security Index (GCI) 2020 (report released in 2021).

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Mass Communication

Introduction

➤ The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** plays an effective role in helping people have access to free flow of information through its various mass communication media like the radio, television, films, press and print, advertising and traditional modes of communication like the dance and drama.

➤ The Ministry is functionally divided into three sectors viz.,

- **Information Sector:** The sector is responsible for information dissemination and awareness creation of the policies and activities of the Government of India through print, electronic and digital media, framing of policy guidelines for rate fixation of government advertisements on print, electronic, and online platforms, and administering the **Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867**, and the **Press Council Act, 1978**.

- **Broadcasting Sector:** The Broadcasting Sector aids the Ministry in the far-reaching dissemination of Government schemes and initiatives via **All India Radio and Doordarshan**.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Attached and Subordinate Organizations

- Press Information Bureau
- Bureau of Outreach & Communication
- Publication Division
- Office of the Registrar of Newspaper for India
- Central Board of Film Certification
- Films Division
- Directorate of Film Festivals
- Photo Division
- Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC)
- National Film Archives of India
- New Media Wing

Autonomous Organizations

- Prasar Bharati
- All India Radio
- Doordarshan
- Film and Television Institute of India, Pune
- Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata
- Children`s Film Society of India
- Indian Institute of Mass Communication

Statutory Bodies

- Press Council of India
- Film Certification Appellate Tribunal
- Public Sector Undertakings
- National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC)
- Broadcast Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (BECIL)

◆ This Sector oversees these public broadcasters by administering the **Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.**

◆ It also regulates private TV channels and the network of multi system operators and local cable operators through **the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995** and policy guidelines issued from time to time.

◆ The private FM radio network is regulated by the Ministry through auctioning of FM channels, operationalisation of Community Radio Stations in rural and remote areas.

> **Prasar Bharati: It** is India's largest public broadcasting agency. It is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament. It comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- **Film Sector:** It is responsible for production and distribution of documentaries, preservation of films, organisation of international film festivals and promotion of good cinema by institution of awards.
  - It administers the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**, which looks into certification of films for public exhibition, and handles other matters relating to film industry, including developmental and promotional activities.

> **Snapshot of India's Telecom Sector**
>
> ◉ The Telecom industry in India is the **second largest** in the world with a subscriber base of 1.17 Bn as of August 2022.
>
> ◉ The Telecom sector is the **3rd largest sector in terms of FDI inflows**, contributing 6.24% of total FDI inflow, and contributes directly to 2.2 Mn employment and indirectly to 1.8 Mn jobs. 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has now been allowed in the Telecom sector under the automatic route.
>
> ◉ The Telecommunications industry is divided into following subsectors: **Infrastructure, Equipment, Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MNVO), White Space Spectrum, 5G, Telephone service providers and Broadband.**

Important initiatives to improve the communication

- Talent Booking System (TBS) Portal: To maintain transparency and ease of booking, TBS was developed for Prasar Bharati units. This portal is being used to book guests, experts, artists, jockeys, etc.
- Fact check unit: The government set up the Fact Check Unit under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, staffed by two officers of Indian Information Service and soft launched it in 2019.
  - The Unit, to combat misinformation, fake news and carry out fact check of stories on social media, maintains a bilingual presence on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
  - It takes into account any complaint on email, WhatsApp, or through website complaint portal. The Unit also takes *suo-motu* cognisance of instances of fake news circulating on various social media platforms in the form of text, audio clip, video clip or an image.
- **Use of Twitter for Covid management:** News Media Wing launched the dedicated Twitter handle #IndiaFightsCorona @COVIDNewsByMIB in March 2020 to place all official information related to the pandemic released by the government at one place.
  - The information posted through this Twitter handle includes myths and realities related to Covid-19, daily statistics on recovered and active cases in the form of charts and maps, preventive measures and actions taken by various ministries/departments, and important information such as Helpline numbers.
  - The @COVIDNewsByMIB handle has been instrumental in educating the social media users and in generating awareness amongst the general public through easily understandable infographics, videos, and accurate timely information.
- **IARS Portal:** This portal has been developed for inviting the applications for regularisation of irregular appointments/engagements in Prasar Bharati.
- **SAMVAD:** Systemic Assimilation of Media Views for Decision Making (SAMVAD) Integrated Dashboard was launched in March 2020.
  - The views/opinions published across media are assimilated, analysed and the reports so generated, along with useful insights, are being uploaded on the Integrated Dashboard as well as sent through email/WhatsApp alerts to the concerned PIB/MIB Officials.
  - Dashboard includes coverage of all media i.e., print, television, online and social media. The dashboard is being utilised as a comprehensive 360-degree media feedback and analysis platform to facilitate decision making and to devise government communication strategies.

- ➤ **Training on social media:** New Media Wing (NMW) organised a social media training module for Indian Information Service officers. The training was led by experts in the field of social media campaigns and analytics.

- ➤ **Social media interactions:** NMW has supported various social media campaigns of the Government like **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Seva Samarpan, Swachh Bharat Mission, Poshan Abhiyan, Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat, Nari Shakti, Tokyo Olympics, Covid-19,** etc.

  - Social media suitable content is created to populate on platforms in such campaigns. All such activities were also coordinated with other departments/ministries to bring out a multiplier effect.

- ➤ **Research Wing:** Research Wing in PIB started functioning in 2021 under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**

  - It is aimed at further empowering the people of the country by making available to them more insightful and detailed information regarding government policies and programmes.

  - The key role of this Wing is to strengthen information dissemination by PIB and other official channels of the Government of India.

  - This facilitates effective communication and outreach to the public by creating a range of extensively researched documents on various areas of national importance and relevance, based on changing scenarios and requirements.

- ➤ **IT initiatives:** Prasar Bharati adopted IT-enabled processes, systems and practices that include online talent acquisition, online content acquisition, online project monitoring, e-Office etc. Since August 2019, Prasar Bharati has gone paperless by 100 per cent adoption of e-Office. This has not only brought speed and transparency in the working of the organisation, but also saved expenditure on paper.

Government's initiatives to enhance the 'communication infrastructure'

- ➤ **5G spectrum auction:** 5G spectrum auction were initiated by the government. 5G is the fifth generation of mobile communications networks and is characterized by an innovative architecture for both the core network and its wireless component.

- ➤ **Launch of 5G Services:** 5G services were launched in India in October 2022.

- ➤ **National Broadband Mission:** It aims to enhance digital communication infrastructure.

- ➤ **Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022:** The rules aim to facilitate faster and easier deployment of telegraph infrastructure for enabling speedy 5G roll-out.

- ➤ **Bharat Net:** It is an ambitious programme of department of telecommunication to provide network infrastructure with affordable broadband connectivity on a non-discriminatory basis to all households in the country.

- ➤ **Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)**: Launched in 2020, the scheme aims to enhance the proliferation of public WiFi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country, especially in rural areas.

- ➤ **6G:** Recently, the Prime Minister unveiled a vision document for the rollout of 6G communications technology in India by 2030. While, technically, 6G does not exist today, it has been conceived as a far superior technology promising internet speeds up to 100 times faster than 5G

- ➤ **Call Before you Dig App:** The Department of Telecom has also launched a new app, 'Call Before U Dig'. Through this App, currently available for Android users, the Government aims to connect the digging agencies with the underground utility asset owners. Communication between these parties is a crucial element of the digital India vision.

- ➤ **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan Platform for 5G rollout**

- ➤ Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for the North-Eastern Region

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Culture & Tourism

- The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the preservation and conservation of ancient cultural heritage and promotion of art and culture, both tangible and intangible in the country.

- It has two attached offices, six subordinate offices and 35 autonomous organisations, and is funded by the government.

- It has seven zonal cultural centres and four missions, including the National Mission for Manuscripts, National Mission for Monument and Antiquities, National Mission on Libraries, and Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission.

- The Ministry is working on the protection, development and promotion of all types of cultural heritage, including tangible heritage, intangible heritage and knowledge heritage.

- It takes care of all centrally protected monuments of national importance, promotes a museum movement in the country, extends financial support to individuals, group of individuals and cultural organisations engaged in performing visual and literary arts, and recognises excellence in art and culture by way of awards given by institutions like Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi.

- It is also involved in protection and promotion of Buddhist and Tibetan Culture through various institutions located at Sarnath, Varanasi and Leh.

- The Ministry has a capacity-building programme for all those who want to excel in the field of Indian as well as Asian art and culture.

- The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the implementation of various UNESCO conventions in the field of culture, and for entering into Cultural Exchange Agreements with partnering countries.

- India was elected to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for 2021-25, and Durga Puja was added to UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

- **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple in Telangana and 'Dholavira**: A Harappan City' in Gujarat were inscribed as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

- **Varanasi** was nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital during the 22nd Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State in 2022.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

- AKAM is an embodiment of all that is progressive about India's socio-cultural, political and economic identity.

- There are five themes that guide the events and activities planned: Freedom Struggle, Ideas@75, Achivments@75, Resolve@75 and Actions@75.

- Special focus has been given to commemorate unsung heroes of the freedom struggle, and Har Ghar Tiranga was launched to encourage people to hoist / display the National Flag at their homes.

- RajPath in New Delhi was renamed and **'Kartavya Path'** was inaugurated on September 8, 2022, symbolising a shift from erstwhile Rajpath being an icon of power to Kartavya Path being an example of public ownership and empowerment.

- The statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was also unveiled at India Gate on the occasion. crafted by Arun Yograj, granite statue is a fitting tribute to the immense contribution of Netaji to the freedom struggle and weighs 65 MT.

- It also includes a number of sustainability features like solid waste management, storm-water management, recycling of used water, rainwater harvesting, water conservation and energy-efficient lighting systems.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced in 2015 on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 140th birth anniversary.

- Its objectives are to celebrate the unity in diversity of India, promote the spirit of national integration, showcase the rich heritage and culture, and establish long-term engagements.

- It also seeks to promote learning between the states by sharing best practices and experiences.

Lalit Kala Akademi

- The Lalit Kala Akademi, the National Academy of Art, was set up in 1954 and is an autonomous body funded by the Ministry of Culture.

- It has established, preserved and documented a permanent collection that reflects the vitality, complexity and unfolding patterns of modern and contemporary art in India.

- It presents exhibitions and educational programmes of unparalleled significance, sustains a library, art collection, archives, conservation laboratory and supports scholars and publications of pre-eminent intellectual merit.

- The Akademi is involved in a wide range of activities promoting Indian art and artists through programmes and strategic partnerships.

- It also provides studios to artists who work in various disciplines of art, such as sculpture, graphics, ceramics and paintings.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's national academy of music, dance and drama, is a pioneer in the creation of modern India.

- In 1945, the Asiatic Society of Bengal submitted a proposal for the creation of a National Cultural Trust, which led to the creation of three national academies after Independence.

- In 1961, the Akademi was reconstituted by the government as a society and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (as amended in 1957).

- It works towards building up a unified structure of support for the practice of the arts in India, encompassing traditional and modern forms, and urban as well as rural environments.

- It also publishes literature on relevant subjects on a small scale. The awards conferred annually on eminent artists and scholars are considered the most coveted honours in the field of the performing arts.

- The Akademi is an apex body specialising in the performing arts in India. It established and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the field of the performing arts, such as the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA) in 1954, the National School of Drama and the Asian Theatre Institute in 1959, and the Kathak Kendra in 1964.

- Other projects include **Kutiyattam theatre of Kerala, Chhau dance of Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal, and Sattriya music, dance, theatre and allied arts of Assam**.

- **Kutiyattam** was recognised by UNESCO as a masterpiece of oral and intangible heritage of humanity in 2001.

➤ The Akademi also advises and assists the Government of India in formulating and implementing policies and programmes, and fosters cultural contacts nationally and internationally.

➤ It has held exhibitions and major festivals in foreign countries to foster cultural contact between India and the world.

National School of Drama

➤ The National School of Drama (NSD) is one of the foremost theatre institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India.

➤ It was set up by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1959 and became an autonomous organisation in 1975. The objective of the NSD is to train students in all aspects of theatre, including theatre history, production, scene design, costume design, lighting, make-up, etc.

➤ The Diploma of NSD is recognised by the Association of Indian Universities as equivalent to an M.A. Degree for appointment as teachers in colleges/universities and for purposes of registration for Ph.D. degrees.

➤ The School has a performing wing, a Repertory Company to establish professional theatre and regular experimental work. It has promoted children's theatre as well, organising summer theatre workshops in Delhi schools and also promoting children's theatre through Saturday Club.

➤ A short-term teaching and training programme titled 'Extension Programme' was started in 1978, under which, the school organises workshops in collaboration with the local theatre groups/artists and these programmes are invariably held in the local languages.

➤ The School also has a Regional Research Centre at Bengaluru to cater to the theatrical needs of the four southern states and Puducherry, and a Publication Unit to publish text books on theatre and arrange for translation of important books on theatre from English into Hindi.

➤ It organises theatre workshops, theatre festivals, and showcases plays in other parts of the country.

➤ NSD's Sikkim Theatre Training Centre at Gangtok was set up in 2012 and provides a one year certificate course in Acting.

➤ It is a Residential Training Program and 20 students are selected each year through a rigorous selection process.

➤ NSD also conducts one year certificate courses in Theatre-in-Education Methodology, Classical Indian Theatre, and Tribal Sub-Plan for the promotion and preservation of tribal culture.

Kalakshetra Foundation

➤ Kalakshetra Foundation was established in 1936 by Smt. Rukmini Arundale, a great thinker, social reformer and artist par excellence.

➤ The Government of India declared the institution as one of 'National Importance' and took over the Institute through an Act of Parliament.

➤ Kalakshetra is a vital centre of training and performance, producing acclaimed artists and providing a holistic arts education in a serene and inspiring natural environment in the city of music, Chennai.

➤ It has taken part in various Festival of India held abroad and is committed to artistic excellence.

➤ The Craft Education and Research Centre (CERC) was inspired by the ideal to "**permeate the land with beauty of spirit and form**".

➤ The Centre also produced the exquisite costumes for Rukmini Devi's dance dramas.

➤ The dyes used in CERC for making Kalamkari today follows the old traditions of extracting colours from plants, roots, leaves and other materials.

Sahitya Akademi

➤ The Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, was inaugurated in 1954 to promote literature in 24 languages of India.

- It is mandated to work for the development of Indian Letters and to set high literary standards.
- Over the past six decades, the Akademi has published over 7,000 books in 24 languages.
- It publishes three journals, Indian Literature, Samkaleena Bhartiya Sahitya and Sanskrit Pratibha, and is also involved in promoting quality children's literature.
- The Akademi's head office is situated in New Delhi with offices in Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.
- It awards awards and fellowships on writers in Indian languages and publishes books throughout the year in 24 recognised languages.
- It also organises a Festival of Letters every year to celebrate Indian writing.
- The Sahitya Akademi is a multilingual library in New Delhi with a rich collection of books on literature and literary traditions in 24 recognised Indian languages.
- The Akademi bestows Dr Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellowship and Premchand Fellowship to scholars from Asian countries.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is an autonomous trust set up by the Government of India under the Ministry of Culture.
- It is a centre of socio-cultural dialogue, knowledge and research to promote cultural rejuvenation and convergence of all art forms.
- It has seven functional units, including Kalanidhi, Kalakosa, Janapada Sampada, Kaladarsana, Cultural Informatics Lab, Sutradhara, and National Mission of Manuscripts.
- It also has a state-of-the-art Media Centre, Rock-Art Unit, and regional centres at Bengaluru, Goa, Guwahati, Jammu, Puducherry, Ranchi, Thrissur, Vadodara and Varanasi.
- It is proposed to set up India Institute of Heritage and the necessary preparatory work is being implemented.
- IGNCA has started eight post-graduate diploma courses to train manpower in the specialised field.

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

- The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) is one of the premier institutions working in the field of linking education with culture.
- It was set up in 1979 as an autonomous organisation by the Government of India and has three regional centres in Udaipur, Hyderabad and Guwahati.
- Its main objectives are to revitalise the education system by creating an understanding and awareness among students about the plurality of the regional cultures of India and integrating this knowledge with education.
- It conducts a variety of training programmes for in-service teachers drawn from all parts of the country.
- CCRT is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture that organises educational tours to monuments, museums, art galleries, craft centres, zoological parks and gardens, etc.
- It also collects scripts, colour slides, photographs, audio and video recordings and films to revive and encourage the art and craft forms of rural India.
- It implements the Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme, which provides scholarships to outstanding children in the age group of 10 to 14 years, studying either in recognised schools or belonging to families practicing traditional performing or other arts.
- The Scheme for "**Award of Scholarships to Young Artistes (SYA) in Different Cultural Fields**" is implemented under which a maximum 400 scholarships are provided in the field of Indian classical music, classical dances, light classical music, theatre, visual arts, folk/traditional and indigenous arts.

- CCRT has also instituted Teachers' Award to selected teachers for their outstanding work in education and culture. The award carries a citation, a plaque and a cash price of 25,000.

Zonal Cultural Centres

- Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) are premier agencies in the field of promotion, preservation and dissemination of culture in India.
- They promote performing arts by contributing in literary and visual arts.
- The seven Zonal Centres were established during 1985-86 at **Patiala, Kolkata, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Dimapur and Nagpur**.
- Master craftsmen and artisans from various ZCCs participate in craft fairs.
- Documentation of various rare folk and tribal art forms is one of the main thrust areas of the ZCCs.
- Under the National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP), exchanges of artists, musicologists, performers and scholars between different regions within the country take place.
- Guru Shishya Parampara has been introduced to promote new talents.
- The ZCCs identify the different performing/ folk art forms in their areas and select one or two talented artists in each of the fields.

Buddhist and Tibetan Institutes

- The Ministry of Culture is promoting Lord Buddha's teachings and values of love, compassion and non-violence through four autonomous educational institutions under the Ministry of Culture.
- These institutions aim to develop good moral values and practices to achieve the Buddha's social philosophy of inclusiveness.

Central institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh

- The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh, of Ladakh was established in 1959 and registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It is managed by a Board of Management and declared a deemed university in 2016.
- The main objective of the Institute is to develop the multifaceted personality of the students through inculcation of the wisdom of Buddhist thoughts and literature, familiarizing them with modern subjects, collection, translation, publication of rare manuscripts and research work relevant to Buddhist studies.
- The institute publishes books on Buddhist philosophy, Buddhist literature, Buddhist dictionary, etc.

Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar

- The Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (NNM) was established in 1951 by the Government of Bihar and accorded Deemed University status in 2006.
- Its objective is to develop a residential centre of education of International importance on the lines of the ancient Viharas for promotion of higher studies, and research in Pali language and literature and Buddhist studies through Sanskrit, Tibetan, Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese and other Asian language.
- Around 200 students from countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka have enrolled in various foreign language courses in the institute.

Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath

- The Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHCS), Sarnath, Varanasi was established in 1967 to educate the youths of Tibet and Indian students of Himalayan border areas.

- In 1988, the Government of India declared it a "**Deemed to be University**".

- Its main objective is to preserve the Tibetan culture and tradition and to preserve ancient Indian sciences and literature preserved in the Tibetan language, but lost in original.

- It has a library with books, periodicals, journals and xylographs, and ancient books, documents, xylographs etc. are being digitized into microfiches and microfilms.

- Students from Indonesia and Russia have enrolled in foreign language courses.

Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung, Arunachal Pradesh

- The Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS) was registered as a Society in 2010 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

- It undertakes undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes in Buddhist and Himalayan studies and may also establish and maintain feeder schools.

- Its objectives are to provide instruction for various courses in Indian culture and for study and research in different branches of Buddhist philosophical and cultural studies.

- The Ministry also provides financial support to six grantee bodies of which five are non-governmental organisations.

- **Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamshala** - The LTWA is a non-governmental organisation set up in 1970 in Dharamshala to acquire and conserve Tibetan books and manuscripts, provide intensified reference service and act as a reference centre for Tibetan manuscripts, painting and objects of art.

  - It also provides research facilities, runs regular courses on Buddhist Philosophy and Tibetan tradition, publishes and reprint Tibetan texts, research papers, translation of important Tibetan works, and conducts lectures and seminars.

- **Tibet House, New Delhi** - The Tibet House, New Delhi was established by the Dalai Lama in 1965 to promote, preserve and protect the Tibetan culture, encourage the exchange of ideas and techniques between Tibetan and non-Tibetan artists and craftsmen, assist the artists, educate Tibetans in Indian History and Indian way of life, and promote and revive various classical and folk dances, music, art and crafts.

- **Centre for Buddhist Cultural Studies, Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh -** Tawang Monastery is an oldest and largest monastic institution in North-East India, established in the 17'h Century.

  - In 1972, a school was started to educate the monks. It has since been re-christened as the Centre for Buddhist Cultural Studies (CBCS).

- **GRL Monastic School, Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh** - The GRL Monastic School, Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh was established after the Chinese Aggression of 1962 to restore normalcy and cultural integration of the area with the Indian mainstream.

  - It was established by the Buddhist Cultural Preservation Society under the initiative of the government.

- **International Buddhist Confederation, New Delhi -** The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), New Delhi was established in 2011 by 28 delegations from 11 countries to serve as a common platform for Buddhists worldwide.

  - It has a membership of over 320 organisations, both monastic and lay, and aims to make Buddhist values and principles a part of the global discourse by presenting a united Buddhist voice in issue that concern all humankind.

- **Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim** - The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT), Gangtok is an autonomous organisation in Sikkim that was set up in 1958 for research and studies in Tibetology.

  - It undertakes special research and publication programmes, publishes a quarterly journal, and provides research facilities to scholars in Tibetology and allied subjects.

GSSCORE

Two more schemes are being implemented for the promotion and preservation of Buddhist/Tibetan art and culture:

➤ **Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation for the Preservation & Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas:**

➤ The objective of the scheme is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayas. The scheme was revised in 2011. As per the revised scheme, the grant shall be provided for undertaking the activities-

- study and research on cultural heritage

- preservation of old manuscripts, literature, art and crafts and documentation of cultural activities/ events like music, dance, etc.

- dissemination through audio-visual programmes of art and culture and

- training in traditional and folk art - in the area falling under the Himalayan Region i.e., Jammu, Kashmir and Ladhak, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

➤ **Scheme of Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Culture & Art-**

- The objective of the scheme is to give financial assistance to the voluntary Buddhist/Tibetan organisations including monasteries engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan culture and tradition and research in related fields.

- The scheme was revised in 2011. In the revised scheme new activities like IT upgradation, transport facilities, construction of classrooms, school buildings and training centres, audio-visual recording/ documentation of traditional materials have also been included.

Archaeological Survey of India

➤ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 1861 and functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Culture.

➤ Its major activities include survey of archaeological remains and excavations, maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments, sites and remains, chemical preservation of monuments and antiquarian remains, architectural survey of monuments, development of epigraphical research and numismatic studies, setting up and re-organisation of site museums, expeditions abroad, training in archaeology, and publication of technical reports and research works.

➤ Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the ASI has declared 3,686 monuments/sites to be of national importance in the country, including 22 properties that are inscribed on the World Heritage List by the UNESCO.

➤ The Horticulture Branch of the ASI maintains gardens in 287 centrally protected monuments/sites located in different parts of the country, while the Epigraphy Branch at Mysore carries out research work in Sanskrit and Dravidian languages.

➤ The Underwater Archaeology Wing carries out exploration and excavation in Arabian Sea as well as in Bay of Bengal.

➤ ASI now has 36 circles besides 1 mini circle located in the various states and union territories and 6 regional directorates (located at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Guwahati and Bhopal) headed by Regional Director.

➤ Besides, there are 6 excavation branches, 2 temple survey projects, 1 building survey project, 1 prehistory branch, 1 science branch, 2 epigraphy branches (one for Sanskrit and Dravidian at Mysuru and the other for Arabic and Persian at Nagpur and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Institute of Archaeology to impact training in Archaeology stationed at Greater Noida.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

➤ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded in 1950 to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations.

➤ It has been an important tool for promoting cultural diplomacy and projecting India's civilisational strengths through initiatives such as ancient Indian literature, Yoga, Ayurveda, Hindi, Indian traditional knowledge system and India's Buddhist heritage.

➤ Its activities are divided into **two segments**: academic and visual and performing arts.

➤ ICCR has been organising cultural events such as the annual Ramayana Festival, Sufi Festival, International Folk Festival and International Jazz Festival, exchange of performing art groups, and art exhibitions and residencies with various countries of the world.

➤ Its global network of 38 cultural centres and Indian Missions abroad play a significant role in carrying out its activities.

➤ ICCR actively collaborates with state governments, universities/ institutions and socio-cultural organisations for its activities in India.

Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture

➤ The Institute was conceived in 1936 as one of the permanent memorials to Sri Ramakrishna (1836-86) on the occasion of his first birth centenary.

➤ It was formally established in 1938 as a branch centre of the Ramakrishna Mission founded by Swami Vivekananda to propagate the message of Vedanta as propounded by Sri Ramakrishna, whose basic teachings stressed:

- Equality of all religions

- Potential divinity of man

- Service to man is a way of worshipping God – a new religion for mankind.

National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

➤ The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched in 2007 with the objective to prepare a National Database on Built Heritage and Sites (BH&S) and antiquities from different sources and museums during the XIth Five Year Plan.

➤ As per recommendations of the National Productivity Council, NMMA has been made a Division of Archaeological Survey of India and has to prepare two national registers.

➤ About 2 lakh data on Built Heritages and Sites has been documented from secondary sources, and 15 lakh antiquities have been documented from different sources.

National Mission for Manuscripts

➤ The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was launched in 2003 with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) as the nodal agency to reclaim India's inheritance of knowledge contained in the vast treasure of manuscripts.

➤ It consists of Manuscripts Resource Centres, Manuscripts Conservation Centres, and Manuscripts Partner Centres all over India to locate, document, conserve and digitise the tangible heritage of India.

➤ Major activities include documentation of manuscripts, training courses and workshops on conservation methods, manuscriptology and paleography workshops, digitisation of manuscripts, dissemination of knowledge through publications, and outreach programme.

Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission

➤ The Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission was created in 2013 with a budget of 42 crores to preserve 39 core sites and some important sites from the master list.

➤ It will supervise, guide and assist in conservation initiatives, maintenance or preservation initiatives and the creation of a database of tangible, literary and visual heritage associated with Gandhiji.

National Museum

- ➤ The National Museum, under the Ministry of Culture, is one of the premiere cultural institutions of the country.

- ➤ It has over 2,00,000 antiquities and art objects, both of Indian and foreign origins, covering more than 5,000 years of our cultural heritage.

- ➤ The Museum has a rich heritage of Indian miniature paintings, Central Asian arts collection, coins, Pre-Columbian and Western Art collections, musical instruments, Indian arms, and armour, etc.

- ➤ An important attraction of the museum is the gallery on **Buddhism**: A spiritual journey, with the focus on the sacred relics of the Buddha (5th-4th century B.C.).

- ➤ The main activities of the museum include organisation of exhibitions in India and abroad, re-organisation/modernisation of galleries, educational activities and outreach programmes, public relations, publications, photo documentation; memorial lectures; museum corner; photo unit; modeling unit; library; conservation laboratory; certificate/short-term courses; and workshops.

National Gallery of Modern Art

- ➤ The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) was founded in 1954 to promote and develop contemporary Indian art.

- ➤ It houses 17,858 works of art, representing 1,748 contemporary Indian artists.

- ➤ The collection includes paintings, sculptures, graphic arts and photographs.

- ➤ It organises exhibitions and cultural exchange programmes.

- ➤ Colour reproductions have been brought out to help people understand and appreciate modern art.

Indian Museum

- ➤ The Indian Museum is the eighth oldest museum in the world and houses almost 1.10 lakhs of artefacts telling the oriental history and heritage of India.

- ➤ It was founded in 1814 at the cradle of the Asiatic Society by Dr. Nathanial Wallich, a Danish Botanist, and was completed in 1875.

- ➤ Since then, it has been rendering its services to the people of India as an epitome of art and culture and is also being highlighted as one of the pioneering national institutions in the Constitution of the Republic of India.

- ➤ The museum plays a significant role not only in preserving the artefacts of the Indian heritage, but also acts as a catalyst as an interpretation centre of Indian art heritage to facilitate the audience as a learning centre through its multicultural activities.

National Council of Science Museums

- ➤ The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

- ➤ It is primarily engaged in spreading the culture of science in the society, with a motto of 'Communicating Science to Empower People'.

- ➤ It is the implementing agency for the Science City Scheme and has its own network of 25 Science Museums/ Centres.

- ➤ It also provides catalytic support to other organisations by developing interactive exhibits and exhibitions using state-of-the-art display technologies and techniques.

- ➤ The concept of 'Museum on Wheels' was introduced in India in 1965 when Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) programme started a Mobile Science Museum (MSM) at Ramakrishna Mission School, Kolkata.

➤ NCSM has a fleet of 23 MSE buses that travel through rural India to spread the message of science and technology.

➤ These programmes include science shows, hands-on workshops, night sky observation, science film shows, and value addition.

➤ NCSM also facilitates participation of Indian students in International Astronomy Olympiad (junior category) and sets up Innovation Hubs in Science Centres/Institutions to inculcate a culture of innovation, creativity and engagement in science.

➤ Additionally, NCSM has sent travelling exhibitions to 15 countries, including USA, Russia, France, Bulgaria, Nepal, China, Bangladesh, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Australia and UK.

Allahabad Museum

➤ The Allahabad Museum located in Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh is more than 90 years old and displays the rich cultural heritage of India. It has a diverse collection of arts, antiquities, paintings, sculptures, coins, ceramics, archaeological objects, illustrated manuscripts, textile, print and personal collections of Gandhi, Nehru and literary personalities.

➤ It also has a library with about thirty thousand books and journal for public and research scholars.

➤ The Museum also organises conservation workshops, art appreciation workshops, clay modelling workshops to connect the children and youth.

➤ Some of the rare and representative artefacts of the Museum are the pistol of Shahid Chandra Shekhar Azad, fifth century Ek Mukhi Shivling with intricate carving, second century statue of Bodhisattva Maitreya, stone sculpture of dancing Yakshani, second century abdomen of male figure made up of terracotta showing inner structure of stomach, modern painting of Nocholas Roerich and Ashit Kumar Haldar, eleventh century sculpture of Uma Maheshwara with minute intricate work, miniature Rajasthani painting of Radha and Krishan in rain, and gold coins of the period of Samudragupta, Chandragupta first, Kanishka.

Victoria Memorial Hall

➤ The Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata was founded in 1921 as a period museum in the memory of Queen Victoria with particular emphasis on Indo-British history.

➤ It was declared an institution of national importance by the Government of India Act of 1935 and functions as the premier art gallery, museum, research library, and cultural space in Kolkata.

➤ The VMH is currently the most-visited museum in India and one of the top museums in the world in terms of footfall.

Salar Jung Museum

➤ The Salar Jung Museum (SJM) of Hyderabad is a repository of the artistic achievements of diverse European, Asian and Far Eastern countries.

➤ It was acquired by Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan popularly known as Salar Jung III in 1914, who devoted his life to collecting and enriching the treasures of art and literature.

➤ The "Veiled Rebecca", an enchanting marble statue, was acquired from Rome in 1876.

➤ The precious and rare art objects collected by him for a period of over forty years, find place in the portals of the museum.

➤ The Salar Jung Museum (SJM) was opened in 1951 by the Prime Minister of India.

➤ The control and supervision of the affairs of the newly born museum was vested with the Salar Jung Estate Committee, and the heirs of Salar Jung Bahadur graciously agreed to donate the entire collection to the Government of India.

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- In 1961, the Museum and Library were declared an Institution of National Importance and an Act of Parliament was established to provide for its administration and other connected matters.

- The Salar Jung Museum has a magnificent global collection of art objects and antiques, not only of Indian origin, but also of Western, Middle Eastern and Far Eastern origins.

- The Indian Art objects comprise stone sculptures, bronzes, wood carvings, miniature paintings, modern paintings, ivory, jade, textiles, metal ware, manuscripts, bidri, arms and armour, utility-ware, etc.

- The Western collections are from England, Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria, while the Eastern collections are from countries like China, Japan, Burma, Korea, Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia and from Middle East countries like Egypt, Syria, Persia and Arabia.

- The Salar Jung Library includes a collection of books and manuscripts acquired by the Salar Jung's family, dating back to 1656 A.D.

- The collection consists of English, Hindi, Urdu, Telugu, Persian, Arabic and Turkish texts /works, and includes research journals, albums of rare photographs and valuable engravings.

- The oldest book in the collection is an English volume printed in 1631 A.D., and the collection of outstanding manuscripts in the museum is in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and other languages.

National Museum Institute

- The National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMI) is an autonomous organization fully funded by the Ministry of Culture.

- It was established in 1989 and declared a Deemed to be University in 1989. Its primary objective is to impart advanced teaching in history of art, conservation and museology through theoretical and practical study and to award M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in these three disciplines.

- It also conducts two short-term courses of five month duration, Art Appreciation Course and Bhartiya Kalanidhi Course, and organizes seminars, conferences, workshops, special lectures on museum education, art and culture and capacity building training programmes.

National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property

- NRLC was established in 1976 as a subordinate office of the Department of Culture and is recognised by the Department of Science and Technology as a scientific institution of the Government of India.

- It provides conservation services and technical advice to museums, archives, archaeology departments and other related cultural institutions, imparts training in different aspects of conservation, carries out research in methods and manner of conservation, and provides services to conservation professional of the country.

- It has a full-fledged training institute at Jankipuram, Lucknow and a regional centre at Mysuru.

Anthropological Survey of India

- The Anthropological Survey of India (An.S.I.) is an institution that has been mandated to study the bio-cultural attributes of the Indian population since its establishment.

- Over the decades, it has grown from strength to strength to acquire an unparalleled blend of holistic perspective. Its activities include collection, preservation, maintenance, documentation and study of ethnographic materials as well as ancient human skeletal remains.

- It has published various books, monographs, research reports and other occasional publications. It also publishes its quarterly newsletter and bi-annual house journal.

- The survey organises various conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions in collaboration with universities and other academic institutions of the country.

National Archives of India

➤ The National Archives of India (NAI) is the custodian of non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of the record creators and the users at large.

➤ It is the biggest repository of such records in South-East Asia and plays a key role in guiding and shaping the development of archives both at the national and international level.

➤ It is an attached office of the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for the preservation of the documentary heritage of the nation.

➤ It has one regional office at Bhopal and three records' centres at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Puducherry.

➤ The National Archives of India provides public records access, technical assistance to individuals and institutions in the field of conservation, and training in archival sciences.

➤ It also provides financial assistance to states/union territories, archives, voluntary organisations, and other custodial institutions for enhancing documentary heritage of the nation.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies

➤ The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

➤ It was set up in 1993 as a centre for research and learning with focus on social, cultural, economic and political/administrative developments in Asia with special emphasis on their links with India.

➤ Initially, the emphasis was on modem and contemporary affairs in South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, and area studies on the five Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan).

➤ The institute has now expanded its area of study to the northeast region of India, Southeast Asia, China and Japan.

➤ It maintains a museum at the former residence of Maulana Azad in Kolkata, and organizes conferences, special lectures, workshops, webinars, funds research projects and other research activities.

➤ Under the North East India Region (NEIR) research programme, the socio-cultural aspects of the NEIR are being focused through organization of seminars/webinars/symposiums/ workshops in collaboration with the universities /institutions of the north-eastern states.

The Asiatic Society

➤ The Asiatic Society is the oldest institution of learning in India and has made a seminal contribution in the revival of Indian history and heralding its renaissance.

➤ It was founded in 1784 by Sir William Jones, a revered philologist and scholar of Anglo-Welsh descent, and its mandate was to work with "what is performed by Man and produced by Nature".

➤ This mandate is being fully adhered to and has been the mother institution for the growth and development of many major academic institutions in this country.

➤ The Government of India recognized the Asiatic Society as an Institution of National Import in 1984 and took over the responsibility of providing financial support for its maintenance and development.

➤ It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture and its library is the most important component.

➤ It is enriched with a vast collection of books and journals, some of which belong to the 15th century, and draws attention to scholars from home and abroad.

➤ The Museum of the Asiatic Society is a store-house of priceless and unique collections of manuscripts in different languages and scripts.

➤ The oldest manuscript is the 7th century "manuscript" written in Gupta Brahmi Script. The Museum also possesses old coins, inscriptions inscribed on copper plates, 78 rich and valuable oil-paintings,

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portraits, survey maps drawn by British surveyors, and sculptures and metal objects of historical importance.

➤ The Asiatic Society is known to the world of learning for being the first publication house in the country and the oldest surviving publication house in South Asia.

➤ It publishes books in different series, such as bibliotheca indica, monograph, seminar and public lecture, catalogues and bibliographical works.

➤ Academic activities include research, national and international seminars and conferences, workshops, endowment/memorial lectures, special lectures and exhibitions.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya

➤ The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS)/(National Museum of Mankind) is an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Culture.

➤ It was established in 1977 and shifted to Bhopal in 1979. The main museum is being developed in a 200 acre campus allotted by Madhya Pradesh in front of the famous Bhopal Lake.

➤ A Southern Regional Centre of IGRMS has been functioning since 2001 at Mysuru from a heritage building.

➤ IGRMS is a new museum movement in India to demonstrate the validity of human cultures and the plurality of alternatives for human articulation.

➤ The Indira Gandhi National Tribal Museum (IGRMS) in Bhopal has 10 open air exhibitions and 12 galleries on various topics related to bio-cultural evolution and variations of humankind.

➤ It is also engaged in spreading the museum movement by organising periodical exhibitions, heritage corners, education programmes, seminars, lectures, artist workshops and programmes of performing art presentations.

➤ It has 29,007 ethnographic specimens, 1,96,173 optical slides and negatives, 2,74,999 digital images, over 9,607 hours of audio-video recordings, 30,887 books and 2,523 book of tribal/alternative literature in its archival collection. It has also initiated a postgraduate diploma course in museology.

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

➤ Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) is an internationally acclaimed centre for research in social sciences and contemporary India.

➤ It comprises of a museum on the life and times of Jawaharlal Nehru, a research and publication division, a library, an oral history division, a manuscripts division, a centre for contemporary studies, a planetarium, and the Nehru learning centre for children and youth.

➤ The Archive is the biggest collections of private papers of individuals and institutions from the freedom struggle, used by scholars and academics from all over the world for their research work.

➤ The centre for contemporary studies runs a Fellowship programme and conducts academic activities such as lectures, conferences, book discussions, panel discussions, conferences/workshops, etc.

➤ It also brings out works of pre-eminent persons from the social sciences, proceeds of conferences, seminars, and publishes research series called occasional papers.

➤ The planetarium, the only one in Delhi region, is visited by thousands of people for first-hand knowledge on astronomy and space technology.

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

➤ Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti was formed in 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti as an autonomous body.

➤ The Prime Minister of India is its Chairperson and it has a nominated body of senior Gandhians and representatives of various government departments to guide it in its activities.

➤ The basic aim and objective of the Samiti is to propagate the life, mission and thought of Mahatma Gandhi through various socio-educational and cultural programmes.

LIBRARY

National Library

➤ The National Library, Kolkata, was founded in 1891 and is an institution of national importance. Its functions include acquisition and conservation of all significant printed material, collection of printed material, rendering of bibliographical and documentary services, and acting as a referral centre for international book exchange and internal loan.

Central Secretariat Library

➤ The Central Secretariat Library (CSL) was established in 1891 and has been housed at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi since 1969.

➤ It is a depository of Indian official documents, central government and state government documents, and has an Area Studies Division with a large biographic collection.

➤ It provides all possible readers' services to central government officials and other research scholars, and has digitised the Government of India gazette, committee and commission reports and developed the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) system.

➤ It has two branches, Hindi and regional languages wing with 1.9 lakh volumes of Hindi and 13 other constitutionally approved Indian regional language books, and a text-book library for wards of central government employees of undergraduate level.

Central Reference Library

➤ The Central Reference Library, Kolkata is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Culture and functions as the national bibliographic centre.

➤ It compiles and publishes the Indian National Bibliography, an authoritative record of books published in the country in different Indian languages, and publishes different language fascicules of the bibliography in collaboration with different state governments.

➤ It also brings out different subject bibliographies from time to time, which are available for sale.

Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library

➤ The Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna is an autonomous institution under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture.

➤ It is a research institution with 21,000 manuscripts of rare value, 2,89,000 printed books, and over 2,000 original paintings of the Mughal, Rajput, Oudh, Iranian and Turkish Schools.

➤ It combines the twin features of a centre of research in oriental studies and a public library catering to the needs of students, youth and senior citizens.

➤ It is now developing into a digital library with 3,190 manuscripts and 5,658 books available in digitized format.

➤ It promotes research activities in certain specific areas such as Islamic Studies, Arabic, Persian and Urdu literature, comparative religion, Tibb or Unani medicine, mysticism, history of the Islamic lands, medieval Indian history and the national movement.

➤ It also provides fellowships to the scholars to encourage research in the specific areas.

Delhi Public Library

➤ Delhi Public Library (DPL) is an autonomous organisation under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture, established in 1951 as a pilot project.

- ➤ It consists of a central library, 3 branch libraries, 19 sub-branch libraries, 1 community library, 7 resettlement colony libraries, one Braille library, 160 mobile library service points, and 33 book reading centres.
- ➤ It provides facilities such as public-reading room service, free internet service, free CD/DVD/lending service, free self-study room facility, Braille library service, mobile library service, etc.

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation

- ➤ Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRLF) is an autonomous organization established and fully financed by the Ministry of Culture.
- ➤ Its primary objective is to promote and support development of public libraries and to spread library movement to the remotest corner of the country.
- ➤ It has its headquarters in Kolkata and four small zonal offices located in Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati and Mumbai.
- ➤ It accomplishes its objectives through implementation of its approved matching and non-matching schemes with the participation of state/UT library authorities.

Rampur Raza Library

- ➤ The Government of India took over the Rampur Raza Library in 1975 from Nawab Murtaza Ali Khan, the President of the trust, and declared it as an institution of national importance.
- ➤ The library has a collection of manuscripts in various languages and rare items.
- ➤ The manuscripts in these languages represent all important subjects including history, philosophy, religion, science, literature, arts and architecture.
- ➤ The printed book section has a unique importance and contains hundreds of rare Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Hindi books.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Ministry of Culture administers the following schemes:

Performing Arts Grants Scheme

- ➤ The Repertory Grant is the flagship scheme of the Ministry in the field of Performing Arts.
- ➤ It provides financial assistance to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children's theatre and all genres of performing arts activities.
- ➤ A maximum of 1 Guru/Director and 25 Shishyas/Artistes may be provided to a cultural organisation for a complete financial year, with an existing rate of 210,000 per month.

Scheme for Cultural Organisations with National Presence

- ➤ This grant is given to cultural organisations that have a properly constituted managing body, registered in India, a pan-India character, adequate working strength, and have spent 71 crore or more during 3 of the last 5 years on cultural activities.
- ➤ The grant is payable in two installments of 75% and 25% of the approved amount.
- ➤ The complete details are available on the website of the Ministry of Culture.

Scheme of Building Grants

- ➤ The scheme aims to support voluntary cultural organisations and government-aided cultural organisations to create cultural space, such as auditoriums, training, rehearsal and performance spaces, and equipment.

- Studio theatre is also a component under which small, innovative spaces for theatre and other performing arts can be created with 60% government assistance.
- The complete details are available on the Ministry's website.

Tagore Cultural Complexes Scheme

- Tagore Cultural Complexes (TCC) is a revived and revamped version of the Multi-Purpose Cultural Complexes Scheme, renamed on the 1 50th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.
- It provides financial assistance for the setting up of new cultural complexes and modernisation, renovation and upgradation of existing Tagore auditoriums.
- It is open to state governments, state sponsored bodies, universities, local bodies and other government approved agencies. The complete details are available on the Ministry's website.

Scheme of Pension to Artistes

- Under this scheme, financial assistance is granted to indigent artistes and traditional scholars who have made significant contributions to art and letters and in their fields.
- Their income must not exceed Rs. 4,000/- per month and their age must not be less than 60 years. Artistes are considered for financial assistance in the form of monthly allowance under the centre-state quota on a sharing basis between the centre and state government/UT administration.
- The monthly allowance contributed by the central government in such cases shall not exceed 3,500/- per month per beneficiary.

Fellowship and Scholarship Scheme

- **Scheme For The Award of Fellowship to Outstanding Artists in the Field of Culture**
  - Junior/Senior Fellowships are awarded to outstanding persons in the age group of 25 to 40 years (Jr.) and above 40 years (Sr.) in different cultural fields for undertaking cultural research.
  - Online applications are invited and selection is made by an expert committee. Up to 400 fellowships are awarded in a batch year.

- **Scheme for Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields**
  - This scheme provides financial assistance to young artistes of outstanding promise in the age group of 18-25 years for advanced training within India in the field of Indian classical music, Indian classical dance, theatre, mime, visual art, folk, traditional and indigenous arts and light classical music.
  - Online applications are invited and selection is made by an expert committee. Up to 400 scholarships are awarded in a batch year. Scholars are given scholarships @ 5,000/- p.m. for 2 years.

- **Tagore National Fellowship Scheme**
  - The scheme was introduced to invigorate and revitalise the various institutions under the ministry and other identified cultural institutions in the country by encouraging scholars/academicians to affiliate themselves with these institutions to work on projects of mutual interest.
  - It is open to both Indian nationals and foreign citizens, and the proportion of foreigners will not exceed one-third of the total fellowships awarded in a year.
  - Tagore Fellows are paid an honorarium 80,000/- p.m. plus contingencies and Tagore Scholars are paid 50,000/-p.m. as honorarium plus contingencies.

- **Production Grant Scheme**
  - The scheme covers all 'not-for-profit' organisations, NGOs, societies, trusts, universities and individuals for supporting seminars, conferences, research, workshops, festivals, exhibitions, symposia, production of dance, drama-theatre, music etc.

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- The organisation should have been functioning and registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860), Trusts Act, Companies Act or any central or state Act for at least three years. Grant is given upto 5 lakhs under the scheme.

➤ **Financial Assistance to Veteran Artists**

- The Ministry of Culture administers a scheme to provide financial assistance to veteran artists of the country of the age of 60 years and above in the form of monthly artists' pension.

- However, the disbursement of financial assistance is subject to submission of requisite documents by the beneficiaries. The Ministry entrusted the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) in 2009 for disbursing the monthly artists pension to selected beneficiaries prior to the year 2017.

TOURISM

➤ The Ministry of Tourism is the nodal agency to formulate national policies and programmes for the development and promotion of tourism.

➤ Tourism is a major engine of economic growth and an important source of foreign exchange earnings in many countries.

➤ The Ministry's main objective is to increase and facilitate tourism in India by augmenting tourism infrastructure, easing visa regime, and ensuring quality standards in services of tourism service providers.

➤ The Ministry is committed to developing tourism destinations into world-class destinations through a cluster approach.

➤ It launched the 'Adopt A Heritage' project in 2017, where heritage sites are being offered for adoption by the public sector, private sector and individuals to become 'Monument Mitras'.

➤ 27 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) have been awarded to 12 Monument Mitras for 25 sites and two Technological interventions across India.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals

➤ Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in March, 2022 were 3,42,308 with a positive growth rate of 177.9 per cent as compared to 1,23,179 in March, 2021.

➤ FTAs during the period January- March, 2022 were 7,84,750.

Special Tourism Zones

➤ Creation of 'Special Tourism Zones' anchored on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) is in partnership with the states.

➤ Ministry of Tourism has formulated the guidelines for implementation of the new scheme in consultation with the state governments and private sector and is in the process of completing other formalities before launching the scheme.

e-Visa Facility

➤ The Ministry of Tourism is implementing a Facilitative Visa regime to increase in-bound tourism.

➤ In 2020, e-visa facility was extended to 171 countries under sub-categories, with Togo being the latest country added.

➤ A new category of e-Tourist visa for 5 years with multiple entry has been introduced, and the visa fee has been rationalized.

24x7 Toll Free Multilingual Tourist Helpline

➤ The Ministry of Tourism is providing a 24x7 toll free multilingual tourist helpline in 12 international languages, free of charge.

➤ This service will be available on the number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363.

➤ The international languages handled are Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, in addition to English and Hindi.

Niche Products

➤ The Ministry of Tourism has identified niche products to overcome seasonality and promote India as a 365-day destination.

➤ These products include cruise, adventure, medical, wellness, golf, polo, meetings, incentives, conferences and expositions, ecotourism, film tourism and sustainable tourism.

National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board

➤ A National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been set up to work as an umbrella organisation to govern and promote medical tourism in India.

Adventure Tourism

➤ For development and promotion of adventure tourism, a task force on Adventure Tourism was formed in 2016 to resolve the issues related to adventure tourism which includes safety and security of tourists.

Hospitality Education

➤ The Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality has set up 42 Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) and 10 Food Craft Institutes (FCIs) to provide trained manpower to meet the needs of the tourism and hospitality industry.

➤ The IHMs mainly impart degree level hospitality education, while the FCIs are concerned with skill level education.

➤ The National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Technology (NCHMCT) steers and regulates the academic efforts of the IHMs and FCIs.

Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

➤ The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) is an autonomous body under the Ministry with its headquarters at Gwalior.

➤ Its centres are at Bhubaneshwar, Nel lore, Noida and Goa. IITTM is a pioneer in the field of travel and tourism education and training.

➤ It provides specialised training and education for tourism and travel industry.

Indian Culinary Institute

➤ The Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. It was established by the Govt. of India to run various programs in Culinary Art, from the Skill level to the highest level of study.

➤ It is a Premier and State of Art Institute committed to quality education and training, helping students to become professionally qualified personnel in the field.

Incredible India

➤ The Ministry of Tourism releases campaigns in international and domestic markets to promote various tourism destinations and products of India.

➤ A series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential markets overseas and within India through domestic India Tourism offices, with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential to foreign and domestic tourists.

➤ Additionally, the IITF Certification Programme has been launched to provide online training and accreditation of Tourist Facilitators through a centralized pan India e-learning module.

➤ This will benefit the Indian economy in general and Indian tourism specifically by enabling creation of a pool of well trained and professional tourist facilitators and creating additional employment opportunities even in remote areas.

Incredible India Website

➤ This website showcases a range of new contents, including a Google 360 that features virtual video content to provide tourists with a walk through of Indian tourist attractions and 24/7 chat box interface to assist tourist for better planning and quick query resolutions.

'Incredible India' Mobile Application

➤ This mobile app enables international and domestic tourists to access information about Ministry of Tourism recognized tourism service providers, such as approved inbound tour operators, adventure tour operators, domestic tour operators, tourist transport operators, travel agents, regional level guides, classified hotels, and places of interest.

➤ Tourists can also query similar details for any other city they plan to travel in future.

International Advertisement Campaign

➤ The Ministry of Tourism has launched an International Advertisement Campaign in electronic and digital media to promote tourism.

➤ The campaign has been launched on leading television channels and Google, and the Ministry of Tourism organises Bharat Parv as part of the Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations to promote national integrity and showcase cultural and culinary diversity.

North-East

➤ The Ministry of Tourism is promoting the North-East region of India through media campaigns and a documentary series.

➤ It has two major plan schemes, Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive, for development of tourism infrastructure, including historical places and heritage cities.

Dekho Apna Desh

➤ The Ministry of Tourism launched the 'DekhoApna Desh' initiative in January 2020 to create awareness and encourage citizens to travel within the country.

➤ To do this, the Ministry organised a series of Webinars and launched an online Dekho Apna Desh pledge and Quiz on the MyGov.in platform.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

➤ Swadesh Darshan Scheme aims to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability.

➤ 13 thematic circuits have been identified for development, including North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

PRASAD Scheme

➤ The Government of India launched the PRASAD scheme in 2014-15 under the Ministry of Tourism.

➤ This scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.

➤ 61 sites have been identified in 29 states/UTs for development.

➤ The growth of domestic tourism depends on pilgrimage tourism.

India Tourism Mart

➤ The India Tourism Mart 2018 was organised by the Federation of Associations in the Indian Tourism and Hospitality with the support of the Ministry of Tourism and state governments/union territory administrations in New Delhi.

➤ It provided a platform for tourism stakeholders to interact with foreign buyers under one umbrella.

Swachh Paryatan Mobile App

➤ The 'Swachh Paryatan Mobile App' operated by the Ministry of Tourism for 25 Adarsh Smarak Monuments has been made available for Windows phones and iPhone.

➤ This mobile app is being monitored by the Project Monitoring Unit of Swachh Bharat Mission in Ministry of Tourism.

➤ The Ministry has also launched an initiative for providing pre-loaded SIM cards to foreign tourists arriving in India on e-Visa.

➤ This initiative was launched in 2017 in association with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). This facility will be initially available at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (T3 Terminal), New Delhi, and later in the remaining 15 international airports.

➤ This initiative is aimed at providing connectivity to foreign tourists to enable them to stay in touch with their family and friends and contact with the 24x7 multi-lingual toll free helpline of the Ministry for any assistance and guidance during times of distress, medical emergency, etc.

Swachhata Award

➤ The Ministry of Tourism recognizes the efforts of state/UT governments to maintain clean tourist places and awards "Swachh Paryatan Sthaan" and "Best Civic Management of a Tourist Destination".

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Scientific and Technological Developments

29

INTRODUCTION

➤ The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** is the nodal agency to connect science and technology (S&T) to government verticals.

➤ It provides the largest extramural research and development support in the country to strengthen national S&T capacity and capability.

➤ This strategically important function reinforces outcomes of R&D initiatives and helps transform the S&T landscape of the country.

Department of Science and Technology

➤ The Department of Science and Technology is implementing initiatives to strengthen national science and technology capacity and capability.

➤ These initiatives include strengthening the pool of scientists and technologists for globally competitive R&D, nurturing R&D institutions and building infrastructural facilities, supporting multi-stakeholder mechanisms for partnerships, deploying technology through national missions, developing capacity of institutions and industry for technology commercialisation, providing S&T inputs to society for its socio-economic benefits, and policy formulation for this sector.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

➤ The **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy** unveiled in 2013 includes a thrust for innovations in the science and technology sector.

➤ It aims to gain global competitiveness and link the science sector to the developmental agenda of the country.

➤ As India and the world grapple with the Covid-19 crisis, a new STI Policy was initiated at this crucial juncture.

➤ To achieve an Atmanirbhar Bharat, a greater emphasis may be needed on promoting traditional knowledge systems, developing indigenous technologies and encouraging grassroots innovations.

➤ The pandemic provided a compelling opportunity for R&D institutions, academia and industry to work in unison for sharing of purpose, synergy, collaboration and cooperation.

➤ The new STIP 2020 policy aims to bring about profound changes through short-term, medium-term, and long-term mission mode projects.

➤ It aims to foster, develop, and nurture a robust system for evidence and stakeholder-driven S11 planning, information, evaluation, and policy research in India.

➤ The objective of the policy is to identify and address strengths and weaknesses of the Indian STI ecosystem to catalyze socio-economic development and make the Indian STI ecosystem globally competitive.

➤ The formulation process was designed as an inclusive and participative model with intense interconnectedness among different tracks of activities.

CAWACH on Covid-19

➤ The National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) launched the Centre for Augmenting War on Covid-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) in 2020 to support startups in the areas of diagnostics drugs, disinfectants, sanitizers, ventilators, medical equipment, PPEs, and informatics.

➤ The programme aimed to support start-ups in the areas of diagnostics drugs, disinfectants, sanitizers, ventilators, medical equipment, PPEs, and informatics.

Science and Engineering Research

➤ The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has developed several programmes and schemes to support potential scientists in frontier areas of science and engineering.

➤ These include Early Career Research Award, National Postdoctoral Fellowship, Ramanujan Fellowship, VAJRA Faculty Scheme, IMPRINT, Mathematical Research Impact Centric Support (MATRICS), International Travel Support (ITS), SERB-TETRA, SERB-SUPRA, SERBVORTEX, SERB-STAR, SERBPOWER, and SERB on Covid-19.

➤ The Department of Science and Technology and its various autonomous institutions have made significant efforts to address R&D and innovation related challenges arising out of the pandemic.

Mission Implementation Strategy

➤ The **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System (NM-ICPS)** is a comprehensive Mission aimed at establishing strong linkages between academia, industry, Government and International Organisations.

➤ It is implemented through 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) established in the top academic and national R & D institutes.

➤ **Each TIH will have four major activities**: technology development, human resource and skill development, innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem and international collaborations.

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➤ **Teachers' Associates for Research Excellence (TARE) Mobility Scheme:** The Scheme launched in 2016-17 aims to facilitate mobility of faculty members working in state universities/colleges/academic institutions nearer to the institution where they are working.

  • It provides fellowships of 5,000 per month, contingency grants of 5 Iakh per annum and overhead for a period of 3 years.

  • This will bring in latent or dormant scientific manpower and improve the potential for research and teaching.

Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems

➤ Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) are an integrated system involving sensors, communication, actuators, control, interconnected computing networks and data analytics.

➤ Government approved it in 2018 for a period of five years to be implemented by DST.

➤ Its main objectives include technology development, translational research and commercialisation, producing skilled manpower, accelerating entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem development, and giving impetus to advanced research in CPS, technology development and higher education.

Opportunities for Women Scientists

➤ Department of Science and Technology launched several initiatives for women in science under its flagship scheme namely KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing).

➤ Through this unique initiative, DST provides opportunity to women scientists who had break in their career, primarily due to family reasons, to pursue research in physical and mathematical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, earth and atmospheric sciences and engineering technology.

Attracting Young Talent

➤ The department is implementing Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge (MANAK) scheme under its flagship programme Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE).

➤ The INSPIRE awards MANAK scheme is a unique initiative to attract talented school students at an early age to study science and pursue research career apart from fostering a culture of innovation among them.

➤ INSPIRE award MANAK scheme targets ten lakh ideas from more than five lakh middle and high schools across the country every year.

➤ These selected students then participate in district, state and national level exhibitions and competitions.

➤ The participants of national level exhibition are provided mentorship at premier educational and technical institutions of the country.

➤ National Innovation Foundation, an autonomous institution of DST is the resource partner under this scheme.

State Science and Technology Programme

➤ The state science and technology programme nurtures centre-state S&T cooperation through budgetary support to State Science & Technology Councils for their S&T human resources and minor infrastructure.

➤ It also supports studies and surveys on local S&T-related issues, patent facilitation and student projects at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

➤ This support has enabled the state S&T councils to catalyze strengthening of the STI ecosystem at system level by performing activities to augment the S&T landscape.

➤ DST has initiated the setting up of Community Covid Resilience Resource Centres for better recovery and building STI capacities and capabilities against various uncertainties at community level.

Water Technology Initiative

➤ The Water Technology Initiative (WTI) was initiated in 2007 to promote R&D activities aimed at providing safe drinking water at affordable cost and in adequate quantity.

➤ It includes pilot testing of credible number of products and referencing of selected technologies to the social context of the application region.

➤ The Technology Mission on Winning, Augmentation and Renovation (WAR) for Water was launched in 2009 to undertake research-led solutions, through a coordinated approach, to come out with technological options for various water challenges in different parts of the country.

➤ The Department has developed necessary knowledge network for evolving customised technological solutions for water challenges suited to specific social context.

➤ The Department proposes to continue the initiative with national and global R&D institutions, state governments, central ministries and other stakeholders.

- The activities of WAR for Water are now integrated with Water Technology Initiative. The implementation approach is a mix of the Mission implemented by DST and initiative mounted by DST.

- This proactive India-centric solution science' endeavour aims to strengthen the R&D capacity and capability to develop technological solutions for existing and emerging water challenges.

- Its objectives include promoting national and collaborative developmental research, developing customised solutions suited to social context, and conducting techno-economic-social analysis of technologies.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

Climate Change

- Two national missions were launched under the National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) to build S&T capacity in the area of climate change and adaptation strategies.

- In 2021-22, two new major research and development projects were supported in the area of climate resilient and sustainable agri-based systems and late quaternary climatic records.

- A project on risk assessment and mapping at district and state level was supported to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi to develop guidelines for risk assessment and hazard-specific vulnerability profiles and indices.

National Supercomputing Mission

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed supercomputers at 18 institutions with a total capacity of 24 PF, providing access to 99 institutions through NSM Phase-I and Phase-II.

- Several applications in the five major domains are being developed, with the design and manufacturing of sub-systems and assemblies being carried out.

- Indigenising supercomputing sub-systems by own designs and enabling domestic supercomputing manufacturing ecosystem are significant steps taken under NSM, making India one of the supercomputing nations in the world.

National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems

- The National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) aims to develop technology platforms to carry out research and development, translational research, product development, incubating and supporting start-ups, and commercialization in cyber-physical systems.

- It is being implemented with all Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) undertaking activities under four major categories: technology development, human resource development, entrepreneurship development, and international collaborations.

- NM-ICPS will act as an engine of growth for national initiatives in health, education, energy, environment, agriculture, strategic cum security, and industrial sectors.

Clean Energy Research Initiative

- The initiative focuses on developing national research competence to drive down the cost of clean energy through pre-competitive translational research and solution-oriented research led disruptive innovations.

- Key highlights include development of a smart electric vehicle charger with remote power control, integrated solar photo voltaic to support grid during peak hours, and production of Methanol from various input sources.

- This programme aims to include direct utilization of Methanol and DME as drop-in fuel in automobiles and fuel cell-based vehicles.

Nano Science and Technology

➤ The Nano Mission Programme was initiated in 2007 to foster, promote and develop all aspects of nano science and nano technology.

➤ It is an umbrella programme which promotes basic research and focuses on nano-technology adaptation and transfer to industry for use by masses.

➤ The support under this extends to create skilled human resources, projects related to nano-science and technology and building infrastructure of nano S&T labs at several institutes spread across the country. India's global ranking is evident through publications in SCI journals.

National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations

➤ The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) aims to nurture start-ups by scouting, supporting, and scaling innovations.

➤ Key stakeholders include the central government, state governments, academic and R&D institutions, mentors, financial institutions, angel investors, venture capitalists, and private sectors.

Autonomous Bodies

➤ Twenty-six autonomous institutes administered by DST were established under the Societies Registration Act, Indian Trust Act or by enactment of Act by Parliament.

➤ Most research institutions in the DST family are basic research institutions, except for **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute** for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)-Trivandrum and International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI)-Hyderabad.

➤ SCTIMST-Trivandrum is the national torchbearer in the field of indigenous biomedical device development, which has helped lower the cost of healthcare for large numbers of people.

➤ ARCI-Hyderabad has carved a special place for itself as a premier technology development and transfer organization in the area of advanced materials.

➤ These institutions have an impressive portfolio of research publications and awards and honours earned by their scientists and their produce.

Science and Engineering Research Board

➤ The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) is a statutory body established under an Act of Parliament that supports competitive basic research in all frontier areas of science and engineering.

➤ Its programmes and schemes are designed to foster a vibrant research culture by enabling synergy between academic institutions, research and development laboratories, and industry for promoting basic and translational research in all emerging areas.

Technology Development Board

➤ The Technology Development Board (TDB) has been instrumental in providing comprehensive support for technology development and commercialization.

➤ It is working to achieve a set of goals to harness and develop commercially competitive technologies for different sectors of the economy.

➤ TDB has created a benchmark in promoting new areas of innovation and is the nodal government organisation for commercializing home-grown technologies in the country.

Research for Covid - 19

➤ DST has engaged five of its laboratories for testing related activities to ramp up the Covid-19 testing capacity in the country.

- A unique type of face mask, the Tribo-E mask, was designed and developed to create enough space in front of the mouth while speaking.

- It has a design that prevents speech distortion or fogging on eye glasses due to leakage of exhaled breath.

- It also has high breathability and fabric layers that generate triboelectricity to increase the filtration efficiency without compromising the breathability (pressure drop).

Translational Research Programme

- The Translational Research Programme was launched to provide techno-legal-commercial and financial support to scientists, entrepreneurs, and business fraternity to translate research into products and processes for greater economic and societal benefits.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** was established in 1942 to address the needs of industrial research in India.

- Today, CSIR is known for its excellence in research and development and science and technology innovations.

- It has pan India presence through its network of 37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, one innovation complex, and three units.

- CSIR addresses national needs through its innovative research, strong fundamental science, industry partnerships, entrepreneurship, translation research, capacity building, and policy making.

- Various S&T domains in which CSIR has focused its R&D activities include oceanography, earth sciences, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, bio-technology, nanotechnology, mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering, and information technology.

- CSIR is the country's custodian for measurement standards and has created the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).**

- It is also a pioneer of India's intellectual property movement and is strengthening its patent portfolio to carve out global niches in select technology domains.

- CSIR joined the celebrations of India's 75th Independence through **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** and completed its 80th glorious years of service.

Survey of India

- Survey of India (501), the national survey and mapping organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, was set up in 1767.

- It has a special responsibility to ensure that the country's domain is explored and mapped suitably to provide base maps for expeditious and integrated development.

- The primary responsibility of SOI is to maintain topographical map coverage on 1:250K, 1:50K and 1:25K scales, covering the entire country.

- Surveys on 1:25K scale were taken up as national requirement keeping in mind the priorities indicated by the central/state governments and other user agencies.

- SOI has also been called upon extensively to deploy its expertise in the field of geodetic and geophysical surveys, study of seismicity and seismotectonics, glaciology, participation in Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica and projects related to digital cartography and digital photogrammetry, etc., to provide basic data to keep pace with the Science and Technology Department.

- The **Survey of India (SOI)** is responsible for creating a digital cartographic database of topographical maps on various scales.

- It also undertakes large scale surveys for various developmental projects. The Department provides support to other countries in the field of mapping, survey education, transfer of technology, and various other surveying technologies.

- The Survey Training Institute, Hyderabad is a premier institution for training in various disciplines of surveying and mapping.
- **Open Series Maps** based on UTM projection and WGS-84 datum are being published for user community.
- Defence Series Maps based on Lambert Conformal Conic Projection and WGS-84 datum are being published for defence forces.
- 501 is in the forefront of providing tidal information for the Indian Ocean. Geo-spatial data are being generated at various levels and by various agencies.
- The National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) is taking care of some specialised thematic maps required to meet the needs of the specific users.
- 501 has an online maps portal https:1on I inemaps.surveyofindia.govv.in for sharing the topographical maps/data and other
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National Spatial Reference Frame

- Sol is maintaining the **National Spatial Reference Frame (NSRF)** which consists of **Horizontal Spatial Reference Frame (HSRF)** and **Vertical Spatial Reference Frame (VSRF).**
- The modernisation of HSRF by establishment of **Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS)** Network across the country is an on-going process.
- The organisation will be providing online positioning services in near future which will enable faster planning and execution of various infrastructure development projects and other engineering and research applications.

National DAM

- National Digital Elevation Model (DEM) is another important component of foundation dataset. Sol has 10 m DEM for the entire country.
- It is in the process of generating higher resolution DEM under various projects.

Administrative Boundary Data Base

- The Administrative Boundary Data Base (ABDB) consists of national, state, district, tehsil/taluka and village level boundaries.
- Sol advises the Government of India on international boundary matters and resolves inter-state boundary disputes.
- It also maintains joint demarcation of International Boundaries with neighbouring countries.

Toponymy — Geographical Place Names

➤ Standardised Geographical Place Names including railway station names are provided by SoI after due field verification to MHA and Railway authorities.

➤ Survey of India is carrying out various projects of national importance, such as the SVAMITVA Scheme, the National Hydrology Project (NHP), and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

➤ It also has a dedicated training institute, the National Institute for Geo-informatics Science & Technology (NIGST), which provides training to departmental officers and staff, officers of central and state, and trainees from Afro-Asian countries.

➤ NIGST courses are held in high esteem by scientific departments and organisations within the country and abroad, with more than a hundred batches of different courses having been conducted by the Institute over the past four decades.

Atomic Energy

➤ The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was established in 1954 and is responsible for the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry, and basic research.

➤ It is responsible for increasing the share of nuclear power through deployment of indigenous and other proven technologies, building and operating research reactors for production of radioisotopes, developing advanced technologies such as accelerators, lasers, and encouraging transfer of technology to industry, providing support to basic research in nuclear energy and related frontier areas of science, interaction with universities and academic institutions, support to R&D projects having a bearing on DAE's programmes, and contributing to national security.

➤ It has five research centres, three industrial organisations, five public sector undertakings and three service organisations, two boards for promoting and funding extramural research in nuclear and allied fields, seven institutes of international repute, and a society that provides educational facilities to the children of DAE employees.

Nuclear Power Programme

➤ The country has 22 nuclear reactors which are providing safe, accident free and clean electricity. Since the start of commercial operation of the first nuclear power plant in 1969, a cumulative release of 670 million tonnes of CO_2 into the environment has been avoided.

➤ In the financial year of 2021-22, total nuclear electricity generated was 47,112 million units and plant load factor remained consistently above 80% for the last 3 calendar years.

➤ The share of nuclear power in the installed capacity is 1.67 per cent and the total electricity generation is about 3.16 per cent.

➤ The country's Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FB1R) has been operational since 1985 and reached its maximum designed power level in 2022.

➤ The availability of Uranium from imported and domestic sources has increased, and new uranium mines are being started at Rohil deposit in Rajasthan.

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES FOR SOCIAL BENEFITS

Healthcare

➤ Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) is the oldest and largest cancer centre in the country, providing high quality cancer care to patients regardless of socio-economic status.

➤ The National Cancer Grid (NCG) was created by Tata Memorial Centre in 2012 with the vision of creating uniform standards of cancer care across the country.

GSSCORE

➤ Seven years later, it has grown to a large network of 284 cancer centres, research institutes, patient advocacy groups, charitable organisations and professional societies, treating over 750,000 new patients annually, which is over 60% of the country's cancer burden.

Food Preservation, Water and Waste Management and Related Sectors

➤ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched the DAE Technology Incubator Project AKRUTI to demonstrate and deploy technologies developed at DAE to empower rural India.

➤ Twenty-five food irradiators have been installed in the country, while Gamma radiation-based technology and procedure for increased shelf life of potatoes and onions are being explored.

➤ DAE developed a super-absorbent polymeric hydrogel - MRIDHAMRT - using radiation technology which can soak up water about 550 times its own weight and act as a water reservoir in the soil.

➤ 45 crop varieties, including 15 in groundnut, 8 in mungbean, 5 each of pigeon pea and urad bean, 3 of mustard, 2 of soyabean and one each of cowpea, sunflower, rice and jute, have been released for commercial cultivation.

➤ The NISARGRUNA technology, developed by the Department for processing biodegradable waste, has been transferred to several private entrepreneurs for deployment and more than three hundred plants have been installed in the country.

➤ Technology for a compact biological waste water treatment system - Hybrid

International Collaborations

➤ India has signed agreements with Bangladesh and Vietnam to expand nuclear power capabilities and establish credibility as a global player.

➤ It has also participated in multilateral projects such as ITER and other mega science projects, such as CERN, LIGO, SKA, TMT, FAIR, INO, and Fermi Lab Collaboration.

Nomi Bhabha National Institute

➤ Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) is a grant-in-aid institute of the DAE that has been successful for 15 years.

➤ It has established itself as one of the best research universities in the country, encouraging research in nuclear science and technology. It was placed 14th in the 2020 NIRF exercise.

Human Resource Development

➤ DAE contributes to the enrichment of knowledge by pursuing basic research in nuclear energy, interaction with universities and academic institutions, support for research and development projects, and international cooperation.

➤ TMC is also the centre for cancer education in the country, training over 100 students annually in various aspects of cancer.

Indian Space Research Organisation

➤ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the space agency of India, involved in science, engineering and technology to harvest the benefits of outer space for the country and mankind.

➤ It was previously the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), set up by the Government of India in 1962. ISRO was formed on August 15, 1969 and superseded INCOSPAR with an expanded role to harness space technology.

➤ The prime objective of ISRO / DoS is the development and application of space technology for various national needs, and has established major space systems for communication, television broadcasting

and meteorological services, resources monitoring and management, and space based navigation services.

➤ It has developed satellite launch vehicles, PSLV and GSLV, to place the satellites in the required orbits.

➤ ISRO is an organization that contributes to science and science education in the country.

➤ It has its headquarters in Bengaluru and its activities are spread across various centers and units.

➤ Launch Vehicles are built at Vikram Sarabhai Space at U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), integration and launching of satellites and launch vehicles are carried out from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, development of liquid stages including cryogenic stage is carried out at Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala and Bengaluru, sensors for communication and remote sensing satellites and application aspects of the space technology are taken up at Space Applications Centre (SAC).

➤ Ahmedabad, and Remote Sensing satellite data reception processing and dissemination is entrusted to National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad.

Indian Space Programme

➤ The Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) was established in 1962 and the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) near Thiruvananthapuram was also started.

➤ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in 1969 and the Department of Space (DOS) was established in 1972.

➤ The Space Commission formulates policies and oversees the implementation of the Indian space programme to promote the development and application of space science and technology for the socio-economic benefit of the country.

➤ Antrix Corporation, established in 1992, markets the space products and services.

Activities

➤ DoS encourage private companies and start-ups to undertake end-to-end space activities, and IN-SPACEe, an independent nodal agency, has been set up to allow private entities to use DoS owned facilities.

Bhuvan

➤ Bhuvan is a Geoportal platform of ISRO, providing services such as visualisation of multi-date, multi-platform, multi-sensor satellite data, thematic map display, query and analysis, free data downloads and products, near real time disaster services, Apps for crown sourcing and diverse geospatial applications.

➤ It has served the country to fight the Covid by hosting Covid vaccination centres, supporting NITI Aayog with Agro-Forestry Site Suitability Index Map, and facilitating Live Property Tax Mapping for Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration (CDMA).

➤ Yuktdhara is a geospatial planning portal developed for Ministry of Panchyat Raj.

Hhoonidhi Vista

➤ Bhoonidhi Vista is a data visualisation service providing full resolution mosaicked data visualization capability through WMS for ResourceSat-2/2A, Sentinel-1&2 satellites.

➤ Image processing steps such as format conversion, 8-bit conversion, image pyramid generation, geo-referencing, FCC generation and alpha channel removal are used to prepare the data.

GSLV Mk-Ill-GI Mission (Gaganyaan Programme)

➤ The launch vehicle structures of the GSLV Mk-III have been redesigned to meet the required human

rating factor. Solid motor segments were realized for a static test, and the first sea level qualification test of the HS200 igniter was completed.

➤ Three tests with a cumulative duration of 730 seconds were completed, and four short-duration tests and a long duration hot test were successfully conducted.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle

➤ SSLV is an all-solid three-stage vehicle capable of launching mini, micro or nano class satellites into 500 km planar orbit.

➤ It includes a liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) in the upper stage for precise injection.

Intellectual Property Rights

➤ ISRO has 178 active patents, 71 copyrights and 13 trademarks, 25 patent applications and 5 copyright applications filled, 34 fresh patents granted and renewed 97 patent applications under examination and 18 undergoing drafting.

First Unmanned Mission

➤ The injection parameters for the HRLV were revised from 170 X 395 to 170 X 408 km to ensure adequate propellant margin.

➤ The circularization manoeuvre is planned to be carried out in third orbit apogee instead of forth orbit to reduce the residency period of the perigee.

➤ Different types of SNAP (separation) scenarios were identified, with different sequences of operations worked out depending on the separation scenario.

➤ Mission plans are touchdown in the Indian waters under nominal and contingency scenarios.

Gaganyaan - Human Spaceflight Mission

➤ The Gaganyaan Programme is an inflexion point in India's space endeavour, creating a new vertical within ISRO and forming the Human Spaceflight Centre (HSFC).

➤ It aims to demonstrate human spaceflight to Low Earth Orbit in the short-term and lay the foundation for a sustained Indian human space exploration programme in the long run.

Space Transportation System

➤ The Indian Space Programme has made a successful transition in terms of technology acquisition and launch vehicle development.

➤ The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has become a favoured carrier for satellites of various countries due to its reliability and cost efficiency, and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with indigenous Cryogenic stage has graduated to become an operational vehicle for communication satellites.

➤ ISRO is now moving forward with the development of heavy lift launchers, reusable launch vehicles and semi-cryogenic engines to cater to different payloads, and an array of new missions, including Gaganyaan, India's human space flight mission.

Space Applications - Communication

➤ A fleet of 17 communication satellites are operating over India with transponders in C-band, Extended C-band, Ku-band, Ka/Ku band and S-band. These satellites support services such as television broadcasting, DTH television, telecommunication, VSATs, radio networking, strategic communication and societal applications.

➤ Popular users include government and strategic users, Prasar Bharati, DTH and TV operators, public sector units, private VSAT operators, banking and financial Institutions, etc.

➤ DOS/ISRO has continued to support societal programmes like Telemedicine, Tele-education and Disaster Management Support (DMS) Programmes.

Earth Observation

➤ The Indian Space Programme aims to harness space technology for national development by using earth observation, communication and navigation satellites to assess natural resources, renewable energy and wasteland/land degradation status.

➤ Techniques have been developed for crop production forecasting, potential fishing zone (PFZ) forecasting, horticulture assessment and management, crop insurance programme, irrigation potential utilisation and reservoir capacity, etc.

➤ Remote sensing inputs have been used for crop production forecasting, potential fishing zone (PFZ) forecasting, horticulture assessment and management, crop insurance programme, irrigation potential utilisation and reservoir capacity.

➤ The Disaster Management Support (DMS) Programme of ISRO provides space based inputs for the effective management of disasters in the country.

➤ The Decision Support Centre (DSC) established at National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) is engaged in monitoring of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, forest fires, etc.

➤ Daily near real time fire alerts are provided, within 30 minutes of satellite overpass, in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India (FSI).

➤ The National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) provides disaster related inputs for states/UTs with multi-scale geo-spatial database.

➤ ISRO is a signatory of the International Charter for 'Space and Major Disasters', which aims at providing a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to users affected by disasters.

➤ A scientific study to understand the effects of lockdown on environmental parameters over India, using space-borne and ground based data, has been carried out.

➤ A clear declining trend in the tropospheric NO2 concentration has been observed in the analysis, suggesting an effect of reduced anthropogenic activities owing to the lock.

Space Science and Planetary Research

➤ India's first dedicated astronomical space observatory, AstroSat, enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observation of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.

➤ It has discovered UV emission from distant galaxies, high-resolution imaging of extended UV emission from star clusters and many nearby galaxies, detection of important spectral features in x-ray sources in our galaxy, multi-wavelength coverage of activity in external galaxies and polarisation of x-rays in nearby supernova remnants.

➤ The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) is India's first inter-planetary spacecraft mission and has successfully completed six years in its orbit around Mars.

➤ The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter mission has completed two years in lunar orbit and continues to give high quality data on water-ice signatures on the lunar surface and sub-surface, surface compositional data and extract high-resolution topographic images for a variety of scientific investigations.

Capacity Building

➤ The space domain is highly risky and has a high cost of failure. The Indian space programme has achieved success due to its well-established quality standards and review system, commitment and dedication, and professionalism.

➤ Capacity building is essential to ensure the department achieves its goals, as it encompasses multiple areas of development. This has enabled the department to achieve its goals.

GSSCORE

International Cooperation

➤ ISRO is committed to international cooperation in order to take up new scientific and technological challenges, define international frameworks for exploitation and utilisation of outer space for peaceful purposes, refine space policies, and build and strengthen existing ties between the countries.

Space Commerce

➤ The New Space India Limited (NSIL) was created in 2019 to provide products and services from the Indian Space Programme to Indian and global customers.

➤ Its mandate includes building and in-orbit delivery of different types and classes of satellites, owning and operating satellites for providing space based communication and earth observation services, building launch vehicles through Indian industry, providing launch service to Indian and international customers, and technology transfer to Indian industry.

➤ NSIL provides building and in-orbit delivery of satellites and subsystems for domestic and international customers. It also provides space launch services through ISRO's launch vehicles.

➤ NSIL plays a key role in space based services using communication and EO satellites for applications such as TV, DTH, VSAT, Broadband connectivity, communication backhaul, In-flight services, etc.

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

➤ The Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) was established in 2007 to provide high quality education at undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels in space sciences, technology and application.

Earth Sciences

➤ The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is responsible for providing weather, climate, ocean, coastal state, hydrological and seismological services.

➤ These services include forecasts and warnings for various natural disasters, and are being used by different agencies and state governments to save human lives and minimise damages due to natural disasters.

➤ The major missions of the Ministry include weather and climate services, ocean services, ocean resources, survey and technology development, seismological services, and polar science.

➤ MoES' research and development activities are conducted under five umbrella schemes: ACROSS, O-SMART, PACER, SAGE, REACHOUT, and DOM.

➤ The policies and programmes of the Ministry are pursued through its ten institutes, each with a mandate to conduct research and development in a specific area of earth system.

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Earth System Science Organisation

➤ The Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO) is an executive arm of the MoES for its policies and programmes.

➤ It provides overall direction for the centres/units and reviews the implementation of the programmes.

➤ It has four major branches of earth sciences: ocean science and technology, atmospheric and climate science, geoscience and technology, and polar science and cryosphere.

➤ The ESSO is primarily aimed to develop and improve capability to forecast weather, climate and hazard related phenomena for social, economic and environmental benefits.

- It is also responsible for developing technology towards the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in a sustainable way for the socio-economic benefit of the society.
- One of the mandates of ESSO is also to promote research in polar science of both Antarctic and Arctic regions to understand the various phenomenon and processes of these regions on global climate and weather, in particular on the Indian Ocean.

ESSO operates through centres:

- Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE)
- National Centre of Coastal Research (NCCR)
- National Centre for Seismology (NCS)
- National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)
- India Meteorological Department (IMD)
- National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
- National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS)

Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services

- The objective of Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services (ACROSS) is to improve and provide reliable weather and climate forecasts through sustained observations and intensive research and development.
- The scheme covers areas pertaining to (but not limited to) monsoon, air quality, precipitation, climate change, weather forecasts, disaster management, agrometeorology, environmental monitoring, hydro-meteorology, water management, etc.
- A high resolution global deterministic weather prediction model was commissioned for generating operational weather forecasts at a horizontal resolution of 12 km.
- With this, MoES has attained the same capability as in USA in using high resolution weather prediction models.
- Many major improvements have been made in data assimilation for the ingestion of data from the Indian and International satellites in numerical models.
- Under the Monsoon Mission, operational dynamical model systems have been implemented for extended range and seasonal forecasts.
- For the first time, forecasts on different time-scales during the hot weather season (April to May) including heat waves were issued by the India Meteorological Department.

Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services

- The CAIPEEX programme resulted in 820 hours of airborne cloud, aerosol and rain microphysics observations over the Indian region.
- It had two main objectives: to advance research on the aerosol-cloud and precipitation interactions and to conduct cloud seeding experiments.
- A High-Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory (HACPL) was set up at Mahabaleshwar with advanced measurement facilities to observe the cloud, aerosol, precipitation and radiation parameters.
- Using the observations, the indirect effect of atmospheric particulate pollution on cloud properties and better understanding of the role of aerosol physical and chemical properties on cloud activation were established.

➤ Long-term continuous measurements of cloud, precipitation and aerosol provide a test-bed for testing/improvement of physical processes relevant to orographic convection, cloud activation and effect of aerosol on precipitation in numerical weather prediction models.

➤ IMD augmented its observational network to further improve forecast skill by commissioning the S-Band Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Goa, indigenously developed GPS-based pilot sonde at New Delhi, Drishti Runway Visibility Range (RVR)/Automatic Weather Observing System (AWOS) systems at eight airports, a new Meteorological Observatory at Meteorological Centre Amravati, and five new DWRs at Srinagar, Sonamarg, Kufri, Mukteshwar, and Jammu.

➤ These DWRs provide information on severe weather events and support disaster management authorities, and help authorities mitigate risk to pilgrims of Kailash Manasarovar and Char Dham yatra.

➤ The Meteorological Observatory at Leh was upgraded into a full-fledged Meteorological Centre in 2019.

➤ The lightning location network, which was set up over Maharashtra, has been expanded to other parts of the country with the addition of 28 additional sensors.

➤ A mobile App named DAMINI was launched to disseminate information on lightning to the public.

Flood Warning Systems

➤ MoES commissioned the Integrated Flood Warning System (IFWS) for Chennai and Mumbai in November 2019 and June 2020, which were handed over to the respective state governments.

➤ IMD has set up Flash Flood Guidance Services for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, which is the first-of-its-kind for South Asian countries.

Early Warning System for Cyclones

➤ The MoES issues timely warnings of tropical cyclones to minimize loss to lives and property.

➤ There are seven Cyclone Warning Centres in the country to provide cyclone alerts and warnings for the entire coastline.

➤ The accurate and timely prediction of tropical cyclones combined with fieldwork by disaster management agencies has helped save thousands of lives.

➤ There has been continuous improvement in forecast accuracy with decrease in track and landfall forecast errors and increase in skill over the last 7 years.

Air Quality-Early Warning System

➤ MoES introduced SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) to provide location specific information on air quality in near real time and its forecast up to 1-3 days in advance.

➤ A high-resolution (400 meter) Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi was developed in collaboration with the National Centre for Atmospheric Research, USA, which assimilates data from around 36 monitoring stations and satellite data on stubble burning and dust storms.

➤ It can predict extreme air pollution events in Delhi and give warnings to take necessary steps as per Graded Response Action Plan.

➤ These warning services are provided to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Understanding Delhi Winter Fog

➤ Winter Fog Experiment (WIFEX) is an observational campaign to understand the complete environment under which the fog develops, and studies its dispersion at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi for the last 6 years.

➤ Operational forecast for the fog during the winter season are issued by MoES since 2017-18.

Forecasts for Not and Cold Waves

➤ Global warming is expected to increase surface air temperatures and frequency of heat waves.

➤ To provide warnings about heat waves and associated health hazards, MoES has issued forecasts for heat waves over the country.

➤ State governments like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha have initiated state action plans based on these forecasts.

➤ MoES has also taken initiative to develop such heat wave action plans with other state governments.

➤ A Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) for short and medium range prediction at 12 km using 21 members of the model was commissioned in 2018.

➤ Improvements have been made in the Data Assimilation system for assimilation of newer observations, including Indian satellite observations.

Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science

➤ The Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (0-SMART) was put in place for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 and has now been extended to 2026.

➤ It encompasses 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as services, technology, resources, observations and science.

➤ The services rendered under it will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, such as fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, defence, shipping, ports, etc.

➤ Implementation of 0-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14 and provides necessary scientific and technological background for implementation of various aspects of Blue Economy.

➤ Digital Ocean, a one-of-its-kind web-based platform for ocean data management, has been launched by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).

➤ Digital Ocean will make ocean-related data available to a wide range of users, including research institutions, operational agencies, strategic users, academia, maritime industry and policy-makers.

OCEAN SERVICES: TECHNOLOGY AND OBSERVATIONS

Potential Fishery Zone Advisories

➤ INCOIS provides Potential Fishery Zone (PFZ) advisories to 7 lakh fishermen on a daily basis, disseminated in smart map and text form.

➤ These services help fishermen earn more income due to more catch and reduce fuel expenses.

➤ INCOIS improved species-specific advisories for Tuna with more parameters and 3-D advisories by developing satellite-based dissemination mechanisms NAVIC and GEMINI in partnership with the Indian Space Research Organization and Airports Authority of India.

Open Sea Cage Culture

➤ Large scale fish production through mariculture is a viable alternative to cope with the increasing demand for fish proteins.

➤ An open sea cage culture mooring system was designed and developed for commercially important marine finfishes suitable for Indian sea conditions.

➤ A cage with multipoint mooring was deployed and tested in the North Bay (Andaman Island), Olaikuda (Tamil Nadu) and Kothachathram (Andhra Pradesh).

➤ An innovative concept of rearing post larval fishes in a specially designed nursery cage in open sea was developed and geospatial analysis of Indian Seas was conducted to estimate the fish farming potential of the country.

Ocean State Forecasts

➤ Ocean state forecasts have improved significantly in the country, including before and during the launch of the ISRO Re-usable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstration.

➤ These forecasts have been extended to two other Indian Ocean Rim countries, Sri Lanka and Seychelles, under the umbrella of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES).

➤ INCOIS has also expanded the Ocean forecasting System for the Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Port Moresby, and Papua New Guinea.

Tsunami Warning System

➤ The Indian Tsunami Warning System, established by MoES at INCOIS, Hyderabad, has been recognized as the regional tsunami service provider for the Indian Ocean region by UNESCO.

➤ It is equipped to issue warnings within ten minutes of occurrence of earthquakes, and the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) keeps watch of all tsunamigenic earthquakes in and around the Indian Ocean.

➤ INCOIS established 31 Global Navigation Satellite (GNSS) Strong Motion Accelerometer Stations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to estimate quick and accurate earthquake parameters from near source earthquakes.

➤ MoES has also mapped the highly vulnerable coastal regions to natural disasters such as tsunami and storm surges using 3D GIS technique.

Oil-Spill Advisory

➤ INCOIS issues oil spill advisories whenever oil spill occurs over the Indian Ocean.

➤ The Indian Coast Guard and other agencies use these predictions to plan and execute the clean-up operations.

➤ Oil spill advisory services were extended to several spills during last seven years helping coastal population to take adequate preparatory measures.

Search and Rescue Aid Tool

➤ INCOIS developed SARAT to track objects/persons lost at sea. It uses predicted ocean currents and surface winds to estimate probabilities of finding the missing object/person.

➤ A mobile App is also available to assist with searching over 64 types of missing objects in the ocean.

Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System

➤ Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS) is an innovative impact-based advisory and forecast service system for small vessels operating in the Indian coastal waters.

➤ It warns users against potential zones where vessel overturning can take place, ten days in advance.

Swell Surge Forecast System

➤ Swell surge forecast system is an innovative system designed to predict Kallak kadal or swell surge happening along the Indian coast, particularly west coast.

➤ It predicts swell surges and issues warnings at least 2-3 days in advance, helping local authorities for contingency plans to reduce damage.

Coral Reef Monitoring At Gulf of Mannar

➤ NCCR has been monitoring coral reef health at Gulf of Mannar since 2018.

➤ It has published two technical reports to provide valuable information about the present health status, statistical update, threats, and recommendations for long-term conservation.

Algal gloom Information Service

➤ The increasing frequency of algal bloom events is a major concern due to their ill effects on fisheries, marine ecosystem and marine water quality.

➤ To detect and monitor these events, I NCOIS has developed a service called Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS), launched in 2020.

➤ The targeted users of this service were fishermen, fishery resource managers, marine aquaculture planners, researchers, ecologists, and environmentalists.

Ocean Survey

➤ India has been granted a license to explore 10,000 km2 of the area by the International Seabed Authority for exploring hydrothermal systems in the mid-oceanic regions of the Indian Ocean.

➤ Extensive survey and sampling operations have been carried out in parts of Central Indian Ridge (CIR) and southwest Indian Ridge (SWIR).

➤ The survey has provided convincing evidence of hydrothermal plume activity in more than a dozen locations, including the recovery of sulphide samples.

➤ Marine resources available in the Indian Ocean are scientifically documented, which envisages exploration of marine hotspots, inventorying and documenting its biodiversity.

➤ A comprehensive database containing 1,20,000 records of more than 6500 marine species has been created with complete details of location, depth, taxonomic classification and hydrographic data at CMLRE.

➤ The Andaman and Nicobar shelf system has been identified as one of the 'hot spot' for benthic fauna.

Desalination Plants for Potable Water

➤ NIOT and MoES are establishing Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plants in Lakshadweep with the help of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Lakshadweep administration.

➤ Five more desalination plants are being set up in the islands of Amini, Androth, Chetlat, Kadamat, and Kiltan to improve the quality of life of local dwellers.

Mapping Coastal Water Quality Index

➤ A Coastal Water Quality Index (CWQI) map was prepared for the Andhra Pradesh coast based on the results obtained from the cruise conducted in 2020.

➤ Shoreline change rate for the entire Indian coast is analysed using Indian satellite images and field measurements.

Restoring Lost Beaches

➤ NIOT has restored the lost beaches in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu using innovative coastal engineering techniques.

➤ It designed and implemented a submerged offshore dyke using sand filled geo-synthetic tubes for beach restoration at Kadalur fishing villages, Tamil Nadu.

GSSCORE

➤ This was first of such demonstration in open coastal waters resulting in coastal stakeholders requesting for such innovative solutions.

Polar and Cryosphere Research

➤ Polar and Cryosphere Research (PACER) is being implemented by the National Centre for Antartic and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.

➤ It has four sub-schemes: Antarctic, Arctic, Southern Ocean, and Cryosphere and Climate Programmes.

➤ The main objectives of PACER are to ensure the country's strategic and scientific interests in the Polar Region and the surrounding oceans, continue long-term frontline scientific programmes in Antarctica, Arctic, Himalaya and Southern Ocean, plan, coordinate and implement annual Indian Antarctic, Arctic, Himalayan, Southern Ocean expeditions, maintain Indian Research bases at Antarctica, Arctic and Himalaya, and establish state-of-the-art polar research and logistic facilities in the country.

➤ India was reelected as an Observer in the Arctic Council and is setting up another observatory in Arctic in collaboration with Canada.

➤ In 2022, India released the Arctic policy and enacted the Antarctic bill, establishing a strong scientific and knowledge foothold and expanding international ties and cooperation in polar regions.

Seismology and Geoscience Research (SAGE)

➤ The national seismological network, consisting of 115 observatories, has been functioning smoothly.

➤ Information pertaining to significant earthquake events has been transmitted to all government agencies and posted on the website.

➤ Scientific deep drilling in Koyna in 2016 is aimed at setting up borehole observatories at depth to measure the in-situ physical properties of rocks, pore-fluid pressure, hydrological parameters, temperature and other parameters of an intra-plate, active fault zone in the near field of earthquakes.

➤ This will lead to a better understanding of the mechanics of faulting, physics of reservoir triggered earthquakes and preparing a predictive model.

Research, Education and Training Outreach Programme

➤ The Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT) Programme provides support to academic/research organisations in various sectors of earth system sciences, including technology development.

➤ Its main objectives are to support R&D activities in the thrust areas of different components of earth system sciences and to provide training and create awareness amongst the public, students, academicians and user communities about the various fields of earth system science.

Biotechnology

➤ The government set up the National Biotechnology Board (NBTB) in 1982 to promote activities in biotechnology.

➤ In 1986, it was upgraded to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

➤ This provided an impetus to biotechnology and the Department conceived programmes and formulated integrated programmes.

➤ DBT has grown from a nascent sector to a major biotech destination, making outstanding achievements in the growth and application of bio-resources and environment.

➤ India has the second-highest number of USFDA approved plants, after the USA.

➤ DBT promotes excellence and innovation for discovery, early and late stage translational research in various sectors, including agriculture, affordable healthcare and medical technology, food and

nutritional security, animal biotechnology, environmental safety, clean energy and bio-fuel, and bio-manufacturing.

➤ It also supports innovation-driven research in biotechnology and modern biology, building capacity in cutting edge areas of research, developing infrastructure, and building new national and international partnerships.

➤ The DBT has formulated the National Biotechnology Development Strategy in consultation with stakeholders such as scientists, educators, policy makers, leaders of industry and civil society, voluntary and non-governmental organisations, regulators and international experts.

➤ The strategy emphasizes the need for building a skilled workforce and leadership through specialized training programmes, creating new career options for students, supporting faculty improvement programmes, establishing core facilities and instrumentation, strengthening core capacities in existing institutes, establishing new theme-based institutes and creation of data centres and repositories.

➤ It also includes enhancement of research opportunities, promoting multi-disciplinary research in biology, attracting non-biologists, encouraging emerging technologies, nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship, providing support for business incubation, technology validation and scale-up infrastructure, promoting public-private partnership, and setting up of bio-clusters.

➤ Also from the time the Covid-19 struck in 2019-20, the DBT has been engaged relentlessly to contribute to mitigate the crisis.

PROGRAMMES

GARBH-Ini

➤ The GARBH-Ini (Interdisplinary Group for Advanced Research on Birth outcomes) is a unique pregnancy cohort of 8000 women, established using an interdisciplinary approach.

➤ It comprises a bio-repository (Rakshita) of well characterized clinical phenotypes with 1 million bio-specimens and 600,000 ultrasound images.

➤ It is recognized as one of the five Atal Anusandhan Biotech Missions of the Department.

Ind-CEPI Mission

➤ The Ind-CEPI Mission entitled Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development: Support of Indian vaccine development aligned with the global initiative of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is another initiative under implementation since 2019, for supporting vaccine development for emerging epidemics.

➤ The initiative is being implemented as part of the Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission-Undertaking Nationally Relevant Technology Innovation (UNaTI).

National Bio-Pharma Mission

➤ The National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is an industry-academia collaborative mission implemented by GARBH-Ini BIRAC, DBT.

➤ It focuses on providing affordable and accessible vaccines and fostering a vibrant research and translation ecosystem to deliver Make-in-India solutions to societal challenges.

Mission Covid Suraksha

➤ The Indian Covid-19 Vaccine Development Mission (Mission Covid Suraksha) was launched as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 stimulus package to promote research and development of Indian Covid-19 vaccines.

➤ It is led by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

GSSCORE

➤ It is supporting the development of 04 vaccine candidates in advanced clinical development, preclinical stage of development, pan-India 19 clinical trial sites, 06 facilities for immunogenicity assays and 05 facilities for animal challenge studies.

Mission Antimicrobial Resistance

➤ The Department launched an ambitious "Mission Programme on Antimicrobial Resistance" in 2018-2019 to develop indigenous and cost-effective therapies against AMR, categorize AMR priority list, establish bio-repository, and develop rapid and cost-effective diagnostic kits.

Nanobiotechnology

➤ The DBT's Nanobiotechnology programme has supported over 300 projects since its inception in 2007.

➤ These projects have delivered important products/leads in drug delivery, therapeutics and drug development, as well as clothing and masks to prevent pesticide exposure in farmers during spraying of pesticides.

Bio-design

➤ The Bio-design programme is a flagship project to promote the development of indigenous affordable medical technologies and create an ecosystem for Med-Tech innovations and entrepreneurship.

➤ **Four bio-design centres have been established:**

- School of International Biodesign

- Centre for Bio-design and in-vitro Diagnostics

- Bio-design and Bioengineering Initiative at IISc Bengaluru

- Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre at IIT Madras, Chennai.

Autonomous institutions

➤ DBT is a visionary in biotech research and promotion, having established 16 autonomous institutes for pursuing research in various disciplines of biotechnology.

➤ Over 80 technologies have been developed under the efforts of the institutes, many of which have been commercialised through technology transfer.

➤ The National Institute of Immunology (NII) in New Delhi has also expanded scientific programmes in a multi-investigators driven mode to address challenging questions in biology for improvement of healthcare.

➤ It also promotes state-of-the-art teaching and training facilities in advanced biological sciences using an inter-disciplinary approach.

➤ NCCS, Pune has taken initiatives to nurture young scientific talent and research scholars into its Ph.D. programme in structural biology, stem cell biology, deciphering the role of RNA in biological control processes, and the cellular and molecular basis of memory.

➤ CDFD, Hyderabad is well equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation and computing infrastructure to facilitate working in frontier areas of research in life sciences.

➤ The major areas of research in the institute are centred around cell signalling, transcription, structural biology, computational biology and bioinformatics, immunology, genetics and molecular pathogenesis.

➤ The Institute of Life Sciences OM, Bhubaneswar focuses on infectious disease biology, gene function and regulation and translational research.

➤ It has state-of-the-art infrastructural facilities for cutting-edge multi-disciplinary research in frontier areas of life sciences.

- The National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar focuses on inter-disciplinary research and teaching on epilepsy and brain mapping.

- The National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), Delhi focuses on research on understanding the structure, expression and function of genes along with arrangement of genes on plant genomes and manipulation of plant genes/genomes to breed improved varieties of food and industrial crops for high yields and better quality products.

- It is making attempts to translate some of the technologies developed through basic research activities for their application in agriculture.

- The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) in Thiruvananthapuram is working on research programmes on chronic disease biology, tropical disease biology and disease biotechnology.

- The Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) in Imphal is involved in conservation and sustainable utilisation of bio-resources for the socio-economic development of the north-eastern region.

- The Centre of Innovative and Applied Bio-processing (CIA6) in Mohali is focusing on secondary agriculture, and catalyzing research, innovations and knowledge translation for production of secondary agricultural bio-products.

- The National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) in Kalyani is focused on accelerating genomics for health and disease and discovering genomic evidence that underpins disease and health-related traits.

- The Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) in Faridabad provides world-class education, training and conducts innovative research to create high quality human resource in disciplinary and inter-disciplinary areas of biotechnology.

- The Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad is working on integrated approach in the field of medicine, science, engineering and technology into translational knowledge and making biomedical innovations accessible to public health.

- The National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) in Hyderabad has taken initiatives to develop new tools for diagnosing and preventing infectious diseases.

- The Institute of Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem) in Bengaluru has attracted outstanding investigators who have initiated theme driven programmes.

- The National Agri Food Biotechnology Centre (NABI) in Mohali is engaged in research programmes and technologies to make Indian agriculture and food industry more innovation-driven, remunerative and sustainable.

- The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in Delhi is collaborating with scientists from all over the world to develop new drugs against malaria and micro RNAs in plant development and stress management.

- Research areas include malaria, virology, immunology, recombinant gene products, structural and computational biology, plant molecular biology, insect resistance, plant transformation and synthetic biology.

Industrial and Entrepreneurship Development

- Under Industrial and Entrepreneurship Development schemes, the Department supported translational research and public private partnership programme including bio-incubators and biotech parks.

Biotechnology Parks and Incubators

- The Department of Biotechnology promotes biotech research and helps to translate research into products and services.

- It has established biotechnology parks and incubators in partnership with state governments/ state government organisations/central government organisations to facilitate biotech product development, entrepreneurship, research and innovation.

GSSCORE

➤ The Bangalore Life Science Cluster for Multi-scale Basic and Applied Research in Biological Sciences (B-Life) promotes research and technology development through the generation of ideas, sharing resources and infrastructure among the partnering institutes.

➤ The clusters are engaged in the establishment of an innovative institutional model for cutting-edge scientific research, using existing centres of excellence to develop new centres with challenging mandates.

➤ The NCR Biotech Science Cluster is established by five autonomous institutes of DBT to support discovery-driven research in biology and novel technologies, and facilitate public-private partnerships through biotech business incubators and parks.

➤ It creates a network with potential constituent institutions to accelerate discoveries.

Public Sector Undertakings

➤ The Department has promoted new industry-academia interface and is encouraging strategic research and innovation capabilities of the Indian biotech industry, particularly start-ups and SMEs.

➤ Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has been set up to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, promote affordable innovation in key social sectors, empower start-ups and small and medium enterprises, contribute through partners for capability enhancement and diffusion of innovation, enable commercialisation of discovery and ensure global competitiveness of Indian enterprises.

➤ The Biotech Ignition Grant (BIG) scheme is encouraging young investigators for entrepreneurial and managerial development of SMEs in biotechnology through incubators.

➤ The Department has two **PSUs**:

• Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL)

• Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

➤ BIBCOL manufactures and produces pharmaceutical products such as Oral Polio Vaccines (OPV Vaccine), zinc tablet and diarrhea, Management kit.

➤ BIRAC is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, public sector enterprise set up to strengthen and empower the emerging biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation.

➤ Its mission is to save the lives of millions of children from avoidable disability.

➤ BIRAC is a new industry-academic interface that provides access to risk capital, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes to bring innovation excellence to biotech firms and make them globally competitive.

➤ It has initiated several schemes, networks and platforms to bridge the existing gaps in innovation research and facilitate novel, high-quality affordable products development through cutting edge technologies.

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Youth Affairs and Sports

INTRODUCTION

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** was bifurcated into two departments in 2008-

➤ Department of Youth Affairs

➤ Department of Sports

Youth Affairs

➤ Given India's largest youth population in the world, the **Department of Youth Affairs** pursues the twin objectives of personality development and nation building.

➤ Adolescents are an important segment of the youth, and other Ministries/Departments, state governments, and other stakeholders are also working to support youth development.

➤ The Department of Youth Affairs acts as a facilitator and catalytic agent for youth development, focusing on topics such as youth affairs/youth policy, voluntary youth organisations, Commonwealth Youth Programme and United Nations Volunteers, youth welfare activities, National Youth Festival, assistance to scouting and guiding organisations, National Youth Awards, and exchange of youth delegations with foreign countries.

National Youth Policy

➤ The National Youth Policy, 2014 proposes a holistic vision for the youth, which is to empower them to achieve their full potential and enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations.

➤ To achieve this vision, the NYP-2014 identifies five clearly defined objectives and priority areas under each of them.

➤ These objectives include creating a productive workforce, developing a strong and healthy generation, instilling social values, facilitating participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance, and supporting youth at risk and creating equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged and marginalised youth.

Schemes for Youth

➤ The Department of Youth Affairs operates a number of schemes for development and empowerment of youth.

➤ The Department undertook a comprehensive exercise to re-structure/ consolidate all the schemes, which are now being operated by Department of Youth Affairs, into 3 flagship schemes as follows:

S. No.	Names of Old Schemes IMF	Names of New Schemes
1.	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan INYKS)	Merged into a new 'umbrella' Scheme called "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)"
2.	National Youth Corps (NYC)	
3.	National Programme for Youth & Adolescent Development (NPYAD)	
4.	International Cooperation	
5.	Youth Hostels (YH)	
6.	Assistance to Scouting & Guiding Organisations	
7.	National Discipline Scheme (NDS)	
8.	National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP)	
9.	National Service Scheme (NSS)	National Service Scheme (NSS)
10.	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)

RASHTRIYA YUVA SASHAKTIKARAN KARYAKRAM

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

➤ Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) is one of the largest youth organisations in the world.

➤ It has presence in 623 districts through NYKs and focuses on literacy and education, health and family welfare, sanitation and cleanliness, environment conservation, awareness on social issues, women empowerment, rural development, skill development and self-employment, entrepreneurship development, civic education, disaster relief and rehabilitation.

➤ The youth associated with NYKS are socially aware and motivated and are inclined towards social development work through voluntary efforts.

National Youth Corps

➤ The Scheme of National Youth Corps (NYC) was launched in 2010-11 and is being implemented through NYKS.

➤ It aims to set up a group of disciplined and dedicated youth who have the inclination and spirit to engage in nation-building, facilitate inclusive growth, act as group modulators and peer group educators, and act as role models for the younger cohort.

➤ Youth in the age group of 18-25 are engaged as volunteers to serve up to 2 years in nation-building activities at block level.

National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

➤ The National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) was introduced in 2008 and provides financial assistance to government/non-government organisations for taking up youth and adolescent activities.

➤ It has five components: youth leadership and personality development training, promotion of national integration, promotion of adventure, development and empowerment of adolescents, and technical and resource development.

➤ A National Youth Festival is organised in January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, which is celebrated as National Youth Day.

International Cooperation

➤ The Department seeks to create an international perspective among youth by collaborating with other countries and international agencies/organisations on various youth issues.

➤ It also collaborates with UN Agencies such as UNV/UNN DP and CYP on youth related issues.

Youth Hostels

➤ Youth Hostels are built by the central and state governments to promote youth travel and experience the country's cultural heritage.

➤ They are located in areas of historical and cultural value, educational centres, and tourist destinations, providing good accommodation at reasonable rates.

➤ The central government bears the cost of construction, while the state governments provide fully developed land with water supply, electricity connection, and approach roads.

Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisation

➤ The Department provides assistance to scouting and guiding organisations to promote the scouts and guides movement in the country.

➤ This is an international movement aimed at building character, confidence, idealism and patriotism among young boys and girls.

➤ Financial assistance is provided for various programmes such as organisation of training camps, skill development programmes, holding of jamborees, and activities related to adult literacy, environment conservation, community service, health awareness and promotion of hygiene and sanitation.

National Young Leaders Programme

➤ The National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP) was launched in 2014 to develop leadership qualities among the youth and contribute to the nation-building process.

➤ It aims to motivate the youth to strive for excellence in their respective fields and bring them to the forefront of the development process.

➤ The programme beneficiaries are the youth in the agegroup of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014.

➤ The scheme has four components: Neighbourhood Youth Parliament (NYP), Youth for Development Programme (YFDP), National Young Leaders Awards (NYLA), National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) and National Youth Development Fund (NYDF).

National Service Scheme

➤ The National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the youth through voluntary community service.

➤ The motto of the NSS is "not me, but you". The NSS aims to develop the following qualities/ competencies among the volunteers:

• To understand the community in which the N5S volunteers work and to understand themselves in relation to their community

• To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem-Solving exercise

- To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility; to utilise their knowledge in finding practical solutions
- To individual and community problems
- To gain skills in mobilising community participation; and to practise national integration and social harmony.

➤ The NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'.

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

➤ The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) is an 'Institute of National Importance' under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

➤ It has been conferred the status of 'Deemed to be University' under the 'De-novo' category in 2008.

➤ The Institute functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at postgraduate level, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development, and conducting training/capacity building programmes in youth development.

➤ It also functions as a think-tank of the Ministry and premier organisation of youth related activities in the country, working in close cooperation with the NSS, NYKS and other youth organisations in the country.

➤ It has a wide network with various organisations working for the welfare and development of young people and also serves as a mentor.

Sports

➤ Sports and games are a major contributor to mankind's holistic development.

➤ They are a platform for entertainment, health and well-being, and create harmony within the community.

➤ The use of modern infrastructure, equipment and advanced scientific support has changed the landscape of elite sports worldwide.

➤ The Government of India has taken several initiatives to provide necessary assistance to sportspersons through state-of-art training and international competition exposure backed up with scientific and equipment support.

India at the Commonwealth Games

➤ The Commonwealth Games 2022 were held in Birmingham, United Kingdom from 28th July till 8th August 2022.

➤ India bagged 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals in various disciplines. A total of 215 athletes participated in 141 events across 19 sporting disciplines, where India finished fourth.

National Games 2022

➤ The 36th National Games were held from September 29 to October 12, 2022 across six cities in Gujarat.

➤ Almost 7,000 athletes from 28 states, eight union territories and Services, the sports team of the Indian Armed Forces, competed for medals in 36 different categories.

➤ Services romped home with the coveted Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy for the fourth time in succession.

➤ Maharashtra bagged the Indian Olympic Association's Best State trophy for finishing second in the medals tally with the most medals amongst states and UTs.

- The Best Male Athlete went to Sajan Prakash (5 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze) who pipped Karnataka's Srihari Nataraj (5 gold and 2 silver).

- Karnataka's Hashika Ramchandra, barely 14 years old, appropriated the Best Female Athlete crown with 6 gold and 1 bronze.

- Gujarat's 10-year-old Shauryajit Khaire (Mallakhamb) emerged as the 'viral star' of the Games, becoming its youngest medal winner. Sporting powerhouses Maharashtra and Haryana engaged.

National Sports Policy

- The National Sports Policy, 2001 aims to broaden and promote excellence in sports by providing upgradation and development of infrastructure, support to national sports federations and other bodies, strengthening scientific and coaching support, incentives to promote sports, enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth, involvement of the corporate sector in sports promotion, and promotion of sports mindedness among the public.

Sports Authority of India

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established in 1984 to ensure effective maintenance and optimum utilisation of the sports infrastructure built in Delhi during ASIAD, 1982.

- It is now the nodal agency in the country for broadbasing sports and for training of sportspersons to achieve excellence in national and international events.

- It has regional centres at Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, Sonepat, Bhopal, Imphal, Chandigarh and Lucknow.

- SAI operates various schemes at sub-junior, junior and senior levels, such as National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC), SAI Training Centres (SIC) and Special Area Games.

- It has also set up centres of excellence for elite sportspersons at each of its regional centres and one at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala.

- National Sports Academies have been set up by SAI, in collaboration with the National Sports Federations to attract sports talent in the respective sports discipline in the age group of 14-25 years.

- The 'Come and Play Scheme' is a scheme introduced by the Sports Authority of India in 2010 to improve the utilisation of its five stadia for the Commonwealth Games.

- It involves modern training centres with state-of-the-art sports facilities, equipment, and qualified personnel to meet the daily requirement of the trainees.

- The designated areas in the SAI stadia were thrown open in 2011 for both imparting professional training to establish sportspersons and beginners with the objective of encouraging participation in sports and optimum utilisation of stadia.

- After the successful launch of the scheme in Delhi, SAI launched the 'Come and Play Scheme' in all its centres spread across the country from 2011 with the objective of encouraging local youth to use the sports facilities available at these centres and to impart coaching, primarily to the beginners, to encourage participation in sports.

Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education

- The Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE) was established in 1957 as a college in Gwalior, where Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi laid down her life for the country's freedom struggle.

- In 1995, it was upgraded to a "Deemed University" and offers full-time courses such as Bachelor of Physical Education (4 year degree course), Master of Physical Education (2 year course), M.Phil. in Physical Education (1 year course), and Ph.D. in Physical Education.

GSSCORE

► It also offers certificate, diploma and postgraduate courses in adventure sports, special sports, youth affairs, information technology, sports coaching, yoga and alternate therapies, sports management, and sports journalism.

► The Institute also conducts in-service training programmes in physical education for ex-army personnel, refresher/orientation course for physical education teachers in universities, colleges and schools, and attracts students from abroad.

► A North East Campus of LNIPE has also been established at Guwahati (Assam) and is functioning since 2010-11.

National Sports University

► The Government of India has decided to set up a National Sports University in Manipur to promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching.

► The University imparts Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programmes in sports coaching, sports sciences and physical education in various disciplines.

► Specialised degree programmes in various sports education and coaching disciplines are envisaged in the future.

► From the academic session 2018-19, M.Sc. (Sports Coaching) and M.A. (Sports Psychology) have been introduced.

Khelo India

► The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was implementing a centrally sponsored scheme called the Panchayat Yuva Krida our Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) from 2008-09 to 2013-14.

► This scheme aimed to create basic sports infrastructure at village and block/Panchayat levels through development and maintenance of playgrounds and mass participation in sports.

► An Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) was also introduced in 2010-11 and continued up to 2015-16.

► The PYKKA scheme provided for mid-term review and was reviewed and revamped as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA).

► A new umbrella Scheme "Khelo India" was launched during 2016-17 after merger of existing schemes Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search System Programme (NSTSSP).

► The revamped Khelo India has been evolved after a lot of deliberations with all stakeholders, including departments of sports of states and UTs.

► It has twelve components, which aim to achieve the twin objectives of the National Sports Policy 2001: broadbasing of sports and achieving excellence in sports.

► These 12 verticals include play field development, community coaching development, state level Khelo India centres, annual sports competitions, talent search and development, utilisation and creation/upgradation of sports infrastructure, support to national/regional/state sports academies, physical fitness of school-going children, sports for women, promotion of sports among persons with disabilities, sports for peace and development, and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games.

Fit India Programme

► The Fit India Movement was launched in 2019 to create awareness amongst Indians about the importance of fitness.

► To celebrate its First Anniversary, an online event was held in 2020 to launch Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols named GOALS (Goals for Active Life Style) for different age groups categorized as 05-18 years, 18-65 years and 65+ years.

PROMOTION OF EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS

Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

➤ Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) for conducting national championships and international tournaments, participation in international tournaments abroad, organising coaching camps, procuring sports equipment, engagement of foreign coaches, etc.

Scheme of Human Resources Development in Sports

➤ The Scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports was launched in 2013-14 to focus on the academic and intellectual side of sports management.

➤ It awards fellowships to deserving candidates for specialised studies at Masters' and Doctoral level, and provides financial assistance for training/seminars/conferences/workshops and short-term courses for coaches, technical and support staff at national and international levels.

National Centre for Sports Coaching

➤ The purpose of the National Centre for Sports Coaching (NCSC) under the National Institute of Sports, Patiala is to enhance sports coaching education in the country and create a comprehensive coaching development framework.

➤ Its aim is to meet the demand for high performance sports coaches and implement a long term Athlete Development Plan.

➤ The services of the coaches qualifying from NCSC will be utilized in Sports Authority of India (SAI), state governments, Sports Council, National Sports Federations (NSFs) and various sports academics and educational institutions across the country.

National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research

➤ The National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR) is being set up at the Administrative Block of the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex, Sports Authority of India New Delhi, to support high level research, education and innovation with respect to high performance of elite athletes.

➤ This central sector scheme is focused on sports science, including sports medicine.

➤ The NCSSR will provide sports science equipment to SAI's 11 National Centres of Excellence and 2 High Performance Centres at Patiala and Bengaluru.

National Sports Development Fund

➤ The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was instituted to mobilise resources from the government and non-governmental sources, including the private/corporate sector and non-resident Indians, for the promotion of sports and games in the country.

➤ To make contributions to the fund attractive, 100% exemption from income tax is available on all contributions.

➤ The funds available under NSDF are used for promotion of sports in general and specific sports disciplines, imparting special training and coaching in relevant sport disciplines, building and maintaining infrastructure, providing equipment to governmental and non-governmental organisations and individuals, and identifying problems and taking up research and development studies for providing support to excellence in sports.

Incentive Schemes for Sportspersons

➤ Various schemes to give incentives to sportspersons to take up sports are also implemented by the Ministry.

➤ Every year by way of an incentive awards are given to sports persons, institutuions of the field and coaches/trainers. The details of the awards for 2022 are available in Ch-33 General Information.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

➤ The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan Award was launched in 1991-92 to honour sportspersons and give them greater dignity and place of honour in society.

➤ It awards an amount of 7.5 lakh for the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over four years prior to the award being given.

Arjuna Award

➤ The award was instituted in 1961 and requires a sportsperson to have good performance for the previous four years at the international level with excellence for the year for which it is recommended.

➤ The awardee is given a statuette, certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of 5 lakh.

Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement

➤ This award was instituted in 2002 to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports and continue to promote it after retirement.

➤ The awardee is given a statuette, certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of 5 lakh.

Dronacharya Award

➤ This award was instituted in 1985 to honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions.

➤ The awardee is given a statuette of Guru Dronacharya, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of Z 5 lakhs.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

➤ This trophy was instituted in 1956-57. The top overall performing university in the inter-university tournaments is given the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy, which is a rolling trophy.

➤ A small replica of the MAKA Trophy is also awarded for retention by the university.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

➤ The government has instituted a new award called 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar' to recognize the contribution made to sports development by entities other than sportspersons and coaches.

➤ It has four categories: identification and nurturing of budding/young talent, encouragement to sports through corporate social responsibility, employment of sportspersons and sports welfare measures, and sports for development.

➤ The award consists of a citation and a trophy in each category, with no cash award.

Special Awards to winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches

➤ This Scheme was introduced in 1986 to encourage and motivate outstanding sportspersons and attract the younger generation to take up sports as a career.

➤ Special awards are given to sportspersons and their coaches for winning medals in recognised international sports events at prize money:

(a) Category: Open Category Sports

S. No.	Name of Event	Amount of Award Money (in Rupees)		
		Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
1.	Olympic Games (Summer & Winter)	75 lakh	50 lakh	10 lakh
2.	Asian Games	30 lakh	20 lakh	10 lakh
3.	Commonwealth Games	30 lakh	20 lakh	10 lakh
4.	World Championships or World Cup (conducted in Four Year Cycle)/AII England Championship of Badminton	40 lakh	25 lakh	15 lakh
5.	World Championships / World Cup (held once in two years)	20 lakh	14 lakh	8 lakh
6.	World Championships / World Cup (held annually)	10 lakh	7 lakh	4 lakh
7.	Asian Championships (held once in 4 years)	15 lakh	10 Iakh	5 lakh
8.	Asian Championships (held once in 2 years)	7.5 lakh	5 Iakh	2.5 Iakh
9.	Asian Championships (held annually)	3.75 lakh	2.5 Iakh	1.25 lakh
10.	Commonwealth Championships (held once in 4 years)	15 lakh	10 lakh	5 Iakh
11.	Commonwealth Championships (held once in 2 years)	7.5 lakh	5 lakh	2.5 Iakh
12.	Commonwealth Championships (held once a year)	3.75 lakh	2.5 Iakh	1.25 lakh
13.	World University Games	3.75 lakh	2.5 lakh	1.25 lakh

(b) Category: Para-Sports

S. No.	Name of Event	Amount of Award Money (in Rupees)		
		Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
1.	Paralympic Games (Summer & Winter)	75 lakh	50 lakh	30 lakh
2.	Para Asian Games	30 lakh	20 lakh	10 lakh
3.	Commonwealth Games (Para Athletes)	30 lakh	20 lakh	10 lakh
4.	IPC World Cup/ Championship (held biennially)	20 lakh	14 Iak	8 lakh
5.	IPC World Cup/ Championship (held biennially)	10 lakh	7 lakh	4 lakh

(c) Category: Blind-Sports

S. No.	Name of Event	Amount of Award Money (in Rupees)		
		Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
1.	IBSA World Championship	10 lakh	7 lakh	4 lakh

(d) Category: Sports for Deaf

S. No.	Name of Event	Amount of Award Money (in Rupees)		
		Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
1.	Medaffl Deaflympics	15 lakh	10 lakh	5 lakh

(e) Category: Special Olympics-Sports

S. No.	Name of Event	Amount of Award Money (in Rupees)		
		Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
1.	Special Olympics (Summer/Winter)	5 lakh	3 lakh	1 lakh

(f) Category: Blind Cricket World Cup

S. No.	Name of Event	Amount of Award Money (in Rupees)
1.	Blind Cricket World Cup (held in 4 years)	5 lakh

➤ Cash award is also given to coaches who have trained the medal winners for at least 180 days immediately preceding the tournament.

➤ Award money to a coach is 50 per cent of the award money given to the sportsperson coached. In case, there is more than one coach, the award money is distributed among them equally.

Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons

➤ This Scheme was launched in 1994 and provides pension for Indian citizens who have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Para-Olympics and Para-Asian Games.

➤ The rates of pension have been doubled from April 2018 and the enhanced rates are as follows:

S. No.	Category of Meritorious Sportspersons	Rate of Pension (Rupee/per month)
1.	Medallists at the Olympic Games/Para Olympic Games	20,000
2.	Gold medallists at the World Cup/World Championship*in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines	16,000

3.	Silver and Bronze medallists at the World Cup in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines	14,000
4.	Gold medallists of the Asian/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games	14,000
5.	Silver and Bronze medallists of the Asian/Commonwealth Games/ Para Asian Games	12,000

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund

➤ The National Welfare Fund for sportspersons was set up in 1982 to assist outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears living in indigent circumstances who had won glory for the country in sports.

➤ Assistance is given in the form of lumpsum financial assistance to sportspersons or their families in case of sustaining a fatal injury during training or participation in an international competition, sportspersons sustaining injury other than a fatal injury, families of sportspersons living in indigent circumstances, for medical treatment of sportspersons, and for sports promoters (referees, coaches and umpires) living in indigent circumstances.

➤ The Scheme was reviewed and revised in July 2009 and again revised in 2016.

➤ The amount of annual income for eligibility for financial assistance from the Fund has been raised from the existing 2 lakh to 4 lakh, and the scope of the Scheme has been expanded to include more sportspersons for being considered for financial assistance.

➤ Quantum of assistance from the Fund has also been substantially enhanced.

Assistance for Anti-Doping Activities

➤ Doping is the deliberate or inadvertent use of a substance or method banned by the Medical Commission of the International Olympic Committee/ World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) by sportspersons.

➤ India is no exception to this malaise, and the Government of India has become one of the members of the Foundation Board of WADA, set up with the initiative of the International Olympic Committee.

➤ This is a concerted effort to check doping in collaboration with the global anti-doping community.

National Anti-Doping Agency

➤ National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), set up in 2009, is the national organisation responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control programme in sports in the country.

➤ The Anti-Doping rules of NADA are compliant with the Anti-Doping Code of WADA.

National Dope Testing Laboratory

➤ The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) is an autonomous body under the Ministry and accredited by NABL and WADA.

➤ It has state-of-the-art facilities for both routine and research activities.

➤ It was registered in 2008 under the Registration of Society Act, 1860 and has diversified in the area of horse dope testing and proficiency testing.

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States and Union Territories

Andhra Pradesh

➤ **Historical origin:** The earliest mention of the Andhras is in **Aitereya Brahmana** (2000 BC). It indicates that the Andhras, originally an **Aryan race** living in north India, migrated to south of the Vindhyas and later mixed with non-Aryans. Regular history of Andhra Desa, according to historians, begins with 236 BC, the year of Ashoka's death.

➤ **Major dynasties: Satavahanas, Sakas, lkshvakus**, Eastern Chalukyas, and Kakatiyas ruled the Telugu country. Other dynasties that ruled over the area in succession were the kingdoms of Vijayanagar and Qutub Shahi followed by Mir Qumruddin and his successors, known as the Nizams. Gradually, from the 17th century onwards, the British annexed the territories of the Nizam and constituted the single province of Madras.

➤ **Formation:** After Independence, Telugu speaking areas were separated from the composite Madras Presidency and a new Andhra State came into being on October 1, 1953.

- With the passing of the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, there was a **merger of Hyderabad State and Andhra State**, and consequently Andhra Pradesh came into being on November 1, 1956.

- It is the **eighth largest state** in the country, having the second longest coastline of 974 km among all the states, second only to Gujarat.

➤ **Major festivals:** Ugadi, Srirama Navami, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Dasara, Deepavali, Sankranti, Mahasivarathri, Ramzan, Eid-Miladun Nabi, Christmas, Good Friday, etc.

Arunachal Pradesh

➤ **History:** During the medieval period, a number of Buddhist monuments of Mahayana tradition were constructed at **Tawang, Dirang, Kalaktang and Mechuka**. **The Tawang Monastery** of 1681 A.D. is the largest and most celebrated Buddhist monastery of the state.

➤ **Wildlife:** Arunachal Pradesh has twelve wildlife sanctuaries, one orchid sanctuary and two national parks - Mouling National Park and Namdapha National Park.

- The wildlife of the state is both rich and varied with tigers, leopards, elephants, deers, bears and apes. The Mithun (bos frontalis), found both in wild and semi-domesticated environment, has great socio-economic and religious significance for the tribal communities of the state. The state is also the happy home of the great Indian Hornbill.

➤ **Festivals:** The festivals, marked by elaborate rituals and dances, form an essential element of the socio- cultural life of the people. Some of the important festivals are Mopin of the Galos, Solung of the Adis, Losar of the Monpas, Dree of the Apatanis, Si-Donyi of the Tagins, Nyokum of Nyishis and Reh of the Idu Mishmis.

➤ **Art and Culture:** Arunachal Pradesh is a home to many tribes and sub-tribes and minor tribes with rich cultural heritage. As the state has received waves of migration from different directions in different groups, the tribal communities have achieved their heterogeneous character.

➤ **Agriculture:** An agricultural state with about 68 % of the total working population engaged in agricultural and related activities. With very few exceptions, they practice `**jhum' (shifting cultivation) on the hill slopes**.

- **Landscape:** The landscape and forests vary with changing altitude, which comprises **alpine forests, temperate and sub-tropical forests, and semi-evergreen forests.**

Assam

➤ **History and Geography:** Assam was known as **Pragjyotisha** or the **place of eastern astronomy** during the epic period and later named as **Kamrupa**. The earlier epigraphic reference to the kingdom of Kamrupa is found in the Allahabad pillar inscription of **King Samudragupta**. Kamrupa is mentioned as a **pratyanta** or frontier state outside the **Gupta Empire**, but with friendly and subordinate relation to it.

- **Hiuen Tsang**, the Chinese scholar pilgrim who visited Kamrupa in about **743 AD** on an invitation of its monarch, **Kumar Bhaskar Varman**, left a record of the kingdom he called **Kamolupa**. Kamrupa also figured is in the writings of the **Arabian historian Alberuni in the eleventh century.**

➤ **Agriculture:** Assam is blessed with rich fertile soil, plenty of rainfall and abundant water and natural resources that make it exceptionally advantageous for crop production.

- Over 70% of the populace relies on agriculture as farmers, or agricultural laborers. **Rice** is the most important crop. **Maize, rapeseed, mustard and tea** are the next most important crops.

➤ **Festivals: Bihu** is by far the most important festival of Assam. While **Rongali Bihu or Bohag Bihu**, coinciding with the Assamese New Year, is the principal Bihu, the harvest festival, known as the **Bhogali Bihu or Magh Bihu** is equally important.

- There is a third Bihu called the **Kangali Bihu or Kati Bihu**, which is solemnly observed for love and yearning, sometimes having distinct erotic overtones, with characteristically catchy and earthy tunes. The **Bodos,** the largest tribal group of the state, perform **Kherai puja**, which assumes the shape of a fair in most places. The Kherai puja is accompanied by shamanistic dance performed by female artists. **Bathow** is another important puja of the Bodos.

➤ **Tourist Centres:** Important places of tourism are **Kamakhya Temple, Umananda (Peacock Island) Temple, Navagraha (temple of nine planets), Basistha Ashram, Doul Govinda Temple, State Zoo, State Museum, Madan Kamdev Temple—a magnifi cent archeological place of interest, Saraighat Bridge, Srimata Sankaradeva Kalakshetra Science Museum, Kaziranga National Park, etc.**

Bihar

➤ **History and Geography:** The name 'Bihar' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Vihara' which means "abode". The state finds mention in the Vedas, Puranas, ancient epics, etc., and was the main scene of activities of the Buddha and **24 Jain Tirthankars.**

- **Geographical boundary:** Bihar is bound on the north by N**epal, on the east by West Bengal, on the west by Uttar Pradesh and on the south by Jharkhand.**

- **Rivers:** Bihar has a number of rivers, the most important of which is the Ganga. The other rivers are the Sone, Punpun, Falgu, Karmanasa, Durgawati, Kosi, Gandak, Ghaghara, etc.

➤ **Tourist centers:** Prominent places of interest include: Patna, Bodh Gaya, Gaya, Rajgir, Sitamarhi — the birth place of Sita, Barabar Caves, Kesaria Stupa, 100 feet tall Dev Sun Temple of Aurangabad, Jain temples, Buddlist Stupas to name the prominent ones.

Chhattisgarh

- ➤ **History and Geography:** Chhattisgarh, carved out of Madhya Pradesh, came into being in November 2000 as the 26th state of the Union. In ancient times the region was known as **Dakshin-Kausal.**

  - • **Rulers:** Between the 6th and 12th centuries **Sarabhpurias, Panduavanshi, Somvanshi, Kalchuri and Nagvanshi rulers** dominated this region.

  - • Kalchuris ruled in Chhattisgarh from 980 to 1791 AD. With the advent of the British in 1845, Raipur gained prominence instead of capital **Ratanpur.** In 1904, Sambalpur was transferred to Odisha and estates of Sarguja were transferred from Bengal to Chhattisgarh.

- ➤ **Agriculture:** Chhattisgarh is known as the **'Rice Bowl' of central India** with paddy being a dominant crop. The state is divided into three climatic zones, the northern hills, plains, and the southern plateau.

- ➤ **Mineral Resources:** The state has huge deposits of **coal, iron ore, tin ore, bauxite, limestone, dolomite, diamond, and gold,** to name the prominent ones.

Goa

- ➤ **History and Geography:** Goa, known in the bygone days as **Gomanchala, Gopakapattam, Gopakapuri, Govapuri, Gomantak**, etc. abounds in a rich historical heritage.

  - • It is situated on the western coast of the Indian peninsula. On its north runs the Terekhol river which separates Goa from Maharashtra and on the south lies north Canara district of Karnataka.

  - • On the east lie the Western Ghats and in the west the Arabian Sea. Panaji, Margao, Vasco, Mapusa and Ponda are the main towns of Goa**.**

- ➤ **Tourist Centres**

  - • Important tourist centres are Colva, Calangute, Vagator, Baga, Harmal, Anjuna and Miramar beaches; Basilica of Bom Jesus and St. Cathedral churches at Old Goa; Kavlem, Mardol, Mangeshi, Bandora Temples; Aguada, Terekhol, Chapora and Cabo de Rama Forts; Dudhsagar and Harvalem waterfalls and Mayem lake resort.

Gujarat

- ➤ **History and Geography:** Before independence, the present territories of Gujarat used to be in two parts—the British and the Princely territories.

- ➤ With the reorganisation of the states, the **Union of the States of Saurashtra** and **the Union Territory of Kachchh** along with the former British Gujarat became a part of the biggest bilingual State of **Bombay.** Gujarat was officially formed as a state in May 1960.

- ➤ **Geographical boundary:** It is situated on the west coast of India. The state is bounded by the Arabian Sea on the west, Pakistan and Rajasthan in the north and north-east respectively, Madhya Pradesh in the south-east and Maharashtra in the south.

- ➤ **Agriculture:** The state shares 5% of country's population and it shares 19.5% of national agriculture production. It harvests **cotton, groundnut, rice, bajra, maize as Kharif crops and wheat, gram, mustard, cumin as Rabi crops.** The district **Dang** has been declared as a **100% organic farming district.**

- ➤ **Industry**

  - • Gujarat has the **world's largest petroleum refining hub at Jamnagar**. The state is a global leader in processed diamonds and world's third largest producer of denim.

  - • Gujarat is also emerging as an automobile hub. The state has been ranked the highest in the second edition of **Logistics Ease Across Different States (IEADS) Index** report, 2019.

- ➤ **Tourist Centres**

  - • Major cities are Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Baroda, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Junagadh, Dholavira, Idar, Patan, Lakhota Palace, Rani-ki¬vav, Vijaynagar circuit, Gandhi Smirti are main attraction as heritage sites.

    - ◆ Gandhi circuit is developed by covering Kocharab Ashram, Gandhi Smriti, Kirti Mandir,

Rashtriyashala, Gandhi Ashram, Kaba Gandhi No Delo, National Salt Satygraha Memorial Dandi, Sardar Patel National Museum – Bardoli.

Haryana

➤ **History and Geography**

- **Mahabharata:** Replete with myths, legends and Vedic references, Haryana's past is steeped in glory. It was on the soil of Haryana that **Saint Ved Vyas** wrote the Mahabharata. It was here that the epic battle of the **Mahabharata** was fought. Being the gateway to north India, the region has been the battleground of many a war.

- **Mughal Battles:** Mughals defeated the Lodhis in the historic **battle of Panipat in 1526**. Another decisive battle was fought in 1556 at this very site, establishing the supremacy of the Mughals up to the advent of the British rule, and the rise of Delhi as the imperial capital of India.

- **Merging with Punjab province:** An adjunct to Delhi, Haryana practically remained anonymous until the uprising in 1857. After the British crushed the rebellion, they deprived the **Nawabs of Jhajjar** and **Bahadurgarh**, the **Raja of Ballabhgarh** and **Rao Tula Ram** of Rewari in Haryana region, of their territories. These were either merged with British territories or handed over to the rulers of **Patiala, Nabha and Jind**, making Haryana a part of the Punjab province.

- **State birth:** With the **reorganisation of Punjab** in November 1956, Haryana was born as a full-fledged state.

- **Geographic location:** Strategically located, the state is bounded by **Uttar Pradesh in the east, Punjab in the west, Himachal Pradesh in the north, and Rajasthan in the south.**

➤ **Agriculture**

- About 80% of the population of the state is agriculture dependent, directly or indirectly. The agriculture and allied activities contribute 18.5% to Haryana's economy.

- The main crops of Haryana are **wheat, rice, sugarcane, cotton, oilseeds, pulses, barley, maize, millet etc.**

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sanman Yojana** agriculture aid packages, procurement with minimum support price, electricity subsidy, fertilizer subsidy and crop insurance and other agriculture support schemes enhanced farming sector.

Himachal Pradesh

➤ **History and Geography**

- **Geographic distribution**: Himachal Pradesh is divided into three distinct topographical regions. These are (1) **Shiwalik Hills**; (2) **Mountains** — Lesser Himalayas, Greater Himalayas and Trans Himalayas; (3) **Valleys** - Shiwalik Dun valleys, fluvial and glacio-fluvial valleys.

- **Climate:** The state has diverse climatic conditions. Local sight factors like aspect, nearness to forest and water bodies influence the climate. The state is located roughly within the 30° North latitude, which correspond to the warm temperate zone of Mediterranean region but the high Himalayan mountainous ranges and the southwest monsoons play an important role in modifying its climate.

  ◆ The influence of altitude modifies the climate into a mountainous type, while southwest monsoon winds make it more humid than the Mediterranean type of climate.

- **State Birth:** On April 15, 1948, the Pradesh was born as a result of the integration of some 30 erstwhile Princely Hill States, twenty six Shimla Hill States and four Punjab Hill States.

➤ **Agriculture**

- Agriculture provides direct employment to about 70% of the main working population of the state.

- Income from agriculture and allied sectors accounts for nearly 13% of the total state domestic product. Out of the total geographical area, about 9.44 lakh hectares area falls under operational holding.

- The agro-climatic conditions are congenial for the production of **cash crops like seed potato, off-season vegetables and ginger.**

> ◉ **Horticulture**
>
> ➤ Himachal Pradesh is called **the 'Fruit Bowl' of the country**. Over 2.33 lakh hectare area has been brought under fruit cultivation and fruit production has reached 8.45 lakh MT.
>
> ➤ The state has favourable climatic conditions to produce a variety of fruits such as **apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot, mango, litchi, guava, strawberry and citrus fruits.**

➤ **Wildlife**

- **Fauna:** Himachal Pradesh is home to a wide spectrum of wildlife including various animals and plants. The state is home to **snow leopard, Himalayan wild yak, blue sheep, Himalayan black bear, musk deer, and Himalayan wolf.**

- **Flora:** Wild plants include several species of **meconopsis, roscoe, primula**, etc. Wild flowers like **bombax ceiba** and **bauhinia variegata** are found in the state.

➤ **Culture, Art & Festivals**

- Himachal has rich cultural heritage tracing its roots to Vedic Times. It is also known as **Dev-Bhumi**, has been the abode of many Sages. The life in villages mainly revolves around local deities. The state has preserved its rich culture and traditions throughout its development journey.

- Handicrafts and handlooms are being promoted in the state.

➤ **Jharkhand**

- **History and Geography:** The state came into being in November 2000, is the homeland of the tribals who had dreamt of a **separate state** for a long time.

   - Jharkhand is bounded by West Bengal in the east, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the west, Bihar in the north and Odisha in the south. It largely comprises forest tracks of **Chhotanagpur plateau** and **Santhal Pargana** and has distinct cultural traditions.

➤ **Agriculture:** The state has an area of 79,714 sq. km of which 18,423 sq. km is forest land. Agriculture and allied activities are the major source of Jharkhand's economy. The total cultivable land is only 38 lakh hectare.

➤ **Natural resources:** The important available minerals are **coal, iron ore, limestone, copper ore, bauxite, pyrite, china clay, kyanite, fine clay, dolomite, graphite, bentonite, soap stone, quartz sand and silica sand.**

- The nascent state has the enormous potential for exploitation of coal, mica and other minerals particularly in **Singhbhum, Bokaro, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Koderma and Dhanbad.**

➤ **Wildlife:** Jharkhand is very rich in biodiversity and is the part of the **Chhotanagpur Plateau** Province of the **Deccan Peninsula Bio-geographic Zone.**

- The forest area is 2.36 million ha which constitutes 29% of the geographical area of the state.

Karnataka

➤ **History:** Karnataka has a recorded history of more than 2,000 years. Apart from its subjection to the rule of **Nandas, Mauryas and the Satavahanas**, Karnataka came to have indigenous dynasties like the **Kadambas** of Banavasi and the Gangas from the middle of the 4th century AD.

- After Independence, the **Mysore state** was created in 1953, wherein all the Kannada dominant areas under different dispensations were unified and the enlarged Mysore state carved in 1956 and was renamed Karnataka in 1973.

➤ **Geographical boundary:** It is bounded by Goa and Maharashtra on the north; Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on the east; Tamil Nadu on the south east; and Kerala on the south.

- ➤ **Agriculture:** The state has 66% rural population and 55% of workers are agricultural labourers. The state has 60% (114 lakh ha) cultivable land and 72 per cent of the cultivable area is rainfed; only 28% is under irrigation.

  - The state has 10 agro-climatic zones. The red soil constitutes major soil type, followed by black soil.

- ➤ **Tourist Centres:** Karnataka "One State Many Worlds" is becoming a hub of tourist attraction of south India. The IT Centre in Bengaluru has received a lot of tourists in the recent past.

  - The state is known for its heritage monuments and eco-tourism destinations. The **Golden Chariot** named after the famous Stone Chariot in Hampi, a world heritage site, in southern India, travels through timeless historical heritage sites, resplendent palaces, wildlife and golden beaches.

Kerala

- ➤ **History and Geography:** Kerala was a conglomeration of chieftaincies, among which the most important were Calicut in the north and Venad in the south.

  - The era of foreign intervention began in 1498, when **Vasco da Gama landed near Calicut**. Later, the Portuguese, Dutch and the English came here for trade. By 1806, Cochin, Travancore, as well as the **Malabar Coast**, became subject states under the British Madras Presidency.

  - After independence, these provinces became politically united with the formation of the Kerala state on November 1, 1956. Lakshadweep and Mahe are part of Kerala both in terms of language and culture.

- ➤ **Agriculture:** Fertile soil and warm humid tropical climate make Kerala an ideal place for cultivation of a wide variety of crops which include coconut, rice, rubber, banana, spices, fruits, vegetables, cashew nut, tubers, coffee, tea, medicinal plants, arecanut, etc.

- ➤ **Forests:** The total forest area of the state is 11,524.149 sq.km. Even though the land area of the state is only 1.2% of the country, the forest cover is 2.30% of the national average.

- ➤ **Rivers:** Kerala is rich in water resources. There are 44 major rivers of which 41 are west flowing. Three tributaries of the river Cauvery originate here and flow eastward.

  - Periyar is the longest river in the followed by Bharathapuzha and Pampa.

- ➤ **Wildlife:** Kerala has six national parks, 18 wildlife sanctuaries and one community reserve. Natural forests here are being managed mainly for sustaining the life support systems and biodiversity conservation.

- ➤ **Art and Culture:** The artistic field comprises ancient classical art, folk art as well as modern artistic forms like the cinema.

  - The state has a number of unique performing arts. They are Koodiyattam, Kathakali, Kummattikali,Kanniyarkali, Mohiniyattam, Thullal, Thirayattam,Padayani, Koothu, Keralanatanam, and so on.

- ➤ **Tourism:** The state government announced a new tourism product - **Caravan Kerala.** The Caravan Tourism project promises the visitors safe, customized and closest-to-nature travel experience.

Madhya Pradesh

- ➤ **History and Geography**

  - Madhya Pradesh is **the second largest** Indian state in size with an area of 3,08,000 sq. km. Geographically it occupies a pivotal position in the country.

  - During the period between the beginning of the influence of Marathas and the death of **Madhoji Scindia** in 1794, Marathas were on the ascendant in Central India but later on the small states started coming into existence. These small states became the cause of perpetuation of British power in the country.

- Madhya Pradesh came into being in November 1956. It was reorganised in November 2000 to create a new Chhattisgarh state.

- It is bounded in north by Uttar Pradesh; east by Chhattisgarh; south by Maharashtra; and west by Gujarat and Rajasthan.

➤ **Economy:** The growth rate of the state has been **higher than the national GDP growth rate** in the last 10 years. In 2021-22, the economic growth rate was 19% which is the highest in the country.

- Madhya Pradesh has set a target for the contribution of the state to the country's economy of 550 billion 2025- 26.

➤ **Agriculture**

- The state posted country's highest agricultural growth rate which averaged above 20 per cent over the last four years.

- The state leads the country in production of pulses, oilseeds, soyabeen and black gram.

- The state is second in country in production of wheat, red lentils, maize and sesame. Horticulture is being promoted in a big way.

➤ **Tourist Centres**

- Perfectly preserved medieval cities, refreshing and enchanting wildlife sanctuaries and some of the holiest and most revered pilgrim centres offer to the tourist the most fulfilling experience.

- Tranquil beauty of Pachmarhi, glittering splendour of marble rocks and roaring sound of Dhuandhar Fall at Bedaghat, Kanha National Park, with its unique Barasingha, and Bandhavgarh National Park with its prehistoric caves and wildlife are some of the major attractions of the state.

- On September 2022, **Kuno National Park** welcomed eight Cheetahs from Namibia which will further boost the tourism in the state in the coming years.

Maharashtra

➤ **History and Geography:** The first well-known rulers of Maharashtra were the **Satavahanas (230 BC to 225 AD),** who were practically the **founders of Maharashtra**, and have left a plethora of literary, epigraphic, artistic, and archaeological evidence.

- They were followed by the **Vakatakas**, who established a pan-Indian empire. Under them, this area witnessed an all-sided development in the fields of learning, arts and religion. Some of the **Ajanta Caves** and **Fresco Paintings** reached their pinnacle during their rule.

- Maharashtra was in the forefront during freedom struggle and it was here that the Indian **National Congress** was born. A galaxy of leaders from Mumbai and other cities of the state led the Congress movement under the guidance of **Tilak** and then **Mahatma Gandhi**.

- In May 1960 the state was formed by bringing together all contiguous **Marathi-speaking areas**, which previously belonged to four different administrative hegemonies with Mumbai as the capital.

➤ **Agriculture:** About 53% of population depends upon agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. Over the years the sector has witnessed remarkable transformation, even though it continues to be vulnerable to the challenges posed by climate change and degradation of productive land.

- Principal crops are **rice, maize, bajra and jowar**. The state is a major producer of oil-seeds, with **soyabean** as the major oilseed crop. Sugarcane and cotton are the **primary cash crops.**

- Maharashtra has also been in the forefront of the cooperative movement. To enhance climate resilience and profitability of smallholders farming system, the project **on Climate Resilient Agriculture in Maharashtra** (PoCRA) a 6-year project is being implemented in 15 districts in partnership with the World Bank.

➤ **Industry:** The state is an industrial hub and has been contributing majorly to the growth of the national economy. The economy is mainly driven by manufacturing, finance, international trade, mass media, technology, petroleum, fashion, apparel, gems & jewellery, IT & ITES and tourism.

- Maharashtra is the leader in manufacturing with 15% of the industrial output in the country.

➤ **Tourism:** Maharashtra has **five UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, viz., Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Elephanta Island, Chhatrapati Shivaj Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) and the 2018 inscribed **Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble** of Mumbai.

Manipur

➤ **History and Geography**

- The political history of Manipur could be traced back to 33 A.D. with the coronation of **Nongda Lairen Pakhangba.** After Pakhangba, a number of kings ruled over the kingdom of Manipur. The independence and sovereignty remained uninterrupted until the Burmese invasion and occupation for around seven years in the first quarter of the 19th century (1819-1826).

- **British aftermath:** Then, Manipur came under British rule in 1891. Manipur regained its independence in 1947 and merged into Indian Union in 1950.

- **Geographic boundary**: The state is situated in the extreme north-eastern border of the country. It is bound on the east by upper Myanmar; on the north by Nagaland; on the west by Cachar district of Assam; and on the south by Chin Hills of Myanmar and Mizoram.

➤ **Agriculture:** Agriculture and allied activities are the only mainstay of the state's economy where about 70% of the population depends on it. The state has two topographical zones — valley and hills. **The valley is known as the 'Rice Bowl' of the state.**

➤ **Festivals:** Important festivals of the state are **Lai Haraoba**, Rasa Leela, Cheiraoba, Ningol Chak-Kouba, Rath¬Jatra, Eid-ul-Fitr, lmoinu lratpa, Gaan-Ngai, Lui-Ngai-Ni, Eid-ul-Zuha, Yaoshang Durga Puja, Mera Houchongba, Diwali, Kut, Christmas, etc.

➤ **Tourist centres:** Kangla, Shree Shree Govindajee Temple, Khwalramband Bazar (Ima Keithel), War Cemeteries, Shaheed Minar, Nupi Lan (Women's War) Memorial Complex, Khonghampat Orchidarium, INA Memorial (Moirang), Loktak Lake, Keibul Lamjao National Park, Sendra, Moreh, Siroy Hills, Dzuko Valley, State Museum, Kaina Tourist Home, Khongjom War Memorial Complex, India Peace Memorial (Red Hill), etc.

- The state government has taken up various initiatives to promote tourism in the state. Development **of Kangla Fort** and the **Khongjom War Memorial** was taken up as part of Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Meghalaya

➤ **History and Geography:** The **Khasis** of the **Mon-Khmer group**, the **Jaintias** who migrated from South East Asia and the **Garos** of the **Bodo family** of the **Tibeto-Burma** stock are the predominant inhabitants of the state. Linguistically, **Garo** is akin to **Bodo or Kachari**, which belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family languages.

- Meghalaya was created as an autonomous state within the state of Assam in 1970. The full-fledged state of Meghalaya came into existence in 1972. It is bound on the north and east by Assam and on the south and west by Bangladesh.

➤ **Agriculture:** Agriculture in the state contributes about 22% of the GDP and continues to be the dominant sector where about 81% of its total population depends directly or indirectly on it for their livelihood.

- Meghalaya is the leading state in ginger production and also one of the leading producers of turmeric and cashewnut.

➤ **Natural Resources:** Coal and limestone are the two major minerals found in the state. Limestone occurs in an extensive belt of approx. 200 km along the southern border of Meghalaya. The state also has **huge uranium deposits in the in West Khasi Hills district.**

➤ **Wildlife:** The state is rich in wildlife with the presence of elephants, tigers, bears, wild-boars, leopards,

golden cats, leopard cats and jungle cats, deers of various kinds, binturongs, slow loris, monkeys of different types including capped-langurs etc.

➤ **Tourist centres** Shillong, the capital city, has a number of beautiful spots including Ward's Lake, the Phan Nonglait Park, Polo Grounds, Elephant Falls etc. Umiam, lies 17 km away from Shillong and has been developed into a popular tourist centre in the state. Living root bridges of the state attract many tourists.

➤ **Festivals**

- The most common festivals are- **Pomblang Nongkrem** popularly known as the **Nongkrem Dance** is one of the most important festivals of the **Khasis**. It is five-day religious festival held annually. This festival is celebrated as a thanksgiving to the Almighty for the good harvest and to pray for peace and prosperity.

- **Beh dienkhlam** is the most important festival of the **jaintias** and is celebrated after the sowing is over. It is very popular and colourful festivals where only men, young and old, take part in the dancing to the tune of drums and flute.

Mizoram

➤ **Statehood:** Mizoram was one of the districts of Assam till 1972 when it became a union territory. With the implementation of **North-Eastern Reorganisation Act in 1972**, Mizoram became a union territory and as a sequel to the signing of the historic memorandum of settlement between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front in 1986, it was granted statehood in 1987.

➤ **Geographic boundary:** Sandwiched between Myanmar in the east and the south and Bangladesh in the west, the state occupies an area of great strategic importance in the north-eastern corner of India.

➤ **Agriculture:** About 60% of the people of the state are engaged in agricultural and allied activities. The main pattern of the agriculture followed **is jhum or shifting cultivation.**

- The practice has resulted in destruction of forests and to replace it with sustainable means of occupation, the state government has launched an innovative programme called the **New Land Use Policy** covering all the districts.

- **Horticulture** is also an important activity because of its advantageous agro-climatic condition, hilly terrain nature of the landscape and well-distributed rainfall during monsoon season.

➤ **Forests:** Mizoram has one of the **largest forest cover among the states of India as percentage of geographic area**. Tropical semi-evergreen, tropical moist deciduous, sub-tropical broad-leaved hill and subtropical pine forests are the common vegetation types found.

➤ **Festivals and tourist centres: 'Kut'** is the Mizo term for festival. Among the various cultural festivals, three, viz., Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Thalfavang Kut are the most popular.

- Aizawl, the capital, is a religious and cultural centre as well as biggest tourist attraction of the state. **Phawngpui** is the highest peak at an elevation of 2,157 m and is a trekker's delight.

Nagaland

➤ **Statehood:** At the time of independence the Naga Hills was a district in the state of Assam. Later, Naga People's Convention in 1957 proposed the formation of a separate administrative unit. The modern state of Nagaland came into existence on **1st December 1963** as the sixteenth state in the country.

➤ **Geographic boundary:** The State is bounded by Assam in the west, Myanmar in the East, Manipur in the south and Arunachal Pradesh and part of Assam in the north. Nearly all of Nagaland is mountainous.

➤ **Agriculture:** Nagaland is based on agriculture with about 70% of the population depending on it. Rice is the staple food. The major land use pattern is slash and burn cultivation locally known as **jhum**.

➤ **Natural resources and wildlife**

- Coal, limestone, nickel, cobalt, chromium, magneitite, copper, zinc, and recently discovered platinum, petroleum and natural gas are the major minerals available in Nagaland. The state also has unutilised and unexploited limestone, marble, granite, petroleum and natural gas.

- There are numerous rare and endangered species of plant and animal life in Nagaland's forests. The Blythe's Tragopan Pheasant, the state bird, and the Mithun, the state mascot, are themselves rare species in the world.

Odisha

➤ **Historical background:** Most famous old names of Odisha are Kalinga, Utkal and Odra. By the time of Mahavir and Buddha, the Kalinga region on the entire east coast acquired recognition and fame. Mauryan Emperor, Ashoka's invasion of Kalinga was an epoch-making event of ancient times of far reaching consequences.

➤ **Geographic boundary**: The state is surrounded by West Bengal on the north-east, Jharkhand on the north, Chhattisgarh and Telangana on the west and Andhra Pradesh on the south. Its diverse landscape comprises coastal plains, mountainous terrain, plateaus, verdant river valleys and slopes dotted with watersheds, springs, lakes and forest cover of varying density.

➤ **Agriculture:** Agriculture is the backbone of state's economy with about 65% population dependent on it. The state government has taken various schemes like **Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana (BKKY), Krushak Assistance for Livelihood & Income Augmentation (KALIA) Yojana** to support the farming sector.

- The state has been a pioneer to launch **Odisha Millet Mission** for promotion of climate resilient and nutritionally rich crops millets which is expected to play a decisive role in nutritional security. The flagship initiative has been extended to 142 Blocks spread over 19 districts.

➤ **Minerals:** The state is rich in natural resources with huge resources of chromite, nickel, bauxite, and manganese ores. The state accounts for the **33% of iron ore and 24% of coal of the country**.

➤ **Mission Shakti:** It is a flagship programme for the empowerment of **women self-help group members** through which more than 70 lakh women members in the state have been covered.

- To promote entrepreneurship among women the state government has collaborated with Delhi based Apparel made-ups and home furnishing sector skill council for skill development of Mission Shakti Odisha SHG members.

➤ **Fisheries:** Odisha is one of the largest fish producing states in the country. There are several initiatives by the state government like **Odisha Fishery Policy-2015, Matsya Pokhari Yojana**, adoption of new technology like bio-floc, cage culture to promote the sector.

➤ **Wildlife:** Two national parks **(Similipal and Bhitarkanika)** and 19 wildlife sanctuaries constitutes the protected area network of the state. It has taken up preservation work of 14 elephant corridors. The 480 Kms. long coastline is very rich and houses preferred habitats of marine and estuarine flora and fauna.

➤ **Art and culture, Tourism:** The state is best known for its cultural diversity. The rock cut caves of Khandagiri and Udayagiri, are some of the earliest art marvels of the state.

- The world famous Sun temples, a **UNESCO heritage site** at Konark (12th century), the temple city of Bhubaneswar (9th century) and Puri (11th century) are some other major tourist attractions. The Car Festival or the **Rath Yatra at Puri**, the grandest festival on earth as widely acclaimed, is the sojourn of the Holy Trinity. Centuries of myth and legends blend into harmony in the worship of the Lord of the Universe, Sri Jagannath.

Punjab

➤ **Historical Background:** Ancient Punjab formed part of the vast Indo-Iranian region. In later years, it saw the rise and fall of the Mauryas, Bactrians, Greeks, Sakas, Kushans and Guptas.

- **British rule:** Fifteenth and sixteenth centuries marked a period of watershed in the history of Punjab. The fight against the British rule had begun long before Mahatma Gandhi's arrival on the scene. The revolt found expression through the movement of a revivalist or reformist character.

➤ **State Birth:** The modern state of Punjab was created in 1966 when Haryana was carved out it. Situated in the north-western corner of the country, Punjab is bound on the west by Pakistan; on the north by Jammu and Kashmir; on the north-east by Himachal Pradesh; and on the south by Haryana and Rajasthan.

➤ **Agriculture:** Punjab has been a star performer in agriculture during the heydays of the Green Revolution. The state has about 4.2 million hectares of cultivable area, which is **3 % of the net area sown in the country.** But, in the last few years the sector has now reached a sort of **plateau in terms of productivity and profitability**. Horticulture is a high value segment of agriculture.

➤ **Wildlife:** The state government is undertaking innovative steps to add to the richness of its wildlife so as to maintain the ecological balance. As part of this plan, the Forest and Wildlife Preservation Department has acquired wild dog, hyena, grey pelican, and bonnet macaque from Vishakhapatnam.

Rajasthan

➤ **History and Geography:** Area wise, Rajasthan is the largest state in India. The history of Rajasthan dates back to the pre-historic times. Around 3000 and 1000 BC, it had a culture akin to that of the **Indus Valley Civilisation**.

- The present state of Rajasthan formally came into being in 1958, with Ajmer state, the Abu Road Taluka and Sunel Tappa joining it.

- The entire western flank of the state borders with Pakistan, while Punjab in north, Haryana in north-east, Uttar Pradesh in east and Madhya Pradesh in southeast and Gujarat lies in south-west of the state.

➤ **Agriculture:** Principal crops in the state are wheat, barley, jowar, millet, maize, gram, oilseeds, kharif pulses and cotton. Cultivation of vegetable and citrus fruits such as orange and malta have also picked up over last few years. Red chilies, mustard, cumin seeds and methi are commercial crops.

➤ **Minerals:** The state is one of the leading mineral-producing states in the country. Important **non-ferrous metals** are such as zinc, copper; ferromagnesian metals such as tungsten, a number of industrial minerals and different varieties of dimensional and decorative stones are found in the state.

➤ **Forests and Wildlife:** The total recorded forest area in the state is 32,862.50 sq km which is 9.6% of the geographical area.

- The state has three national parks (Ranthambore, (Sawai Madhopur), Keoladeo (Bharatpur) and Mukandra Hills (Kota, Chittorgarh); 3 tiger project (Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukandra Hills), 27 sanctuaries and 2 Ramsar sites (Keoladeo National Park) (Bharatpur) and Sambhar Lake (Jaipur) are in the state for the protection of wildlife.

➤ **Tourists Centres:** The state is culture and heritage which attracts local and international tourists. Some of the most important tourist attractions are Amber Palace, Mehrangarh Fort, City Palace of Udaipur, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal etc.

Sikkim

➤ **History:** The early history of Sikkim starts in the 13th century with the signing of a blood-brotherhood treaty between the Lepcha Chieftain Thekong Tek and Bhutia Chieftain Khye-Bumsa at Kabi Lungtsok in North Sikkim.

- The state became integral part of the Indian union in 1975 through a referendum.

➤ **Agriculture:** In the agriculture sector, the state has made immense breakthrough with the introduction of crops like baby corn, sweet corn, etc., bringing manifold increase in income to the farming community.

- Focus is on crops which can grow under moisture stress conditions and which have high global demands of the likes of buckwheat, millet and such other cereals. Horticulture is also important in the state.

➤ **Forest and Wildlife:** The state is a part of the **Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot**, one of the 4 biodiversity hotspots in India.

- Rare and globally threatened snow leopard, Tibetan argali sheep, red panda, as well as highest altitude domesticated bovid, the yak, black-necked crane and fairrieanum orchid are some of the important species found here.

➤ **Tourism**

- The state is home to the third highest mountain in the world, **Mt. Khangchendzonga** which attracts tourists from around the world.

- The state offers **adventure activities** like trekking, river rafting, bird watching, mountain biking, rock climbing, paragliding and angling as well as the mountain flights for experiencing the snow-clad mountains.

Tamil Nadu

➤ **History and Geography:** Though the history of the state dates back to antique period, it is only from the **Pallavas** we pass to recorded history. They were the originators of the famous **Dravidian style** of temple architecture.

- At the end of the 11th century, Tamil Nadu was ruled by several dynasties like the **Chalukyas**, **Cholas** and **Pandyas**. In the two centuries that followed, the imperial Cholas gained paramountcy over South India. Later the region came under the influence of Vijayanagar Empire and Deccan Sultanate.

- In the modern times, the state became part of one of the earliest settlements of British. The state is the successor to the old **Madras Presidency** which in 1901 covered the bulk of the southern peninsula. The composite Madras state was later reorganised and the present Tamil Nadu was formed.

- Tamil Nadu is bound on north by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, on west by Kerala, on east by the Bay of Bengal and on south by the Indian Ocean.

➤ **Agriculture**

- The major crops of the states are rice, cotton, groundnut, mungbean, urdbean and sugarcane etc. The state is also a producer of plantation crops are Cashew, Coffee, Tea, Rubber, Betel vine, and Areca nut, Coconut, Bamboo and Cocoa etc.

- The state has done well implementing **'Per Drop More Crop'** as a component under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana to augment the irrigation facilities. It is also a frontier state in the country in delivering agricultural information services.

➤ **Tourism:** The state has some of the most remarkable temple architecture in the country and a living tradition of music, dance, folk arts and fine arts.

- It has **UNESCO World Heritage** sites, namely, Shore Temple, Five Rathas, Arjuna's Penance - Mamallapuram, Brahadeeswarar Temple -Thanjavur, Iravatheeswarar Temple - Darasuram, Brahadeeswarar Temple -Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Nilgiri Mountain Railway.

➤ **Minerals:** The state is endowed with several industrial minerals like lignite, limestone, garnet sand, silica sand, quartz and feldspar, graphite, oil and natural gas, magnesite, iron ore, etc., and also common use minor mineral deposits including world-famous black granite and multi-colour granite deposits which enabled in setting up of cement, refractory, glass, ceramic and granite polishing industries.

Telangana

- ➤ **History and Geography**

  - The region has been ruled by dynasties such as Sathavahanas, Kakatiyas, Chalukyas, Mughals, Qutubshahis, Asafjahis. The Kakatiyas contributions to architecture are considered very impressive.

  - The modern state was a part of Andhra Pradesh as per the linguistic reorganisation of states in 1956. Sustained demand for a separate state resulted in Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2014 which paved the way for Telangana.

  - Telangana is situated on the Deccan plateau in the central stretch of the eastern seaboard of the Indian Peninsula and it drained by Krishna and Godavari rivers.

  - The state is surrounded by Maharashtra on north and north-west; Karnataka on the west; Chhattisgarh on the north-east; Odisha lies on its west; and Andhra Pradesh on the south-east.

- ➤ **Agriculture: Rice is the major food crop** of the state. Other important crops are tobacco, mango, cotton and sugarcane. The major Kharif coarse cereals maize, jowar, bajra, ragi are produced in the state.

  - Agriculture production depends upon the distribution of rainfall and irrigation projects. The influence of south-west monsoon is predominant.

- ➤ **Tourism and festivals**

  - Charminar, Salarjung Museum, Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, Thousand Pillar Temple and Fort in Warangal, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Yadagirigutta are some of the prominent tourist destinations of the state.

  - **'Bathukamma'** is a colourful and vibrant festival and this unique festival of flowers stands as a symbol of cultural identity. "Bonalu" is an annual Hindu festival celebrated in the state in which Goddess Mahakali is worshipped. Dussehra, Samakka Saarakka jaathara, Peerla Panduga, Ramzan are also largely celebrated in Telangana.

Tripura

- ➤ **History and Geography:** The history of Tripura can be learnt from Rajmala chronicles of King Tripura. There are references of Tripura even in the Mahabharata and the Puranas.

  - The state was merged with the Indian Union in 1949. Initially, a part 'C' State, it became a centrally administered territory with the Reorganisation of States in 1956. In 1972, Tripura attained the status of a full-fledged state.

  - Tripura is **strategically situated** between the river valleys of Myanmar and Bangladesh. Encircled almost on three sides by Bangladesh, it is linked with Assam and Mizoram in the north-east.

- ➤ **Art and Culture:** Tripura has a great legacy of art and culture. The impressive sculpture of Devtamura, the terracotta of Pilak and the rock sculpture of **Unakoti** has a historical significance.

  - The royal court painting of the state has given birth to two most prominent trends in art that is, the traditionalistic and modernistic. The art practice which started from royal family, gradually spread in the society.

- ➤ **Agriculture:** Tripura is primarily an agrarian economy. More than 44% of workforce directly depends on agriculture and allied activities.

  - The favourable agro-climatic conditions, fertile soil, sub-tropical climate, and abundance of rainfall of about 2,100 mm, well distributed across the season, really offer immense scope for development of horticulture sector.

- ➤ **Tourism:** Major tourist destinations such as Sepahijala, Udaipur, Chhabimura, Neermahal, Ujjyanta Palace, Dumboor Lake are targeted to be provided with better tourist facilities under Swadesh Darshan Project.

Uttarakhand

➤ **History and Geography**

- Uttarakhand finds mention in the ancient Hindu scriptures as **Kedarkhand, Manaskhand and Himavant.** It is often called the **Land of the Gods** because of its various holy places and abundant shrines.

- Uttarakhand was earlier a part of the **United Province of Agra and Awadh** which came into existence in 1902. In 1935, the name of the state was shortened to the United Province.

- In **January 1950**, the United Province was renamed as Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal remained a part of Uttar Pradesh before it was carved out in 2000. Later, in 2006 the name was changed to Uttarakhand.

- Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, the state has international boundaries with China (Tibet) in the north and Nepal in the east. On its northwest lies Himachal Pradesh while on the south is Uttar Pradesh.

➤ **Tourist Centres:** Prominent places of pilgrimage/tourist interests are Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Hemkund Sahib, Nanakmatta, etc. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra can be performed through the Kumaon region.

- The world-famous Valley of Flowers, Pindari Glacier, Roop Kund, Dayara Bugyal, Auli and hill stations like Mussoorie, Dehradun, Chakrata, Nainital, Ranikhet, Bageshwar, Bhimtal, Kausani, Lansdowne, etc., are the other tourist destinations.

Uttar Pradesh

➤ **History and Geography**

- Uttar Pradesh has very rich history and was associated with two new religions—**Jainism and Buddhism**. It was at **Sarnath** that Buddha preached his first sermon and laid the foundations of his order and it was in **Kushinagar** in Uttar Pradesh where Buddha breathed his last.

- Several centres in Uttar Pradesh like **Ayodhya, Prayag, Varanasi and Mathura** became reputed centres of learning. In the medieval period Uttar Pradesh passed under Muslim rule and led the way to new synthesis of Hindu and Islamic cultures.

- During the British rule, Agra and Oudh were merged into one province and was named United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The name was shortened to the United Provinces in 1935. In January **1950, the United Provinces was renamed as Uttar Pradesh**.

➤ **Festivals and tourist centres**

- The biggest congregation, perhaps of the world, **Kumbha Mela** is held at Prayagraj every twelfth year and **Ardh Kumbh Mela** every sixth year. **Magh Mela** is also held at Prayagraj in January when the people come in large numbers to have a dip in the holy **Sangam.**

- The state has **UNESCO World Heritage Sites—Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri** which attract millions of tourist every years.

West Bengal

➤ **History and Geography:** Bengal was referred to as **Gangaridai** by the ancient Greeks around 100 BC, meaning, speculatively, a land with the river Ganga in its heart. The first recorded independent King of Bengal was **Shashanka**, reigning around the early 7th century.

- After a period of anarchy, the **Buddhist Pala dynasty** ruled the region for 400 years, followed by a shorter region of the Hindu Sena dynasty.

- History of modern Bengal begins with the advent of Europeans, more precisely, with the English trading companies. The **Battle of Plassey** in 1757 changed the course of history when the English

first gained a strong foothold in Bengal and India as well. Bengal was partitioned in 1905 to achieve some political returns.

- The land frontiers touch Bangladesh in the east and are separated from Nepal in the west; Bhutan lies in the north-east; while Sikkim is on the north. On the west are the states of Bihar and Jharkhand, while in the south lies Odisha.

➤ **Agriculture:** Agriculture accounts for 21% of West Bengal's GDP and 57% of the state's workforce are employed in the agricultural sector.

- Paddy, jute, potato, pulses and oilseeds are the principal agricultural crops along with tea, maize, tobacco and sugarcane. Besides, different fruits, vegetables, betel vines and plantation crops are also grown here. The state is the **largest producer of rice, vegetables, pineapple, jute and cut flowers** in the country and ranks second in the production of potato, tea and honey.

➤ **Tourism and festivals**

- West Bengal is one of the most culturally diverse states in the country with the footprints of multiple civilisations left behind in the past. It boasts of different ethnicities, cultures, religions, people and languages which add to its variety.

- **Major tourism destinations are:** Dakshineswar Kali Temple, Bishnupur Terracotta Temples, Darjeeling Hill Station and Tea Gardens, Forests of Dooars, Sunderbans Mangrove Forest, heritage structures of Murshidabad, Forests of Jhargram, Chhau mask makers' village in Purulia, Patachitra Painters' village in Naya West Midnapore etc.

- The state celebrates myriad festivals like the **Durga Puja**, **Poila Baishakh (**the Bengali New Year**), Rathayatra, Dolyatra or Basanta-Ursab among others.**

Andaman and Nicobar

➤ **History and Geography:** The UT of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is situated between 6° and 14° latitude and 92° and 94° longitude.

- The climate of the Islands can be defined as **humid, tropical coastal climate.** The Islands receive rainfall from both the south-west and north-east monsoons and maximum precipitation is between May and December.

- The original inhabitants of Islands lived in the forests on hunting and fishing. There are four Negrito tribes, viz., **Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinalese in the Andaman Group of Islands and two Mongoloid tribes, viz., Nicobarese and Shompens** in the Nicobar Group of Islands.

➤ **Forests:** Many types of forests are found, such as **tropical wet evergreen**, **tropical semi-evergreen**, moist deciduous, littoral mangrove and **swamp forests**. A large variety of timbers are also found. The most valuable timbers are padauk and gurjan. These species are not found in Nicobar.

➤ **Tourism:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been recognised as an eco-friendly tourist destination. A tourist's paradise, these Islands have something very special to offer like historic **Cellular Jail, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep** and **Viper Island.**

- Islands like Swaraj Dweep where Radha Nagar beach have been awarded blue flag certification, Shaheed Dweep, Cinque Island, Jolly bouy, Little Andaman (waterfall) etc. are major tourist attractions.

Chandigarh

➤ **History and Geography**

- The city nestles in a picturesque setting in the foothills of Shivalik hills and enjoys the popular epithet the **"City Beautiful".** Representative of modern architecture and town planning, the city is a creation of the French architect, Le Corbusier.

- Chandigarh and the area surrounding it were constituted as a Union Territory on November 1, 1966. It serves as the joint capital of both Punjab and Haryana states.

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

➤ **History and Geography:** These territories were earlier ruled by the Koli chiefs who were defeated by the Hindu kings of "Jawhar" and "Ramnagar". The Marathas conquered and annexed these territories to their kingdom. Portuguese rule over the Union Territory lasted until August 2, 1954.

- Daman and Diu which was earlier a separate union territory was merged with **Dadra and Nagar Haveli in January 2020**.

- Daman is bound on the east by Gujarat, on the west by the Arabian Sea, on the north by the Kolak River and on the south by **Kalai river**. The neighbourhood district of Daman is **Valsad** in Gujarat. Diu is an island connected by two bridges. The neighbouring district of Diu is Junagarh of Gujarat.

➤ **Tourist centres**

- Important tourist places in Daman are Boni Jesus Church; Our Lady of Sea Church; Our Lady of Remedies Church; Forts of Moti Daman and Nani Daman; Jampore and Devka Beaches; Public Garden at Nani Daman and Moti Daman Jetty; Pergola Garden; Moti Daman; Amusement Park, Devka; Damanganga Tourist Complex, Kachigam; Satya Sagar Udyan; Mirasol Garden; Mirasol Water Park.

Delhi

➤ **History and Geography**

- Delhi finds prominent reference right from the times of the epic Mahabharata. Its control passed from one ruler/dynasty to another, beginning with the **Mauryas, Pallavas, Guptas** of Central India and then going on to the Turks of Afghan during the 13th to 15th centuries, and finally to the Mughals in the 16th century.

- In the latter half of the 18th century and early 19th century, British rule was established in Delhi. In 1911, Delhi became the centre of all activities after the capital was shifted from Kolkata (Calcutta).

- It was made a Union Territory in 1956. Lying in the northern part of the country, Delhi is surrounded by Haryana on all sides except the east where it borders with Uttar Pradesh. The 69th constitutional amendment is a milestone in Delhi's history as it got a Legislative Assembly with the enactment of the **National Capital Territory Act, 1991.**

➤ **Tourist areas**

- The capital is home to **three UNESCO World Heritage Sites**: Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar and Red Fort apart from other major tourist places like Purana Qila (Old Fort), Jama Masjid, India Gate, Birla Mandir, Lotus Temple, Akshardham Temple, Nizamuddin Durgah, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, etc.

Jammu and Kashmir

➤ **History and Geography**

- According to the most popular legend that is also recorded in **Rajtarangani** and Niimat Purana, two most authoritative books, Kashmir was once a large lake and it was Kashyap Rishi who drained off the water, making it a beautiful abode.

- The name of Jammu figures in the Mahabharata. The finds of **Harappan** remains and artefacts of **Mauryan, Kushan and Gupta periods** at **Akhnoor** have added new dimensions to its ancient character.

➤ **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization**

- The **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, was enacted to provide for reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the two union territories—one to be eponymously called Jammu and Kashmir, and the other Ladakh.

- Accordingly, the "State Legislature including Legislative Council of the State" has been abolished and shall now onwards be construed as "Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir".

➤ **Tourism**

- The UT is an important tourist destination and has been a place of attraction for tourists since centuries. The lush green forests, sweet springs, perennial rivers, picturesque alpine scenery and pleasant climate of Kashmir valley—**'the paradise on earth'**—has remained an internationally acclaimed tourist destination, whereas the Jammu region—'the land of temples' attract a large number of pilgrim tourists and the important destination being **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine**.

Ladakh

➤ **History and Geography**

- Ladakh occupies the westernmost extension of the high and dry Tibetan Plateau in the extreme north of India. The region undoubtedly has been endowed with unique geographical features.

- Sandwiched between the **Karakoram and Zanskar** ranges, almost running parallel in a south-east to north-west direction, it is one of the largest districts in the country bordered by Sinkiang in north; Tibet in east; Himachal Pradesh to the south; union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Pakistan administered **Gilgit-Baltistan** to the west.

➤ **Fairs and Festivals**

- Ladakh has a rich culture of celebrating fairs and festivals. Losar festival marks the beginning of the New Year and is the most important winter festival. During the festival a medley of cultural events, ancient rituals and traditional / folk singing and dance performances are performed collectively by the villagers. **Hemis** (monastic) festival among other ritualistic monastic festivals attracts thousands of tourists from around the world to Ladakh.

Lakshadweep

➤ **History and Geography**

- Not much is known of the early history of these Islands. It is believed that the islands were originally inhabitated at **Amini,** followed by **Andrott, Kavarati and Agatti.**

- It was earlier believed that the islanders were originally Hindus and later converted to Islam under the influence of Arab traders sometime in the 14th century. But archaeological evidences unearthed indicate that there were Buddhist settlements around the 6th or 7th century. Earliest Muslim converts or settlers pre-date the year 139 AH of the Hijri year (eighth century) of which period grave stones have recently been discovered in Agatti.

➤ **Tourist Centres**

- Tourism is developing into an important industry. Important tourist places are **Agatti, Bangaram, Kalpeni, Kadmat, Kavaratti and Minicoy**, etc.

Puducherry

➤ **History and Geography**

- The Union Territory of Puducherry, an ex-French enclave, comprises four isolated regions of **Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam.**

- **Puducherry,** the capital of the territory was once the original headquarters of the French Government in India. The French Government handed over the administration of their territories in November 1954. The territories thus handed over were constituted into the Union Territory of Puducherry.

➤ **Art and Culture**

- The **unique dance** form pertaining to Puducherry is "**Masquerade**" dance that has been left behind by the French as a legacy of their rule over the region. Masquerade dancers are a feature of religious societies in many areas.

- **Animal masks** are a common feature of masking. The type of mask influences the style of the masquerade dance. Masqueraders who perform as entertainers have emerged from the rituals societies. They usually start with popular aerobatic dances and then display their prowess by changing into a series of animal and masked figures.

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GSSCORE

Diary of
National Events

December 2021

➤ Prime Minister lights up **'Swarnim Vijay Mashal'** to mark the beginning of the 50th anniversary celebrations of 1971 **Indo-Pak war.**

➤ **Swarnim Vijay Parv**, commemorating 50 years of India's victory in 1971 Indo-Pak war inaugurated.

➤ 7th edition of **India International Science Festival** (IISF) 2021 held in Panaji, Goa.

  • India International Science Festival (IISF) is an initiative of **Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Science** in association with **Vijnana Bharati** which is a science movement with Swadeshi spirit lead by eminent scientists of the country.

➤ First-ever national level **Khelo India Women's Hockey League** (Under 21) inaugurated at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.

January 2022

➤ On the **World Hindi Day**, UNESCO takes historic decision to have Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on WHC website.

  • **World Hindi Day** is celebrated on **January 10** every year. It is the day when Hindi was spoken for the first time in the **United Nations General Assembly.**

➤ **Padma Awards** 2022 announced.

  • Padma Awards are the highest civilian awards of India. The award is presented in three categories including **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri** to honour people for their notable work in different disciplines and fields like **art, social work, literature and education, public affairs, etc.**

➤ India observed World **Neglected Tropical Diseases Day**.

  • Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of tropical infections that are common in **low-income populations in developing regions** of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. They are caused by a variety of **pathogens**, such as **viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and parasitic worms.**

➤ India's first **Open Rock Museum** in **Hyderabad** was launched, displaying around 35 different types of rocks from different parts with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the earth's history.

➤ India to hold the Presidency of the G20 from December 2022 to November 2023, culminating with the **G20 Summit in 2023**.

  • The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the **European Union (EU).**

  • **The 19 countries are:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, South Korea, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States.

  • This will be the first time India will hold the summit.

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February 2022

- Asia's largest tribal festival, the **Medharam Jathara** celebrated with traditional fervour in Telangana.
  - A little festival of tribal origin in Telangana has become a major pilgrimage in the last eight years. It is held every two years at in **Medaram Village** of **Tadvai Mandal** deep in the heart of the thick forests of **Mulugu district**.
- Central sector scheme **"SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise"** launched.
  - The umbrella scheme is set to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- A new scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, **PM DevINE** announced.
  - PM-DevINE is aimed at **rapid and holistic development** of the North- East Region by funding infrastructure and social development projects, based on felt needs of the States.
- A 216-feet tall **'Statue of Equality'** is unveiled in Hyderabad commemorating Sri **Ramanujacharya**.
  - Ramanujacharya or **Ilaiya Perumal** is noted to be one of the most important exponents of the **Sri Vaishnavism** tradition within Hinduism.
  - Ramanuja was born into a Tamil Brahmin community, in a village called **Sriperumbudur (present-day Tamil Nadu**) under the Chola Empire.

March 2022

- 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela gets underway.
  - The Surajkund Mela is unique as it showcases the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India, & is the **largest crafts fair in the world.**
  - The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- The 53rd edition of one of the world's largest handicrafts fairs - **IHGF**-Delhi Fair- 2022 held.
  - IHGF is amongst Asia's largest gifts & handicrafts fair, held biannually (Spring & Autumn edition) and is organised by **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).**
- President felicitates the winners of 3rd National Water Awards and launches **Jal Shakti Abhiyan**: **Catch The Rain Campaign 2022.**
  - It aims to improve groundwater harvesting, build water conservation and storage mechanisms. It is being implemented in all districts both rural and urban of the nation.

April 2022

- **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya** or the Museums of Prime Ministers inaugurated.
- India's first pure **green hydrogen** plant commissioned in **Jorhat, Assam**.
  - Green Hydrogen is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
  - The government has also launched **Green Hydrogen Mission** making India a leading producer and supplier of Green Hydrogen in the world creation of export opportunities for Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

May 2022

- India's first **Lavender Festival** celebrated in Bhaderwah, Jammu and Kashmir.
  - Bhaderwah is the birthplace of India's **Purple Revolution** as it is the best place for lavender cultivation in terms of land and climate.

- The **Purple Revolution** aims to promote the indigenous aromatic crop-based agro economy through the **'aroma mission'** of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).**

➤ Defence Investiture Ceremony held in New Delhi wherein **Shaurya Chakras and Kirti Chakras** were awarded.

➤ India's biggest **Drone Festival** - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 inaugurated.

- Government has taken several steps to promote drone technology in the past few years including new **Drone Rules, 2021**; providing incentive in the form of **PLI for Drones and Drone Components** etc.

June 2022

➤ NHAI creates new Guinness World Record by laying 75 km of bituminous concrete in a single lane on NH53 in 105 hours and 33 minutes.

➤ **Agnipath Yojana** launched to give opportunities to youth to join armed forces as **Bharat Ke Agniveer.**

- The scheme was launched for recruitment of soldiers **below the rank of commissioned officers** into the three services of the armed forces. All recruits will be hired only for a four year period.

➤ Vanijya Bhawan and the **NIRYAT** portal launched.

- NIRYAT - **National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade** is developed as a one stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

July 2022

➤ Government bans single use plastic.

- Single-use plastics are goods that are made primarily from fossil fuel–based chemicals (petrochemicals) and are meant to be disposed of right after use—often, in mere minutes.

➤ India's largest **floating Solar Power Project** became fully operational.

- The 100-MW Floating Solar project at **Ramagundam, Telangana** is endowed with advanced technology as well as environment friendly features.

- This project is unique in the sense that all the electrical equipment including inverter, transformer etc. are also on floating ferro cement platforms. The anchoring of this system is bottom anchoring through dead weight concrete blocks.

August 2022

➤ India's medal tally reach 61 with 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals at the **Commonwealth Games 2022**.

➤ **Jagdeep Dhankhar** sworn in as the 14th Vice President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha on 11th August 2022.

- The **Vice-President of India** is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of **both Houses of Parliament**, in accordance with the system of **proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote and the voting in such election is by **secret ballot.**

➤ **Indian Navy's All Women Aircrew** created history by completing the first all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft.

➤ India achieved a landmark milestone with over 75,000 start-ups recognised in the country.

- India ranks globally **3rd in Start-Up ecosystem** and also in terms of number of Unicorns. As per the latest data, there are currently 105 unicorns, out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.

September 2022

➤ **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan** launched to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025.

➤ The first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant commissioned. The new **Naval Ensign (Nishaan)** is also unveiled.

- **INS Vikrant** is the first to be built in India and was constructed by the **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** in Kerala.

➤ **Wild Cheetahs**, which had become extinct in India, released in **Kuno National Park**, in Madhya Pradesh under the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

- It is a part of Indian government's ambitious programme to reintroduce these animals in the country seven decades after they became extinct.

- The Kuno National Park, the new home of the cheetahs, is situated on the **northern side of Vidhyachal Mountains**.

- After Namibia, **Cheetahs from South Africa will** also be brought to the Kuno National Park in phased manner.

➤ Year-long commemoration of the **"Hyderabad Liberation Day"** to be held.

- On 17th September 1948, more than one year after India secured Independence from the British, the state of Hyderabad got its independence from **Nizam's rule**.

➤ First ever three-day "floating" photo exhibition organised at the **Loktak Lake,** Manipur.

- Loktak Lake is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Manipur known for its floating circular swamps, which are called **phumdis** in the local tongue.

- The lake houses the only floating national park in the world, the **Keibul Lamjao National Park** which is the last refuge of the endangered **brow-antlered deer or sangai**.

➤ India's first indigenously developed vaccine, "**Cervavac**" for the prevention of cervical cancer announced.

October 2022

➤ 5G telecommunication services in India launched.

- 5G technology has a theoretical peak speed of 20 Gbps, compared to the peak speed of 1 Gbps of 4G.

- With higher radio spectrum being available, 5G technology enables more devices to connect to the internet on the same network at any given time. This will give huge boost to the **Digital India** initiative of the government.

➤ The 1st **ASEAN-India Start-up Festival** inaugurated in Bogor, Indonesia.

- ASEAN-India StartUp Festival 2022 is being hosted in Indonesia in conjunction with the **Indonesia Research and Innovation Expo (INA-RIE)** by the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia. **Startup Incubation & Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur** is the lead coordinator from India.

➤ A **Water Sports Centre** in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh inaugurated. It is the very first of its kind in the state.

November 2022

➤ The logo, theme and website of **India's G-20 Presidency** launched via video conferencing.

- The G20 Logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag – saffron, white and green, and blue. It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges.

- The theme of India's G20 Presidency **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"** or **"One Earth · One Family · One Future"** closely ties with LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

➤ The 41st edition of **India International Trade Fair** was held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- ➤ **Kashi Tamil Sangamam** - a month-long programme in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh gets underway.
  - • The Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is centered around a series of themes that cover various facets of knowledge – literature, ancient texts, philosophy, spirituality etc.
- ➤ Indian Space Research Organisation created history by launching successfully India's maiden private **Vikram-suborbital (VKS) rocket**.

December 2022

- ➤ The Reserve Bank launches the first pilot for **retail digital Rupee.** The first phase begins with four banks, viz., State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank in cities like Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar initially.
  - • **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** is the **Reserve Bank of India's** official form of currency. The regulator stated that the RBI's CBDC also known as the Digital Rupee or e-Rupee, is interchangeable one-to-one at par with the fiat currency and is the **same as a sovereign currency.**
- ➤ **Digi Yatra** for contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports launched in New Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru. This is based on **Facial Recognition Technology.**
- ➤ The legendary sprinter, PT Usha elected as the first woman president of **Indian Olympic Association**.
- ➤ India successfully test fires **Agni-V ballistic missile**. **Agni-V** is a nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missile developed by the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** of India.
- ➤ The government has approved revision of pension of Armed Forces Pensioners/ family pensioners under **One Rank One Pension (DROP)** from July 01, 2019.
  - • Pension of the past pensioners would be re-fixed on the basis of average of minimum and maximum pension.

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General Information

IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971

➤ This amendment was passed in the context of a situation that emerged with the verdict in **Golaknath's case** by Supreme Court. Accordingly, this Act amended Article 13 and Article 368 to remove all doubts regarding the power of Parliament to amend the Constitution including the **Fundamental Rights**.

The Constitution (Thirty-eighth Amendment) Act, 1975

➤ This Act amended Articles 123, 213 and 352 of the Constitution to provide that the satisfaction of President or Governor contained in these Articles would be called in question in any court of law.

The Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976

➤ This Act made a number of important amendments in the Constitution. These amendments were mainly for the purpose of giving effect to the recommendations of **Swaran Singh Committee.**

➤ It inserted a new chapter on the **Fundamental Duties** of citizens.

➤ This amendment Act provided for the creation of **Administrative and other tribunals**.

The Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978

➤ This amendment **removed right to property from the list of fundamental rights** and made it a legal right.

➤ Necessary amendments were made in article 19 to ensure that removal of property from the list of fundamental rights would not affect the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

➤ Article 352 of the Constitution was amended to **provide "armed rebellion'** as one of the circumstances for declaration of emergency. Internal disturbance not amounting to armed rebellion would not be a ground for the issuance of a Proclamation.

The Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Act, 2005

➤ The Act aims to provide greater access to **higher education** including professional education to a larger number of students belonging to the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**. It amended Article 15 to enable provision of **27% reservation for other backward classes OBCs)** in government as well as private educational institutions.

The Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985

➤ It provided provisions related to **anti-defection**, by disqualification of members from Parliament and Assembly in case of defection from one party to other. Articles 101, 102, 190, 191 were amended and the **Tenth Schedule** was inserted in the Constitution to lay down the process by which legislators may be disqualified. The Act also makes suitable provisions with respect to **splits in and merger of political parties**.

The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1989

➤ The Act provides for reducing **voting age from 21 to 18 years** by amending Article 326 of the Constitution to provide to the unrepresented youth of the country an opportunity to give vent to their feelings and help them become a part of political process.

Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991

➤ This Act brought qualitative **change in the governance of Delhi**. Articles 239AA and 239AB were inserted to accord special dispensation to Delhi by allowing Legislative Assembly and the Council of Ministers for National Capital of Delhi while it continued to be a Union Territory.

➤ With this, the Union territory of Delhi was renamed as the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** with the Lieutenant Governor, appointed under article 239, as its administrator.

The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992

➤ The 73rd amendment came into force to give **constitutional status to the Panchayat Raj institutions.**

➤ Article 40 of the Constitution which enshrines one of the Directive Principles of State Policy lays down that the State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. Therefore, **a new Part IX** relating to the Panchayats was inserted in the Constitution.

The Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992

➤ It made statutory provisions for local administrative bodies in urban areas such as towns and cities. **A new part IX-A** relating to the municipalities was incorporated in the Constitution to provide for constitution of three types of municipalities - Nagar Panchayats for areas in transition from a rural area to urban area, Municipal Councils for smaller urban areas and Municipal Corporations for larger urban areas.

The Constitution (Ninety-fifth Amendment) Act, 2009

➤ It amended Article 334 to extend the **reservation of the seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha** and State Assemblies from sixty years to seventy years till 2020.

The Constitution (Ninety-Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011

➤ It led to the addition of the words "Or **Cooperative Societies**" after the world "Or Unions" in Article 19(i)(c) and insertion of article 43B, i.e. Promotion of Co-operative Societies and added Part IXB, i.e. The Co-operative Societies. The objective of the amendment is to ensure autonomous and democratic functioning of cooperatives and fix the accountability of the management to the members and stakeholders.

The Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014

➤ This Act led to the insertion of new Articles 124A, 124B and 124C after Article 124 of the Constitution. The Act also provided for the composition and the functions of the proposed **National Judicial Appointments Commission**.

The Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015

➤ It amended the First Schedule of the Constitution, for the purpose of giving effect to the acquiring of territories by India and **transfer of territories to Bangladesh** through retaining of adverse possession and exchange of enclaves, in pursuance of the agreement between India and Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the land boundary, signed on 16th May 1974 and its protocol, signed on 6th September, 2011.

The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016

➤ The Act amended the constitution to introduce "**The Goods and Services Tax (GST)**". It amended the articles 248, 249, 250, 268, 269, 270, 271, 286, 366 and 368. It also amended **the Sixth and Seventh Schedules**.

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➤ Article 268A was omitted and new Articles 246A (Special provision with respect to goods and services tax), 269A (Levy and collection of goods and services tax in course of inter-State trade or commerce) and 279A (Goods and Services Tax Council) were inserted. The Act also provided for compensation to states for loss of revenue on account of introduction of goods and services tax.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018

➤ The Act provided constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes** (NCBC). Two new articles 338B and 342A along with clause 26C in article 366 that defines socially and educationally backward classes were inserted and article 340 has been omitted. With this, the NCBC will have all the powers of a civil court.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019

➤ It amended **Articles 15 and 16** of the Constitution.

➤ The Act introduced 10% reservation for **Economically Weaker Sections** (EWS) from the upper castes of the society in central government jobs as well as admission in central government-run and private educational institutions.

➤ The amendment does not make such reservations mandatory in state government-run educational institutions or state government jobs. This reservation is in addition to the existing reservations and subject to a maximum of ten percent of the total seats in each category.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019

➤ This Act **ceased the reservation of seats for Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha** and State Legislative assemblies and extended reservations for SCs and STs for up to ten years.

The Constitution (One Hundred and fifth Amendment) Act, 2021

➤ This Act restores the power of State Governments to identify and specify **Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs).**

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