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PRELIMS
2024

PRELIMS SAMP^{ORNA} PROGRAMMES & POLICIES

YEARLY COMPILATION

#2

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Last **2 Yrs.** of Current Affairs



Thematic arrangement
of Topics



Static & Current
Interlinking



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validate your learning



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Preface

In the challenging and dynamic landscape of UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation, staying abreast of current affairs is indispensable. With this imperative in mind, we present “Yearly Compilation of thematic Current Affairs for Prelims.” This annual compilation of Current Affairs spanning the last 1-2 years encapsulates over 800 topics, intelligently categorized into Subjects and themes to aid aspirants in their quest for success in the UPSC Preliminary Examination.

- ◎ **Comprehensive Coverage:** Encompassing the latest 1 to 2 years it offers a comprehensive overview of current affairs crucial for the Prelims Examination of 2024.
- ◎ **Thematic Arrangement:** To facilitate structured learning, our compilation adopts a thematic arrangement. Topics are intelligently categorized into subjects and themes, allowing aspirants to navigate through the vast sea of information with ease.
- ◎ **Static and current interlinking:** This comprehensive compilation incorporates recent developments and nuanced concepts. The objective is to establish a cohesive interlinking between core concepts and current affairs, thereby yielding a more desirable outcome
- ◎ **Holistic Preparation through Practice:** Beyond recent developments, this resource integrates Previous Year Questions (PYQs) and practice questions, offering a comprehensive understanding of subjects.

As aspirants gearing up for the Prelims 2024, may this compilation serve as a guiding light, illuminating the path to success.

All the Best!!

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HEALTH

NATIONAL SCHEMES

Public Health is a **State subject**; hence, the responsibility of providing medical assistance to patients of all income group is of respective State/ UT Governments.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Indian Government, at all levels, announces Welfare Schemes for a cross section of the society from time to time. These schemes could be either Central, State specific or a joint collaboration between the Centre and the States.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme

- They are implemented by States.
- They are jointly funded by Centre and States.
- **For example**, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme

Central Sector Scheme

- They are implemented by Centre directly.
- They are funded entirely by Union Government.
- **For example**- National Rural Health Mission is a central sector scheme.

1

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION (NHM)

CONTEXT: National Health Mission (NHM) has been allocated Rs 29,085 cr in the Union Budget 2023-24.

What is National Health Mission (NHM)?

- **Launched in:** 2005
- National Health Mission (NHM) is a flagship programme that seeks to provide equitable, affordable, and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups.
- It has two Sub-Missions:
 - ◆ **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**
 - ◆ **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)**
- The schemes launched under NHM are available free of cost to all income groups visiting in Public Health Facilities at sub district and district level are given below:

Which Programmes are covered under the Mission?

The following programmes/ schemes are run by government under National Health Mission:

Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent health

- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK)
- Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram(RKSK)
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)
- Universal Immunisation Programme
- Mission Indradhanush (MI)
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)
- Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK)
- National Programme for Family planning
- LaQshya' programme (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative)

National Nutritional Programmes

- National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme
- MAA (Mothers' Absolute Affection) Programme for Infant and Young Child Feeding
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF)
- National Iron Plus Initiative for Anaemia Control

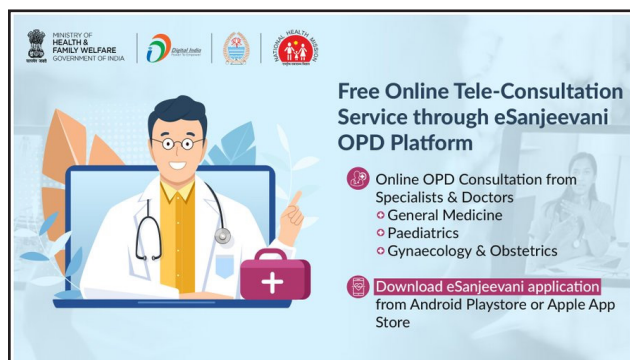
Communicable diseases

- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)
- Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)
- National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)
- National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)
- National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)
- Pulse Polio Programme
- National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP)
- National Rabies Control Programme
- National Programme on Containment of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)

Non-communicable diseases

- National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS)
- National Programme for Control Treatment of Occupational Diseases
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD)
- National Mental Health Programme
- National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI)
- Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP)
- National Programme for the Health Care for the Elderly (NPHCE)
- National Programme for Prevention & Management of Burn Injuries (NPPMBI)
- National Oral Health programme

- This vertical operates on a Hub-and-Spoke model wherein the 'Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers' (HWCs) are set up at state level, which are mapped with the hub (comprising MBBS/ Specialty/ Super-Specialty doctors) at zonal level.
- 'eSanjeevaniOPD' is the another vertical which caters to citizens in **both rural and urban**
- It leverages technology via **smartphones, tablets, and laptops** enabling doctor consultations to be accessible from the patient's residence regardless of location.



3

AYUSHMAN BHARAT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA (AB PM-JAY)

CONTEXT: Under Ayushman Bharat PMJAY scheme, around 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families identified as per Socio-Economic Caste Census are entitled for health cover of Rs. 5.00 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

About:PM-JAY

- PMJAY provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the nodal agency to implement this scheme effectively around the country.
- It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days of post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines. There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.

Background:

- PM-JAY was earlier known as the **National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)** before being rechristened.
- It subsumed the then-existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) which had been launched in 2008.
- The coverage under PM-JAY, therefore, also includes families that were covered in RSBY but are not present in the SECC 2011 database.


2

NATIONAL TELEMEDICINE SERVICE

CONTEXT: Recently, Government of India has started free telemedicine service (eSanjeevani) and achieve 8 crore teleconsultations across the country.

About the initiative:

- An e-health initiative of Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, eSanjeevani is a national telemedicine service that strives to provide an **alternative to the conventional physical consultations** via digital platform.
- It consists of **two verticals** that cater to patients across all states and UTs successfully making its presence felt in the innermost regions of the nation.
- The first vertical is 'eSanjeevani AB-HWC', endeavors to bridge rural-urban digital health divide by providing assisted teleconsultations, and ensuring that e beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Scheme are able to avail of the benefits they are entitled to.



PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

Pan-India Health Infrastructure Scheme for World-Class Facilities

- Creation & improvement of long-term public healthcare infrastructure
- Health infrastructure in each district, making them self-reliant
- Comprehensive capacity building through increased investment
- Outlay of Rs 64,180 crore over 5 years

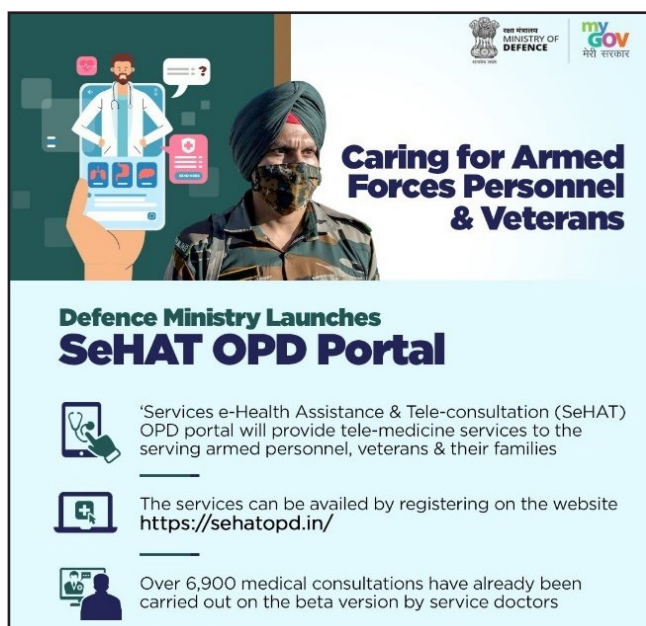
4

SERVICES E-HEALTH ASSISTANCE AND TELECONSULTATION (SEHAT)

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched services for home delivery of medicines for veterans and serving military personnel services under an online medical consultation platform named Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT).

About SeHAT Initiative

- It is the **tri-services teleconsultation service of the MoD** designed for all entitled personnel and their families.



Caring for Armed Forces Personnel & Veterans

Defence Ministry Launches SeHAT OPD Portal

- "Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal will provide tele-medicine services to the serving armed personnel, veterans & their families"
- The services can be availed by registering on the website <https://sehatopd.in/>
- Over 6,900 medical consultations have already been carried out on the beta version by service doctors

- As part of the Government's commitment to **Digital India** and e-Governance, the **Defence Minister** launched **SeHAT** in May 2021.
- It **aims to** provide healthcare services to patients in their homes.
- SeHAT Stay Home OPD** is based on the lines of **eSanjeevani** a similar free OPD service run by the MoHFW (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) for all citizens.
- SeHATOPD** is a **patient to doctor system** where the patient can consult a doctor remotely through the internet.

5

INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH (IMI) 4.0.

CONTEXT: Recently, the Ministry of Health virtually launched **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0**.

About: IMI 4.0

- India is implementing the largest immunisation programme globally where it annually covers more than three crore pregnant women and 2.6 crore children through the **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)**.
- It will ensure that **Routine Immunization (RI) services** reach **unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and pregnant women**.
- Children up to two years** will be covered in this drive.
- While the **pace of routine immunisation has slowed down due to Covid-19 pandemic**, IMI 4.0 will immensely contribute in filling the gaps and make lasting gains towards universal immunisation.
- Three rounds of IMI 4.0 will be conducted in 416 districts, including 75 districts identified for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav across 33 States/UTs.
- These districts have been identified based on vaccination coverage as per the latest **National Family Health Survey-5 report**, Health Management Information System (HMIS) data and burden of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Background:

- Mission Indradhanush is a health mission of the Government of India.
- It was launched in 2014.
- The scheme this seeks to drive towards 90% full immunisation coverage of India and sustain the same by year 2022.

INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH LAUNCHED
Ensuring full immunization to children and expecting mothers

- 1 To ensure full immunization in selected districts and cities to more than 90% by December 2018 against 2020 earlier
- 2 Four phases of the mission reached to 2.53 crore+ children and 68 lakh pregnant women
- 3 Progress to be monitored at the highest level under 'Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation' (PRAGATI)

6 SAMRIDH INITIATIVE

CONTEXT: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.

About SAMRIDH Initiative

- In 2020 the Indian government, academia, and the private sector developed the **innovative SAMRIDH blended finance facility** to combine **public and philanthropic funds with commercial capital** to create and rapidly scale market-based health solutions.
- **Blended finance** is an approach towards financing where catalytic funding (e.g. grants and concessional capital) from public and philanthropic sources is utilized to mobilize additional private sector investment to realize social goals and outcomes.
- It will improve **access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable** populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.
- This initiative is implemented by a **Technical Support Unit** managed by **IPE Global (a company)**.

Objectives:

- **Bridge supply-side gaps in healthcare facilities** to respond to health emergencies in the immediate, medium, and long term.
- **Accelerate scale-up and adoption of innovative and market-based health solutions.**
- **Mobilize resources** to support high impact health solutions and build sustainable healthcare systems.

- **Promote local and comprehensive solutions** at the community and facility level for vulnerable populations.

7 AAROGYA MAITRI CUBE

CONTEXT: India has unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital, a forward-thinking initiative that could revolutionize emergency response globally. The innovation, aptly named the 'Aarogya Maitri Cube'.

About Aarogya Maitri Cube

- The Aarogya Maitri Cube is not just a hospital; it's a comprehensive medical facility that can be airlifted and deployed on any terrain.
- Comprising of 72 individual cubes, each equipped with essential medical equipment and supplies, this portable hospital can provide critical care to 100 survivors for up to 48 hours.
- The range of facilities includes operation theaters, mini-ICUs, ventilators, blood-testing equipment, X-ray machines, and even a cooking station.
- This innovative approach to disaster management demonstrates the potential for technology to make a significant impact in crisis situations.

Project BHISHM

- The portable hospital is a critical part of 'Project BHISHM'.
- This project aims to enhance healthcare accessibility and boost disaster response capabilities, ensuring that no terrain is too challenging, and no patient is too remote.

8 NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAM (NLEP)

CONTEXT: The Government of India has launched National Strategic Plan (NSP) & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) on 30th January, 2023, to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027 i.e. three years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3.

About

- The NSP and Roadmap contains implementation strategies, year-wise targets, public health approaches and overall technical guidance for the programme.

Globally, the last Sunday of January is observed as **World Leprosy Day (WLD)**. However, in India, the day is marked on **30 January**, to coincide with the death anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**, who is known for his fight against the disease.

- he strategy and roadmap focuses on awareness for zero stigma & discrimination, promotion of early case detection, prevention of disease transmission by **prophylaxis (Leprosy Post Exposure Prophylaxis)** and roll out of web-based information portal (Nikusth 2.0) for reporting of leprosy cases.
- The theme of this year is "Let us fight Leprosy and make Leprosy a history". along with launch of **Nikusth 2.0 Portal**.

What is Nikusth 2.0?

- Nikusth 2.0, also launched during the event, is an integrated portal for leprosy case management under **National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)**.
- It will aid in efficient data recording, analyzing and reporting of the data in the form of indicators and a real time dashboard at centre, state and district level.

What is leprosy?

- Leprosy is a **chronic infectious disease** that may lead to severe disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage in the arms, legs, and skin areas around your body.
- Also known as **Hansen's disease**, it is a **chronic bacterial infection** that is caused by the *Mycobacterium leprae* bacteria.
- It affects the **skin and nervous system**.
- In extreme cases, it might also lead to **blindness, paralysis, disfigurement of the nose, and chronic ulcers on the bottom of the feet**.
- Leprosy is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as **Multi Drug Therapy (MDT)**.

9

NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY

CONTEXT: India observes March 16 as National Vaccination Day.

About the Day

- The Government of India observe March 16 as **National Vaccination Day**.
- The day was first celebrated in 1995 with the government launching **Pulse Polio Immunisation programme** to fight polio.

- In 1995, the first dose of the **oral polio vaccine** was given under the **World Health Organization's (WHO) campaign** which started in 1988.
- '**Do Boond Zingaki Ki**' - a campaign was launch by the government in 1998 to spread awareness about the benefits of vaccination.

Significance of Vaccination

- Vaccines are key for the prevention of viruses and diseases. Vaccines provide immunity to the body.
- With vaccines, several diseases and viruses like **COVID-19, chicken pox, tetanus, rubella, and polio** are prevented.

10

POLIO ERADICATION MEASURES

CONTEXT: In 2022, after more than a decade of remaining polio-free, the U.S., the U.K, Israel and Canada reported type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus in environmental samples.

What is Polio?

- Polio is a **potentially deadly disease** that affects the nervous system.
- In rare cases, polio infection causes permanent loss of muscle function (paralysis).
- Polio may be fatal if the muscles used for breathing are paralysed or if there is an infection of the brain.
- The virus multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis.
 - Once that happens, the patient is crippled for life because there is no treatment for the affliction.
 - Polio infection, however, is easily preventable by a vaccine.
- Variants:** There are three variants of the poliovirus, numbered 1 to 3.
 - For a country to be declared polio-free, the wild transmission of all three kinds has to be stopped.
 - For eradication, cases of both wild and vaccine-derived polio infection have to be reduced to zero.

Polio Free India

- The last case of Polio was reported in West Bengal's Howrah in 2011 and the WHO declared India Polio free on March 27, 2014.
- The country is now moving towards the eradication of measles and rubella through the vaccination of over 324 million children through MR vaccination campaigns.

Polio Eradication Measures:

- ◎ **Global Polio Eradication Initiative:** It was launched in 1988 by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), by national governments and WHO. Presently, 80% of the world's population is now living in certified polio-free regions.
 - ◆ An estimated 1.5 million childhood deaths have been prevented, through the systemic administration of vitamin A during polio immunization activities.
- ◎ **India-specific initiatives:**
 - ◆ **Pulse Polio Programme:** It was started with the objective of achieving hundred percent coverage under the Oral Polio Vaccine.
 - ◆ **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0:** It was a nationwide immunization drive to mark the 25 years of the Pulse polio program (2019-20).
 - ◆ **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):** It was launched in 1985 with the modification to 'The Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI).

11

ASHA (ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVIST) WORKERS

CONTEXT: The World Health Organisation has recognised the country's 10.4 lakh ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers as 'Global Health Leaders' for their efforts in connecting the community to the government's health programmes.

Who are ASHA workers?

- ◎ ASHA workers are **volunteers** from within the community who are trained to provide information and aid people in accessing benefits of various healthcare schemes of the government.
- ◎ They act as a bridge connecting marginalised communities with facilities such as primary health centres, sub-centres and district hospitals.
- ◎ The role of these community health volunteers under the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** was first established in 2005.
- ◎ ASHAs are primarily married, widowed, or divorced women between the ages of 25 and 45 years from within the community.
- ◎ They must have good communication and leadership skills; should be literate with formal education up to Class 8, as per the programme guidelines.

- ◎ There are around 10.4 lakh ASHA workers across the country, with the largest workforces in states with high populations – Uttar Pradesh (1.63 lakh), Bihar (89,437), and Madhya Pradesh (77,531).
- ◎ **Goa is the only state with no such workers**, as per the latest National Health Mission data available from 2019.

12

RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Women and Child Development observed the 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout September 2023.

What is Poshan Maah?

- ◎ The month of September is marked as *Rashtriya Poshan Maah* or Nutrition Month as part of the Government's national flagship programme, POSHAN Abhiyaan also known as the **National Nutrition Mission**.
- ◎ The aim is to foster nutritional understanding across India through a theme centered on "*Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat*" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).

About POSHAN Abhiyaan

- ◎ **Launched in:** 2018
- ◎ POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan is a Multi-Ministerial Convergence Mission with the vision to ensure the attainment of MalnutritionFree India.
- ◎ The Government launched the POSHAN Abhiyaan, earlier known as National Nutrition Mission, to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.

Issues in India

- ◎ **Stunting:** Stunting (which happens when a child is too short for his or her age) has declined from 48 per cent in 2006 to 35.5 per cent in 2019-2020 according to the National Family Health Survey 5 data.
- ◎ **Overweight:** The prevalence of overweight children has increased across India.
- ◎ **Wasting:** Wasting has not improved over the years. But, the fact remains that about 50 per cent of those children who are categorised as wasted in India are actually normal for their age.
- ◎ **Hypertension:** In India, every fifth person is suffering from hypertension.

13

DIGITAL HEALTH INCENTIVES SCHEME

CONTEXT: The National Health Authority (NHA) has announced extension of its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) till December 31, 2023.

What is Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS)?

- ⊙ The DHIS was launched on **January 1, 2023** and was operational from **April 2023**.
- ⊙ The scheme is a part of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.
 - ◆ While ABDM aims to make digital health services available and accessible to all citizens of our country, it intends to **incentivise healthcare facilities** to promote and support this adoption through the **Digital Health Incentive Scheme**.
- ⊙ **Incentives:** Under the DHIS, incentives are provided to **hospitals and diagnostic labs** and to the providers of digital health solutions such as **Hospital/ Health Management Information System (HMIS)** and **Laboratory Management Information System (LMIS)** for adopting and enabling transformative digitization under the ABDM.

Who all are eligible?

- ⊙ All Health facilities like Clinics, Nursing Homes & Hospitals
 - ⊙ Laboratory/Radiology diagnostics centres
 - ⊙ **Digital Solution Companies** (Entities providing ABDM enabled digital solutions)
- ⊙ Under the DHIS, the eligible health facilities and digital solutions companies shall be able to earn financial incentives of up to **4 crore** based on the number of **digital health records** created and linked to **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** numbers of the patients.
 - ⊙ It is anticipated that the DHIS advantages offered to the DSCs will contribute to cost reduction or will be transmitted further to the relevant healthcare facilities to pay their **digitisation costs**, etc.
 - ⊙ **Digital Solution Companies (DSCs)** will be given an **incentive of 25%** of the incentive amount received by the eligible health facilities using their digital solutions.
 - ⊙ For the ABHA linked transactions done by facilities **not eligible for direct incentives** (Clinics/ Small Hospitals/ Health Lockers/ Teleconsultation Platforms etc.), an incentive would be provided to Digital Solution Companies.

PYQ (2021)

1. With reference to Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, consider the following statement: (UPSC 2022)

1. Private and Public hospitals must adopt it.
2. As it aims to achieve universal health coverage, every citizen of India should be part of it ultimately.
3. It has seamless portability across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Option: (b)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) in India:

1. It is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM).
2. The proportion of deaths due to non-communicable diseases in India is more than 50 percent.
3. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and chronic kidney disease are classified under non-communicable disease.
4. The programme is currently confined only urban areas to provide free diagnostic facilities and drugs for patients.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

2. Consider the following in respect of 'National Career Service':

1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.
2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Health Assembly held at Kazakhstan in 1978 called upon governments to achieve 'Health for All' by 2000.
2. India was among the signatories of Alma Ata Declaration of 1978.
3. India unveiled its first National Health Policy in 1978 owing to the Alma Ata effect.
4. The first National Health Policy of India called for Universal health care.
5. As a result of first National Healthy Policy, government-owned facilities constituted more than 2/3 of the listed hospitals in India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only two (b) Only three
(c) Only four (d) All five

4. With reference to the changes observed between National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4) and National Family Health Survey-5(NFHS-5), consider the following statements:

1. The percentage of under-five children who are reported to be stunted has increased
2. Anaemia among Indian women has increased significantly between 2015 and 2020.
3. Total fertility rate has declined.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) All of the Above

5. Consider the following statements regarding the evolution of Health sector policies in India:

1. Government of India Act of 1919 decentralized public health to provincial governments and established the Central Advisory Board of Health.
2. Health Survey and Development Committee 1943 was led by Sir Joseph Bhore.
3. Bhore Committee report included the state of preventive healthcare, indigenous systems and the quality of medical education.
4. First Five-Year plan recommended that at least 5 percent of the plan outlay be devoted to health.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

6. Which of the following statements regarding the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020 are correct?

1. It covers all establishments where any hazardous activity is carried out regardless of the number of workers.
2. It prohibits employment of women in hazardous or dangerous operations.
3. It fixes the maximum daily work hour limit at eight hours per day.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

7. Consider the following statements about National Tele Mental Health Programme:

1. National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) will be nodal centre for the programme.
2. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will be providing technological support to the programme.
3. It will ensure access to quality, standardized & free 24x7 mental health services to all.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Consider the following statements:

1. SeHAT Initiative is the tri-services teleconsultation service of the MoD designed for all entitled personnel and their families.
2. SAMRIDH Initiative aims to combine public and philanthropic funds with commercial capital to create and rapidly scale market-based health solutions.
3. Project BHISHM aims to enhance healthcare accessibility and boost disaster response capabilities, ensuring that no terrain is too challenging, and no patient is too remote.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

9. Mission Indradhanush' launched by the Government of India pertains to

- (a) Immunization of children and pregnant women
- (b) Construction of smart cities across the country
- (c) India' own search for the Earth-like planets in outer space
- (d) New Educational policy

10. Consider the following statements regarding RashtriyaArogyaNidhi (RAN):

- 1. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as a Society.
- 2. It is set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. Which of the following are eligible for Digital Health Incentive Scheme?

- 1. All Health facilities like Clinics, Nursing Homes & Hospitals
- 2. Laboratory/Radiology diagnostics Centers and Pharmacies
- 3. Entities providing ABDM enabled Digital Solution Companies

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

12. Consider the following statements regarding Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Act, 2017?

- 1. It aims to give effect to Article 44 of the DPSP.
- 2. It extends women paid maternity leave from 12 to 24 weeks, of which up to 6 weeks can be taken pre-delivery.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

13. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Maternity Benefit Act (MBA) provides similar benefits to biological and adoptive mothers.
- 2. At present, maternity benefit act excludes commissioning mothers.
- 3. Amendment in MBA, since 2017 increase the maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks.

Which among the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWERS

1. (c)	2. (b)	3. (b)	4. (a)	5. (b)
6. (c)	7. (b)	8. (c)	9. (a)	10. (d)
11. (d)	12. (c)	13. (a)		

WOMEN HEALTHCARE

14 BAHINI SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Sikkim government is set to announce a scheme (Bahini) to install vending machines to provide free sanitary pads for all girls studying in Classes 9-12.

About Bahini Scheme

- ◎ It aims at providing "100% access to free and safe sanitary pads to secondary and senior secondary school going girls".
- ◎ It is also aimed to curb dropout of girls from schools and raise awareness about menstrual hygiene.
- ◎ The scheme is based on an experiment the state government initiated in 2018, in collaboration with

Sulabh International, where vending machines were installed in some schools.

- ◎ Sulabh International is an India-based social service organization that works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, and non-conventional sources of energy, waste management and social reforms through education.

15

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRACTICES

CONTEXT: Government has taken appropriate measures to improve menstrual hygiene practices through the schemes/ interventions of various Ministries/ Departments.

Important Initiatives

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** implements the **Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene** since 2011 to increase awareness among adolescent girls, to increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and to ensure safe disposal of Sanitary Napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.
- **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK):** Further, teachers and Front line Workers - Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (FLW-ANMs), Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) are oriented appropriately in the scheme with the budget provided for the same under Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK).
- **Mission Shakti:** Further, one of the objectives of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** components of 'Mission Shakti' is to generate awareness about menstrual hygiene and use of sanitary napkins.
- **National Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM):** Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has developed National Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for creating awareness on **Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)** in rural areas as part of its overall interventions related to behaviour change on sanitation hygiene aspect.
- **Samagra Shiksha:** Department of School Education and Literacy implements an integrated scheme namely 'SamagraShiksha' under which State specific projects for varied interventions on menstrual health and hygiene including installation of sanitary pad vending machines and incinerators are sanctioned.
- **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG):** Ministry of Woman and Child Development implements the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) under which, one of the component is improving their health and nutritional status and to motivate them to go back to formal schooling.

16

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

CONTEXT: Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is a crucial aspect of young people's well-being, encompassing physical, emotional, mental, and social aspects, particularly during this transformative period. India's National Health Policy 2017 and draft National Youth Policy 2021 recommend adolescent health and well-being education, emphasising adolescent health challenges and the long-term potential of investing in their healthcare.

Government health initiatives for adolescents and youth

- Recognising the needs of this group and the health risks it is exposed to during transition to adulthood, the Government of India adopted the
 - ◆ **Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Strategy in 2005**
 - ◆ **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)** or national adolescent health programme in 2014
- Other initiatives to address the needs of adolescents and youth:
 - ◆ National Population Policy (2000)
 - ◆ National Youth Policy (2014)
 - ◆ Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK-2016)
 - ◆ National Health Policy (2017)
 - ◆ School Health & Wellness Programme (2020)

17

WOMEN HEALTH CONCERN: CURB UNNECESSARY HYSTERECTOMIES

CONTEXT: The Union Health Ministry recently urged State Governments to audit hysterectomy trends in public and private hospitals.

Key Highlights

- A Supreme Court petition claims that women from underserved areas are vulnerable to unwarranted hysterectomies performed for **financial gain and exploitation**.
- The top Court handed States and Union Territories a **three-month deadline** last month to execute these **Health Ministry directives**.
- Women who had needless hysterectomies have had their fundamental rights gravely violated.

What are the criteria for getting a hysterectomy?

- After caesarean births, **hysterectomies** are the second most common operation among women of **reproductive age**.
- **Hysterectomies** should be performed at the latter stages of a woman's reproductive life, or as an emergency intervention.
- Fibroids (growths surrounding the uterus), abnormal uterine bleeding and uterine prolapse, chronic pelvic pain, and premalignant and malignant **tumors** of the uterus and cervix are all medical reasons for removing a uterus.

- In some situations, **oophorectomy**, or the **removal of the ovaries** (the primary source of oestrogen), is also performed, which is a type of **surgical menopause** and has been related to a number of **chronic illnesses**.

NFHS-5 Data: NFHS data on hysterectomies

- 3.3% of Indian women have had hysterectomy surgical procedures
- The highest percentage of hysterectomies (51.8%) were to treat excessive menstrual bleeding or pain; 24.94% for fibroids; 24.94% for cysts; 11.08% for uterine disorder or rupture.

- Hysterectomy surgeries were found to be higher among women in rural India (3.6%) than in urban India (2.5%)
- The majority of hysterectomies occurred in Andhra Pradesh (8.7%), followed by Telangana (8.2%), Bihar (6%), Gujarat (3.9%), Ladakh (3.6%) and Punjab (3.2%)
- Between 2012-2016, the rate of hysterectomies in India increased from 1.7 to 3.2 surgeries for every 100 women who had ever been married, according to an analysis of the 2015-16 National Family Health Survey.

CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH

18 MISSION VATSALYA

CONTEXT: Recently, the Women and Child Development Ministry released guidelines in order to access Central funds and benefits under Mission Vatsalya.

About Mission Vatsalya

- It is an umbrella scheme for child protection services in the country.
- It promotes family-based non-institutional care of children in difficult circumstances based on the principle of institutionalization of children as a measure of last resort.
- It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with state governments and UT administrations, with a fund-sharing pattern in a **60:40**.
- For the eight states in the Northeast as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir the Centre and state/UT's share will be **90:10**.
- The Centre will cover the whole cost in UTs without a legislature.
- Mission Vatsalya, in partnership with states and districts, will execute a **24×7 helpline service** for children, as defined under **JJ Act, 2015**.

Objective of Mission Vatsalya include:

- To secure a healthy and happy childhood for each and every child in the country:
 - ◆ Improve functioning of statutory bodies
 - ◆ Strengthen service delivery structures
 - ◆ Upscale institutional care and services
 - ◆ Encourage non-institutional community-based care
 - ◆ Emergency outreach services
 - ◆ Training and capacity building

19 SURAKSHIT MATRITVA AASHWASAN (SUMAN)

- **Launched in:** 2019
- **Aim:** zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths in India
- SUMAN provides assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting public health facilities to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

20 JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA (JSY)

- **Launched in:** 2005
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is an **intervention program for pregnant women and new mothers**.
- It is an initiative taken by the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**.
- The aim of this scheme is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by making institutional delivery services affordable and accessible to poor pregnant women in India.
- The Janani Suraksha Yojana is sponsored by the Central Government of India and is implemented in all the states and the union territories of the country with special attention to low performing states.

21 JANANI SHISHU SURAKSHA KARYAKRAM (JSSK)

- **Launched in:** 2011
- The Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) Scheme is a significant initiative by the Government

of India to provide comprehensive and free healthcare services to pregnant women and newborns.

- Launched as part of the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, the JSSK Scheme aims to reduce financial barriers and improve access to quality healthcare during pregnancy, childbirth, and infancy.
- Every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables & diet.

22 PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHIT MATRITVA ABHIYAN (PMSMA)

- The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.
- PMSMA provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality antenatal check up by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.
- The programme envisages to improve the quality and coverage of **Antenatal Care (ANC)** including diagnostics and counselling services as part of the **Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Strategy**.

23 LAQSHYA

- **Launched in:** 2017
- It improves the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.
- **Objective:** Reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.

24 MUSQAN SCHEME

- **Launched in:** 2021
- The MusQan scheme aims to provide high-quality and safe Child-Friendly Services in Public Health Facilities and contribute to preventable new-born child mortality and morbidity.
- It makes the child-friendly services accessible and available to patients and their parents, as well as provide a child-friendly environment, promote, protect, and support breastfeeding, and provide respectful and dignified care to the mother/parent-attendant.

25 MONTHLY VILLAGE HEALTH, SANITATION AND NUTRITION DAY (VHSND)

- It is an outreach activity at Anganwadi centers for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with the ICDS.

26 REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH (RCH) PORTAL

- The Portal is a name-based web-enabled tracking system for pregnant women and new born so as to ensure seamless provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.

RCH Programme was launched on 15th October 1997 with the objective of reducing total fertility rate, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in the country

ELDERLY HEALTHCARE

27 NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (NPHCE)

CONTEXT: The National Programme for the Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE), launched in 2010, aims to promote the concept of “active and healthy ageing” and provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality, long-term care services to the ageing population.

About

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had launched the “National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly” (NPHCE) during 2010-11.
- NPHCE is an articulation of the International and national commitments of the Government as envisaged under the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD)**, **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP)** adopted by the Government of India in 1999 & Section 20 of “The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007” dealing with provisions for medical care of Senior Citizen.

28

DECADE OF HEALTHY AGEING (2021-2030) CAMPAIGN:

CONTEXT: The government recently launched the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) campaign in India on International Day for Older Persons (1st October) to offer support to seniors and ensure easy access to age-specific products and services for them.

About

- The **United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)** is a global collaboration, aligned with the last ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals, to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.
- The numbers:

- ◆ By the end of the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020–2030), the number of people aged 60 years and older will be 34% higher, increasing from 1 billion in 2019 to 1.4 billion.
- ◆ By 2050, the global population of older people will have more than doubled, to 2.1 billion.

Other programmes catering to health needs of Elderly

- National Programme for Palliative Care (NPPC)
- National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI)
- National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)
- National Oral Health Programme (NOHP)
- National Programme for Prevention & Control of Deafness (NPPCD)
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)

MENTAL HEALTHCARE

29

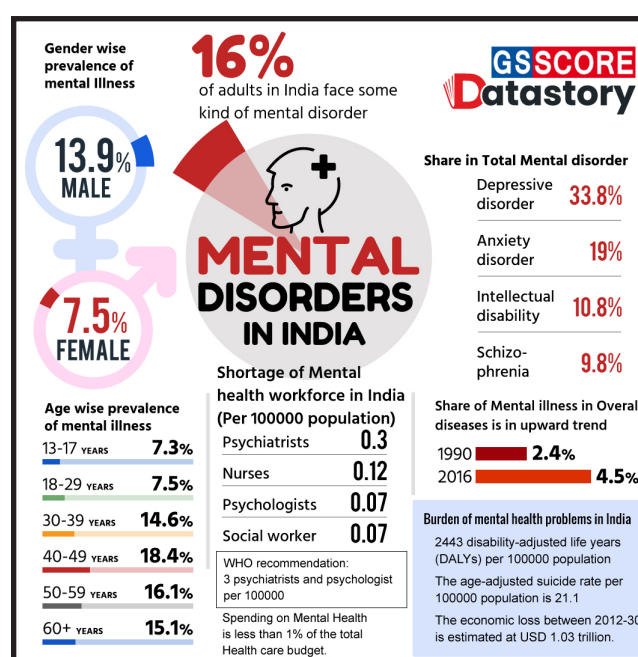
MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT, 2017 (MHA)

CONTEXT: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in a report flagged the “inhuman and deplorable” condition of all 46 government-run mental healthcare institutions across the country; out of which three are run by the Union government and the remaining by State governments. These observations were made after visits to all operational government facilities, to assess the implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017(MHA).

What does the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 say?

- Mental healthcare in India is governed by the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (MHA).
- It was enacted after India ratified the **United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006**.
- MHA, 2017 replaced the Mental Healthcare Act, 1987, which did not provide for *rights* of mentally ill persons and instead prioritised *institutionalisation* of mentally ill persons.
 - ◆ The 1987 Act also necessitated stringent and arbitrary licensing requirements for psychiatrists.
- MHA, 2017, emphasises the **rights of mentally ill persons**.

- Its preamble states that it is “An Act to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental ”
- It empowers persons with mentally illnesses (PMIs) to decide the mode and method of their treatment, provided that they can comprehend the information provided to them.



Important Government Initiatives dealing with 'Mental Health'

- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP):** Aim to be implemented in 704 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission.
- **Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC) levels** were established to address outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc.
- **National Tele Mental Health Programme:** In Budget (2022-2023), India's Finance Minister announced the programme to improve access to quality mental health counselling and also care services.
- **T-MANAS** (Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Nationally Actionable Plan through States) aims to provide mental health support and interventions to people in remote and neglected areas.
- **KIRAN:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts, and other mental health concerns.
- **Manodarpan Initiative:** It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It is aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members, and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.

Madhya Pradesh is the first State in the country to draft a suicide prevention strategy and the government has formed a task force for it.

30

INDIA'S FIRST SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced a National Suicide Prevention Strategy, the first of its kind in the country to achieve a reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030.

The National Suicide Prevention Strategy:

- The strategy is in line with the **WHO's South East-Asia Region Strategy** for suicide prevention.
- **Aim:** The strategy broadly seeks to establish:
- Effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years.
- To establish **psychiatric outpatient departments** that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years, and

- To integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.
- It envisages developing guidelines for responsible media reporting of suicides, and restricting access to means of suicide with time-bound action plans and multi-sectoral collaborations.
- The stress is on **developing community resilience** and **societal support** for suicide prevention.

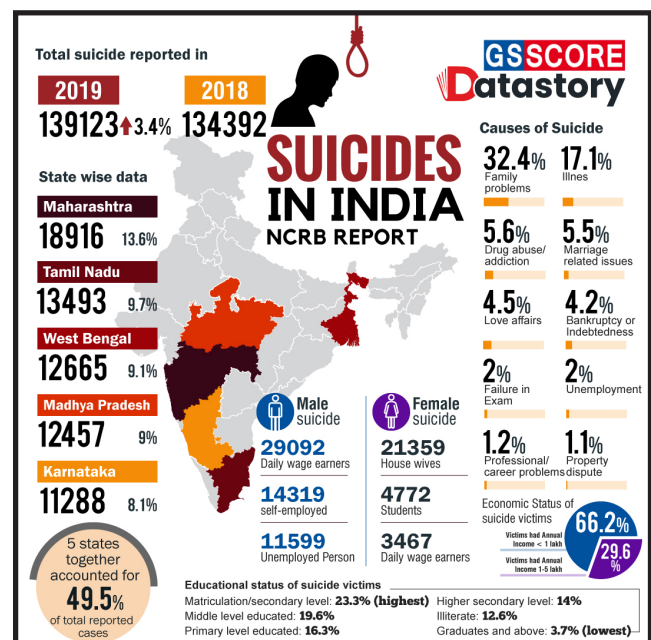
The South East-Asia Region Strategy:

It aims to:

- Strengthen advocacy, effective leadership, and governance for the prevention of suicides.
- To provide comprehensive, integrated, and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings to address suicides.
- To implement strategies for the promotion of mental, social, and physical health and well-being aimed at preventing suicides
- To strengthen information systems, evidence, and research on suicide

Suicide rates in India:

- According to the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report 2021**, the Suicide rate in India is increasing alarmingly.
- Delhi has recorded the highest number of (2,840) suicides.



Reasons for Suicide:

- ◆ 33.2%: Family Problems (other than marriage-related problems)
- ◆ 4.8%: Marriage Related Problems
- ◆ 18.6%: Illness

- ◎ **Daily wage earners** accounted for 42,004 (25.6 percent) of the total victims. One in four of the recorded 1, 64,033 suicide victims during 2021 was a daily wage earner.
- ◎ They were followed by *self-employed people, unemployed people*, and those involved in the *farming sector* were the top categories of people who died by suicide in 2021.
- ◎ The report certainly points out suicides as a critical public health issue in India and qualifies for a closer epidemiological assessment.
- ◎ The Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative is a comprehensive mental health care service.
- ◎ Tele-MANAS aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country round the clock, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.
- ◎ The Tele-MANAS programme consists of a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS as the nodal centre.
- ◎ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bengaluru and National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC) have been roped in for technical support.
- ◎ The Tele-MANAS service can be accessed by calling the helpline numbers 14416 and 1-800-891-4416.

31

TELE MANAS COUNSELS KASHMIR'S DISTRESSED SOULS

CONTEXT: Over the past six months, the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar has received 10,500 calls from people in distress across Jammu and Kashmir's toll free numbers 14416 and 1800-891-4416.

About

- ◎ The Tele-MANAS cell at IMHANS was launched in November 2022 with the support of the **National Health Mission**, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ◎ It aims to provide mental health support, early screening, first-aid, distress management, mental well-being, suicide prevention, and psychological crisis management in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ◎ The center operates through a toll free-number—11416/1-800-891-4416.
- ◎ The crisis counsellors or the first-time responders are the first point of contact for callers at the 24*7 helpline

What is Tele-MANAS?

- ◎ It was launched on **World Mental Health Day (10 October)**.

PYQ (2023)

4. Consider the following statements in the context of interventions being undertaken under Anaemia Mukt Bharat Strategy:

1. It provides prophylactic calcium supplementation for pre-school children, adolescents and pregnant women.
2. It runs a campaign for delayed cord clamping at the time of child- birth.
3. It provides for periodic deworming to children and adolescents.
4. It addresses non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All four

Correct Option: (c)



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INSURANCE POLICIES & INITIATIVES

1

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT

- PM-JAY refers to a specialised health insurance policy, which is available to all economically-challenged citizens of India.
- One such household can claim medical insurance coverage of up to Rs.5 lakh per year by paying premiums of Rs.30 annually.
- Besides this medical coverage, the scheme has also led to the construction of around 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres across the nation.

2

PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA

- The government of India vowed to increase the number of medically covered individuals in the country.
- The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is a step in this direction, offering accidental death and disability benefits to policyholders.
- Individuals suffering from partial disabilities can claim up to Rs.1 lakh from the scheme, while those who suffer from total disability/death can opt for benefits of up to Rs.2 lakh.

3

RASHTRIYA SWASTHYA BIMA YOJANA

- Labourers and those individuals working in the unorganised sector often lack any health insurance coverage.
- However, like others, these people also face sickness and accidents. Thus, the need for medical coverage is just as pronounced for them as it is for others.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment is responsible for offering such policies workers in the unorganised sector and their families (up to 5 people).

4

UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

- This is one of the most affordable government health insurance schemes backed by the Indian government. Applicants aged between 5 and 70 years can opt for such coverage.
- Also, individuals who can be categorised as below the poverty line can avail its benefits after submitting the necessary documents.
- Hospitalisation, accidental disability and more are covered under this policy. However, the policy premium depends on the size of your family and the number of covered individuals.



WOMEN WELFARE SCHEME

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

1

GOVERNMENT BUDGETING

CONTEXT: The Union government has gradually raised the total gender budgeting amount (the amount for all schemes related to women, across ministries) to ₹2.23 lakh crore in the 2023-24 budget estimates (BE).

What is Gender Budgeting?

- ⦿ Gender Budgeting was introduced in **2005-06**.
- ⦿ Gender Budgeting entails maintaining a gender perspective at various stages like programme and policy formulations, assessment of the needs of target groups, review of the existing policies and guidelines, allocation of resources, implementation of programmes, impact assessment, reprioritization of resources, etc.
- ⦿ According to **Budget documents**, the major estimated expenditure heads (BE FY24) include:
 - ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - rural** (₹54,487 crore)
 - ◆ **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme** (₹2,027 crore)
 - ◆ **DISHA Programme for women in science** (₹131 crore)
 - ◆ ₹4,031 crore allocated to the Ministry of Women and Child Development for schemes such as **Nirbhaya fund Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan**

2

BALIKA PANCHAYAT

CONTEXT: Gujarat is the first state in the country to launch Balika Panchayat.

What is Balika Panchayat?

- ⦿ The initiative aims to promote the **social and political development of the girls** and ensure their active participation in politics.
- ⦿ It is a new initiative has been started in **Kutch** under **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**.
- ⦿ The main objective of panchayat is that the girls should move forward in politics.
- ⦿ In Balika panchayat, the member is **nominated just like Gram panchayat**.
- ⦿ This initiative has been taken by the **Women and Child Development Welfare Department of the Gujarat Government** under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- ⦿ 'Balika Panchayat' is managed by people in the **11-21 age group and its main objective is to promote the social and political development of the girl child** and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.

3

ONE STOP CENTRE AND UNIVERSALIZATION OF WOMEN HELPLINES:

CONTEXT: Ministry of WCD is administering two schemes from Nirbhaya Fund namely One Stop Centre and Universalization of Women Helplines.

One Stop Centres (OSCs)

- ⦿ The One Stop Centres (OSCs), popularly known as

Sakhi Centres, aim to facilitate women affected by violence (including domestic violence) with a range of integrated services under one roof such as Police facilitation, medical aid, providing legal aid and legal counselling, psycho-social counselling, temporary shelter etc.

Women Helpline

- The **Women Helpline (WHL) Scheme** provides 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence, both in public and private spaces by linking them with appropriate authority such as Police, One Stop Centre, Hospital, Legal Services etc.
- WHL also supports women in distress with rescue van and counselling services in addition to providing information about women welfare schemes and programs across the country.
- Women can dial 181 short code to avail services from Women Helpline.

4 MISSION SHAKTI

CONTEXT: In response to concerns raised by several women's groups and organizations regarding the shortage of protection officers available to handle cases of domestic violence, the Supreme Court of India has recently asked the government to provide more information about Mission Shakti.

What is Mission Shakti?

- **Launched in:** 2017
- Mission Shakti is a comprehensive scheme launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development in India**, aimed at ensuring the safety and empowerment of women across the country.
- It is an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development is the implementing body of the scheme.
- Mission Shakti aims to ensure a lifecycle support system for women through integrated care, safety, protection, rehabilitation and empowerment.

Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.

- The "Sambal" is a sub-scheme for the safety and security of women.
- The "Samarthya" is a sub-scheme for the empowerment of women.

Initiatives under SAMBAL:

- **One-Stop Centre (OSC)** - to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/ case management, psychosocial counselling and temporary support services to women affected by violence.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** - to address the declining Child Sex Ratio.
- **Mahila Police Volunteers** - to report the incidences of violence against women.
- **Nari Adalats** - to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice within families and in society.

Initiatives under SAMARTHYA:

- **Gender Budgeting** is a tool for mainstreaming gender perspectives at various stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, impact assessment and revisiting of policy/programme objectives and allocations.
- **Swadhar Greh** - to provide relief and rehabilitation to destitute women and women in distress.
- **Working Women Hostels** for ensuring safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence.
- **National Creche Scheme** - to provide daycare facilities to children of the age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who are employed.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Provide Cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.

5 SHAKTI SADAN

CONTEXT: Under the newly approved Mission Shakti, Swadhar Greh for women in difficult circumstances and Ujjawala for Prevention of Trafficking have been merged and renamed as Shakti Sadan which is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home.

About

- Shakti Sadan is a **demand driven Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- This is aimed at creating a safe and enabling environment for the women in distress situations and difficult circumstances. The Shakti Sadan have provision for shelter, food, clothing, primary health care among others.
- Under the Scheme, States/UTs forward proposals on the basis of their local need and requirement and funds are released for approved projects as per **Scheme Guidelines**.

Swadhar Greh Scheme:

- ◎ The Swadhar Greh Scheme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for women who are victims of difficult circumstances in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.

Ujjawala Scheme:

- ◎ The Ujjawala Scheme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and for Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

6 PM SVANIDHI SCHEME

CONTEXT: The female share in the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme at 43 per cent indicates the empowerment of entrepreneurial capabilities of urban females, according to a report by State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD).

About

- ◎ PM SVANidhi Scheme, launched by Modi government in 2020, is a micro credit scheme, for urban street vendors, which provides collateral-free loans up to Rs 50,000.
- ◎ It is funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives:
 - ◆ To facilitate working capital loan up to Rs 10,000
 - ◆ To incentivize regular repayment
 - ◆ To reward digital transactions
- ◎ The scheme will help formalize the street vendors with above objectives and will open up new opportunities to this sector to move up the economic ladder.

7 WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL

CONTEXT: In a first, the Social Welfare Department in Kashmir is going to open a working women's hostel at Eidgah area of Srinagar.

About

- ◎ Working Women Hostel (WWH) known as **Sakhi Niwas** is a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- ◎ **Objective:** to provide safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day care facility for their children, wherever possible, in urban, semi urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.

- ◎ The scheme is intended to benefit:
 - ◆ Working women who may be single, widowed, divorced, separated, married but whose husband or immediate family does not reside in the same city/area. Particular preference may be given to disadvantaged sections of the society along with provisions for physically challenged.
 - ◆ Women who are under training for jobs provided the total training period does not exceed 1 year.
 - ◆ Girls upto age of 18 years and boys upto age of 5 years with working mothers will be provided accommodation with their mothers. Working mothers may also avail the day care centre facility under the scheme.

8**BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO NOW INCLUDES SKILLING**

CONTEXT: The Centre has expanded the scope of its flagship outreach program 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' to include skilling.

About the Initiative

- ◎ The government has decided to include skilling for girls in its Beti Bachao Beti Padao programme and has included the following component in the scheme:
 - ◆ Ensuring a 1% annual increment in enrolment at the secondary school level
 - ◆ To raise awareness about safe menstrual hygiene
 - ◆ To promulgate the elimination of child marriages
- ◎ The scheme will now also focus on **increasing the enrolment of girls in secondary education**, particularly in **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects**.

About Beti Bachao Beti Padao

- ◎ It was **launched in January 2015 with the aim to address sex-selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio** which was 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- ◎ This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ◎ The program is being implemented across 405 districts in the country.

Objectives:

- ◎ Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.

- Ensuring the survival & protection of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- Protecting rights of Girl children.

9 UJJWALA LPG SCHEME

CONTEXT: Recently, in reply to an Right to Information (RTI) application, it was revealed that in the financial year 2021-22, 90 lakh beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme did not refill their cylinders. Also, over 1 crore beneficiaries refilled their cylinders only once.

About Ujjwala 2.0:

- Under Ujjwala 2.0, Additional allocation of 1.6 Crore LPG Connections under PMUY Scheme with special facility to migrant households.
- The scheme was launched in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister Modi.

About: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- In May 2016, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG), introduced the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY) as a flagship scheme with an objective to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.
- Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts on the health of rural women as well as on the environment.

10 PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA (PMMVY)

CONTEXT: The Government has clarified that Aadhaar of Husbands is not mandatory under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, PMMVY, to facilitate the inclusion of single mothers and abandoned mothers.

About PMMVY:

- It is a **Maternity Benefit Programme** that is implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- The **direct benefit cash transfer** is to help expectant mothers meet enhanced nutritional requirements as well as to partially compensate them for wage loss during their pregnancy.

- The scheme was announced on December 31, 2016.
- It is being **implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.**

Beneficiaries:

- All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding those who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.
- All eligible Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who have their pregnancy on or after 1st January 2017 for the first child in the family.

Benefits:

- Beneficiaries receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000** in three instalments on fulfilling the following conditions:
 - Early registration of pregnancy
 - Ante-natal check-up
 - Registration of the birth of the child Completion of the first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The eligible **beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).** Thus, on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000.

Proposed reforms:

- The Centre is likely to soon extend the benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) - currently applicable to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first child in the family to the second one - **only if the child born is a girl.**
- Move aimed at discouraging pre-birth sex selection.

11 NAI ROSHNI SCHEME

CONTEXT: Since inception, about 4.35 lakh beneficiaries have been trained under the 'Nai Roshni' scheme.

About Nai Roshni Scheme

- It aims to empower and enhance confidence in Minority women by providing knowledge, tool and techniques for the Leadership Development of Women.
- It is a six-days non-residential/five-days residential training programme conducted for women belonging to a minority community between the age group of 18 years to 65 years.
- The training modules cover areas related to **Programmes for women, Health and Hygiene, Legal**

rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behavioural changes.

- The scheme was implemented through **Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs)**. Now, the scheme has been merged with PM VIKAS as a component.
- It is run with the help of NGOs, Civil societies and Government Institutions all over the country.

12

PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY)

CONTEXT: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recently relaxed capital requirement norms significantly for insurers to encourage their participation in the government's flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).

About PMJJBY

- The PMJJBY is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a bank account who give their consent to join / enable auto-debit.
- Aadhar would be the primary KYC for the bank account.
- The life cover of Rs. 2 lakhs shall be for the one year period stretching from 1st June to 31st May and will be renewable.
- Risk coverage under this scheme is for Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.
- The premium is Rs. 436 per annum which is to be auto-debited in one instalment from the subscriber's bank account as per the option given by him on or before 31st May of each annual coverage period under the scheme.
- The scheme is being offered by **Life Insurance Corporation** and all other life insurers who are willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with banks for this purpose.

13

PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY)

CONTEXT: Around 32 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) till last year.

About PMSBY

- The Scheme is available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a bank account.

- Aadhar is the primary KYC for the bank account.
- The risk coverage under the scheme is Rs.2 lakh for accidental death and full disability and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.
- The premium of Rs. 20 per annum is to be deducted from the account holder's bank account through 'auto-debit' facility in one instalment.
- The scheme is being offered by **Public Sector General Insurance Companies** or any other General Insurance Company who are willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with banks for this purpose.

14

KALAINGAR MAGALIR URIMAI THOGAI THITTAM

CONTEXT: Tamil Nadu Government recently launched the social welfare initiative — Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam (Kalaingar Women's Rights Grant Scheme).

About

- Under this scheme, Rs 1,000 per month is being deposited to the accounts of all eligible women beneficiaries. Along with financial support to women, the scheme also pays tribute to the legacy of former CM CN Annadurai, as it coincides with his birth anniversary.
- A sum of Rs 7,000 crore was set aside for the scheme in the state budget that was presented this year, making it the highest-spending social welfare scheme for the Tamil Nadu government.
- The financial aid is being directly transferred into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, ensuring a streamlined and efficient distribution process. With the issued ATM cards, eligible women will be able to withdraw the allocated amount as needed.
- Under the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, women and transgender individuals above 21 years of age are eligible. This includes unmarried and widowed women who are the heads of their households. Applicants need to have an annual income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh, making the scheme particularly beneficial for economically vulnerable women. Land ownership is also taken into account, with applicants allowed to own less than 10 acres of dry land or five acres of wetland.
- In addition to income and land ownership, the annual domestic power consumption of the family should be less than 3,600 units.
- While the scheme aims to be inclusive, certain categories of individuals are exempted. These include employees of state and central governments and public sector undertakings (PSUs), bank employees, income

taxpayers, professional taxpayers, pensioners, elected representatives of local bodies, and owners of four-wheelers.

15 NIRBHAYA FUND SCHEME

- Nirbhaya Fund Scheme was established in 2013, in the aftermath of the December 2012 Delhi gang rape and murder case.
- Nirbhaya (literally means fearless) was given as the victim's name to conceal the victim's identity.
- Major Projects under the Fund:
 - ◆ Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCf)
 - ◆ One Stop Centers (OSCs)
 - ◆ Universalization of Women Helpline (WHL)
 - ◆ Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV)
 - ◆ Safe City Project
 - ◆ Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC)
 - ◆ Establishment of a State of the Art DNA Laboratory
 - ◆ Setting up and Strengthening of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTU's)
 - ◆ Integrated Emergency Response Management Systems (IERMS)
 - ◆ Project Abhaya
 - ◆ Fast Track Special Courts

Women Helpline Scheme

- The Women Helpline Scheme is a government initiative that provides 24x7 emergency responses to women affected by violence in public or private spaces through a single toll-free number (181).
- If a victim's call is disconnected or interrupted due to sickness or disability while stating her issue, emergency services will immediately locate and reach her by tracking her address.

Mahila Police Volunteers Scheme

- **Mahila E-Haat** is an online platform launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** to allow women entrepreneurs to showcase their products to buyers using mobile and internet connections.
- The initiative supports the '**Make in India**' program and includes a wide range of products such as clothing, fashion accessories, home decor, pottery, toys, and more.

16 MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA (MSK):

- The Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme was approved in November, 2017 as a centrally sponsored

scheme to empower rural women through community participation.

- The aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women.
- The scheme is implemented through State Governments and UT Administrations with a cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between Centre and States except for North East & Special Category States where the funding ratio is 90:10.
- For Union Territories 100% central funding is provided.

17 PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA (PMMVY):

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a **Centrally Sponsored Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme**, for implementation across the country with effect from 01.01.2017.
- The maternity benefit under PMMVY is available to all Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), **excluding** PW&LM who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments or Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force, for first living child of family.
- Under the scheme Rs.5,000/- are provided to the eligible beneficiary in three instalments during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling certain nutrition and health seeking conditions.
- The eligible beneficiary also receives the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs.6,000/-.

STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women)

- One of the most effective women empowerment schemes in India is the Support to Training and Employment Program for Women (STEP).
- Its goal is to provide women with training in skill development and ensure employment opportunities. This government-sponsored scheme offers grants to institutions and organizations to conduct training programs.

18 MAHILA E-HAAT

A direct online marketing platform launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this scheme is made to support women entrepreneurs. This is also part of the 'Digital India' initiative.

19 NARI SHAKTI PURUSKARS

- The Nari Shakti Puruskars are national-level awards that recognize the efforts made by women and institutions that make a difference in women's lives, especially vulnerable and marginalized women.
- The awards are presented by the President of India every year on **March 8 - International Women's Day** - at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

PYQ (2023)

1. Consider the following statements in relation to Janani Suraksha Yojana: (UPSC 2023)

1. It is a safe motherhood intervention of the State Health Departments.
2. Its objective is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality among poor pregnant women.
3. It aims to promote institutional delivery among poor pregnant women,
4. Its objective includes providing public health facilities to sick infants up to one year of age.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All four

Correct Option: (b)

(IEPFA) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

3. India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp is organised in Srinagar, J&K.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) None (d) All three

2. With reference to National Initiative for Promotion of Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
2. It is an innovative project for the skill training of construction workers.
3. It is flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

3. Consider the following statements regarding Balika Panchayat:

1. It aims to promote the social and political development of the girls and ensure their active participation in politics.
2. In Balika Panchayat, the member is nominated just like Gram panchayat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--|--|
| 1. (b) | 2. (b) | 3. (c) | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--|--|

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements regarding NiveshakDidi Initiative:

1. It is based on the ideology of by the women for the women for promoting financial literacy.
2. It is launched by SEBI, in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

20

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS)

CONTEXT: Including women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)-related professions is critical to a nation's economic and societal progress.

What is STEM?

- STEM stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics**.
 - ◆ This acronym was introduced in the year 2001 by the scientific administrators at the U.S National Science Foundation.
- STEM education is different from the regular science and mathematics. It talks about the application of these techniques into the real world, i.e., an integrating applied approach and cohesive learning techniques.

◎ **The current status**

- ◆ Notably, nearly half of India's STEM graduates are women.
- ◎ However, India's proportion of women engaged in science and technology-related professions is a paltry 14 percent, a figure vastly inconsistent with their representation in the corresponding educational categories.

I-STEM

- ◎ In 2022, the Government launched a national portal called I-STEM.
- ◎ It is a national platform that serves as a hub for various **STEM-related initiatives**.
- ◎ The initiative was also a part of the '**Swayam**' initiative of the government to help guide skill-building and developing modules in academic institutions in utilizing a range of technological equipment.

21

GENDER ADVANCEMENT FOR TRANSFORMING INSTITUTIONS (GATI):

- ◎ The Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) was launched by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.
- ◎ It will develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in **STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)**.

22

VIGYAN JYOTI SCHEME:

- ◎ Vigyan Jyoti Scheme is launched by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.
- ◎ It is intended to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)** in their higher education.

23

INDO-US FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN IN STEMM (WISTEMM) PROGRAM:

- ◎ Women scientists can work in research labs in the US.

24

CONSOLIDATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN UNIVERSITIES (CURIE) PROGRAMME:

- ◎ Improving R&D infrastructure and establishing state-of-the-art research facilities in order to create excellence in S&T in women's universities.

25

KNOWLEDGE INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT THROUGH NURTURING (KIRAN):

- ◎ Department of Science & Tech. restructured all women-specific programs under one umbrella called KIRAN. The mandate of the KIRAN program is to bring gender parity to S&T through gender mainstreaming.
- ◎ One of the programs under the scheme — '**Women Scientist Scheme**' — provides career opportunities to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in their careers.

26

WOMEN'S TECHNOLOGY PARKS:

- ◎ Women's technology parks (WTPs) act as a single window hub for the convergence of diversified technologies, leading to the socio-economic development of women through capacity building and the adoption of location-specific technologies.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

27

MUDRA YOJANA

- ◎ The Mudra loan scheme is a government initiative in India aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and providing financial support to micro and small enterprises.
- ◎ The scheme has a special focus on women entrepreneurs, as it aims to empower and promote women's entrepreneurship in the country.
- ◎ Mudra loans for women are also available on easy terms

and conditions, with no collateral required for loans up to 10 lakhs.

- ◎ The scheme also offers lower interest rates to women entrepreneurs, making it a lucrative option for those looking to start or expand their businesses.

28

STAND-UP INDIA SCHEME

- ◎ The Stand-Up India Scheme is a government scheme that aims to promote entrepreneurship among women and other marginalized communities.

- It provides bank loans to at least one scheduled caste (SC) or scheduled tribe borrower and at least one woman per bank branch for the establishment of a greenfield business.
- In the case of non-individual firms, a SC/ST or woman entrepreneur must possess at least 51% of the ownership and majority stake.
- Under this scheme, women entrepreneurs can get a loan ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore to start or expand their small business.

29 MAHILA COIR YOJANA

- Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY) intends to empower women by providing spinning equipment at reduced prices following proper skill development training.
- Under this scheme, women entrepreneurs can get a subsidy of up to 75% of the cost of equipment and machinery for coir processing.
- The scheme also provides a margin money subsidy of up to 25% of the project cost.
- The scheme is available to rural women artisan who are above 18 years of age and has completed a training programme in coir yarn spinning at any of the Coir Board's training institutes.

30 UDYAM SHAKTI PORTAL

- It was launched by the **Ministry of MSME** for promoting social entrepreneurship by creating low-cost products and services.

- It offers assistance with business planning, incubation facilities, training programs, mentorship, market research, and more.
- Projects with a maximum cost of ₹25 lakhs are eligible for the scheme, with ₹10 lakhs allocated specifically for service-based projects.
- The initiative's online portal has played a significant role in empowering women beyond the confines of their homes.

31

UDYOGINI SCHEME FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

- The Udyogini program was started by the Government and Women Entrepreneurs in India for their welfare and advancement.
- This program encourages and motivates women's entrepreneurship among the underprivileged by giving women financial help for running a business.
- The **Udyogini Scheme** aids in raising household and individual income levels and promotes national development.

Sustainable Development Goals that can be achieved by economically empowering women:

- SDG 1:** No poverty
- SDG 4:** Quality Education
- SDG 5:** Gender Equality
- SDG 8:** Decent work and economic growth
- SDG 10:** Reduced inequality

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS-WELFARE STATE:

India is a Welfare State, committed to ensuring the 'Well-Being' and 'Quality of Life' of its people in general and of vulnerable sections in particular.

- The **Preamble**, **Directive Principles** of State Policy, and **Fundamental Rights** in the Constitution of India stand testimony to the commitment of the State to its people.
- Entry 9 in the List II of Schedule 7:** The subject of '**Relief to the Disabled and Unemployable**' is the responsibility of the State Governments.
- Article 14:** The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
- Article 15(A) (e)** directs the State to renounce the practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
- Article 16** provides for equality of opportunities in the matter of public appointments beings and forced labour.
- Article 24** prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in any factory of mine or other hazardous occupations.
- Article 41** states that the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education, and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.
- Article 45** provides for free and compulsory children up to the age of 14 years.
- Article 46** lays down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people.
- Article 47** states about the duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health.

LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTION OF WOMEN

- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005)** is a comprehensive legislation. It also covers women who have been/are in a relationship with the abuser and are subjected to violence of any kind—physical, sexual, mental, verbal or emotional.
- **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (1956)** prevents trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of prostitution as an organised means of living.
- **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (1986)** prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner.
- **Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act (1987)** provides for more effective prevention of the commission of sati and its glorification on women.
- **Dowry Prohibition Act (1961)** prohibits the giving or taking of dowry at or before or any time after the marriage from women.
- **Maternity Benefit Act (1961)** protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her of a 'maternity benefit' – i.e. full paid absence from work – to take care for her child.
- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (1971)** provides for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners on humanitarian and medical grounds.
- **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (1994)** prohibits sex selection and prevents the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination leading to female foeticide.
- **Equal Remuneration Act (1976)** provides for payment of equal remuneration to both men and women workers for same work or work of a similar nature.
- **Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act (1939)** grants a Muslim wife the right to seek the dissolution of her marriage.
- **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act (1986)** protects the rights of Muslim women who have been divorced by or have obtained divorce from their husbands. It makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form, to be void (i.e. not enforceable in law) and illegal.
- **Family Courts Act (1984)** provides for establishment of Family Courts for speedy settlement of family disputes.
- **Indian Penal Code (1860)** contains provisions to protect Indian women from dowry death, rape, kidnapping, cruelty and other offences.
- **Code of Criminal Procedure (1973)** has safeguards for women like obligation of a person to maintain his wife, arrest of woman by female police and so on.
- **Indian Christian Marriage Act (1872)** contain provisions relating to marriage and divorce among the Christian community.
- **Legal Services Authorities Act (1987)** provides for free legal services to Indian women.
- **Hindu Marriage Act (1955)** introduced monogamy and allowed divorce on certain specified grounds. It provided equal rights to Indian man and woman in respect of marriage and divorce.
- **Hindu Succession Act (1956)** recognizes the right of women to inherit parental property equally with men.
- **Minimum Wages Act (1948)** does not allow discrimination between male and female workers or different minimum wages for them.
- **Mines Act (1952) and Factories Act (1948)** prohibits the employment of women between 7 P.M. to 6 A.M. in mines and factories and provides for their safety and welfare.
- **National Commission for Women Act (1990)** provides for the establishment of a National Commission for Women to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal rights and safeguards of women.
- **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (2013)** provides protection to women from sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organised or unorganized.
- **The Vishaka Guidelines** were a set of procedural guidelines for use in India in cases of sexual harassment. They were promulgated by the Indian Supreme Court in 1997 and were superseded in 2013 by the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** This act defines child marriage as a marriage where the groom or the bride are underage, that is, the bride is under 18 years of age or the boy is younger than 21 years.
- **Special Marriage Act, 1954** provides a special form of marriage in certain cases, provide for registration of certain marriages and, to provide for divorce. When people from different faiths and caste chose to get married they do it under the Special Marriage Act.
- **Indian Divorce Act, 1969** The Indian Divorce Act allows the dissolution of marriage, mutual consent, nullity of marriage, judicial separation and restitution of conjugal rights.



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EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

1

PM-USHA (PRADHAN MANTRI UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN)

- Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) is the new name for the Ministry's scheme to improve the quality of higher education in State Universities — through curricular and programme changes, teacher training, physical and digital infrastructure, accreditation, and enhancing employability — while ensuring equity, access, and inclusion.
- It is the **centre's flagship scheme** for **State-run higher education**.
- Funding:** PM-USHA scheme has 60:40 funding split between Centre and States, with no extra money for NEP reforms.
- It provides an outlay of Rs 12,926.10 crore between 2023-24 and 2025-26.

2

STUDY WEBS OF ACTIVE LEARNING FOR YOUNG ASPIRING MINDS (SWAYAM) PROGRAMME

- Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)**, was launched in 2017 by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses.
- This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
- The objective is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.
- Under this programme, Professors of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs, Centrally universities offer online courses to citizens of our country.

3

SWAYAM PRABHA

- The SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 34 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the **GSAT-15 satellite**.
- Every day, there will be new content for at least (4) hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience.
- The channels are uplinked from BISAG, Gandhinagar.
- The contents are provided by NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU.

4

PM eVIDYA

- PM eVidya is a unique and innovative venture by the Ministry of Education, Government of India to facilitate multi-mode access to digital/online teaching-learning contents of various types among students and teachers.
- The uniqueness of the PM e-Vidya lies with its comprehensive accessibility for all as it caters the education content to all with its multi-mode set-up of remote learning platforms including internet, radio, community radio, podcast, and TV.

5

SATHEE

- It is a project for **Universalization of Quality Education** through DTH TV and Web platform.
- This will cater education & assistance related to study and preparation of college entrance and job oriented competitive exam.
- It aims to help the students and job aspirants of India at their doorstep, their TV sets. There would be upto 40 channels for this purpose.

6 NATIONAL E-LIBRARY

- The National E –Library became operational from 2015.
- The National Digital Library of India is a single window platform that provides learning resources with an aim to make e-learning and education accessible to all, and to bring to users of all demographics, digital repositories from India and the world.
- It is a **National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)** project developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, aided by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India.**

7 SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (SSA)

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in 2001.
- It is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by **86th amendment to the Constitution of India** making free and compulsory Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right.
- It focuses on increasing enrolment, Admission Management, improving the quality of education, and reducing gender and social disparities in education.
- The scheme provides for the construction of new schools, additional classrooms, toilets, and drinking water facilities, as well as the appointment of additional teachers.

8 PM POSHAN SCHEME OR MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

- The Government has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme '**Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)**' for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government – aided Schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The Scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Education.**
- Under the Scheme, there is provision of hot cooked meal to children of pre-schools or **Bal Vatika** (before class I) in primary schools also in addition to the 11.80 crore children of classes I to VIII studying in 11.20 lakh schools.
- The main objectives of the PM POSHAN Scheme (earlier known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme) are to address two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by improving the

nutritional status of eligible children in Government and Government-aided schools.

Nutrition and food norms under the scheme are as under:

S. No.	Items	Primary	Upper Primary
Nutrition norm per child per day			
1.	Calorie	450	700
2.	Protein	12 gms	20 gms
Food norms per child per day			
1.	Food grains	100 gms	150 gms
2.	Pulses	20 gms	30 gms
3.	Vegetables	50 gms	75 gms
4.	Oil & fat	5 gms	7.5 gms
5.	Salt & condiments	As per need	As per need

9 RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RMSA)

- **Launched in:** 2009
- The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a flagship scheme of Government of India, to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality.
- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) aims to increase the enrolment rate by providing a secondary school within reasonable distance of every home.
- It also aims to improve the **quality of secondary education** by making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, and providing universal access to secondary level education.

10 NATIONAL SCHEME OF INCENTIVE TO GIRLS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION (NSIGSE)

- **Launched in:** 2008
- National Scheme Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**
- This scheme provides financial assistance to families of girl students from economically and socially disadvantaged groups for their secondary education.
- The scheme aims to improve the enrolment and retention of girl students in secondary schools.

11

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR THE DISABLED AT SECONDARY STAGE (IEDSS)

- ⊙ **Launched in:** 2009
- ⊙ This scheme aims to provide inclusive education for children with disabilities at the secondary level.
- ⊙ The scheme provides for the construction of new inclusive schools, additional classrooms, toilets, and drinking water facilities, as well as the appointment of additional teachers and special educators.

12

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

- ⊙ **Launched in:** 2018
- ⊙ **Launched by:** Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- ⊙ This scheme aims to provide an integrated approach to school education and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary level.
- ⊙ The Samagra Shiksha scheme is an integrated scheme for school education which covers education from pre-school to class XII.
- ⊙ It subsumed the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**, **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**, and **Teacher Education (TE)**.
- ⊙ The scheme treats school education by **Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4)**.

13

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

- ⊙ Launched in 2018, this scheme aims to provide quality education to **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** children living in remote and far-flung areas.
- ⊙ The scheme provides for the establishment of **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** in each block with a substantial ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons.

14

SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNTS (SEED)

- ⊙ The SEED Scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- ⊙ **Components of the scheme:**
 - ◆ **Free Coaching:** The objective of this component

is to enable them to appear in competitive examinations/ admission to professional courses like medicine, engineering, MBA, etc. for obtaining an appropriate job in the Public/Private Sector.

- ◆ **Health Insurance:** The primary objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to **National Health Authority (NHA)** in association with **State Health Agencies (SHAs)**. These agencies will provide a health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakhs per family per year for families as per norms of **“Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana”**.
- ◆ **Livelihood Initiatives:** The primary objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**. It would enhance productivity growth in key livelihood sectors for employment generation through investments in institutional support, and technical assistance.
- ◆ **Financial support for Housing:** It is for those who have not taken benefit of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as SC, ST, and OBC and are living below the poverty line. The admissible support is Rs 1.20 lakhs in plains and 1.30 lakhs in hilly areas (per unit assistance).

Who are DNTs?

- ⊙ The term **‘De-notified Tribes’** stands for all those communities which were once notified under the Criminal Tribes Acts, enforced by the British Raj between 1871 and 1947.
- ⊙ These Acts were repealed after Independence in 1952, and these communities were **“De-Notified”**.
- ⊙ The DNTs are the most neglected, marginalized, and economically and socially deprived communities.

15

PM-SHRI YOJANA

- ⊙ The PM SHRI School is a centrally sponsored scheme initiated by the Government of India.
- ⊙ Its objective is to establish over 14,500 PM SHRI Schools, overseen by the Central Government, State/ UT Governments, local bodies, as well as **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)** and **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)**.
- ⊙ These schools aim to create an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for every student, ensuring their well-being and providing a secure and enriching learning environment.
- ⊙ The goal is to offer a diverse range of learning experiences and ensure access to good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources for all students.

16

VIDYA SAMIKSHA KENDRAS OR VSKS

- Vidya Samiksha Kendras or VSKs refer to a central system at the State level for tracking and monitoring data related to student enrolment, learning outcomes, and various government schemes and projects for facilitating education services.
- Some of the key data portals that currently form a part of the Central level NDEAR VSK include UDISE, DIKSHA, National Achievement Survey, NIPUN BHARAT, Performance Grading Index, PM-POSHAN mid-day meal programme, etc.
- The VSKs were first envisioned in 2020 under the NDEAR framework to enable “integrated and shared ‘seeing’” of data for analysing outcomes of several education schemes and for data-driven policymaking.
- The NDEAR framework serves as a foundational guide for the government’s plans to digitise and unify several databases in the education sector, which are currently operating in silos.
- The aim is to create a federated system, which would allow the Centre as well as States/UTs along with private sector or non-profit organisations to use the interconnected platform for advancing access to education.
- According to a notification issued by the Department of School Education & Literacy on September 30, 2022, the VSKs will cover data of more than 15 Lakh schools, 96 Lakh teachers and 26 Crore students and use big data analysis, artificial intelligence and machine learning for analysing such vast amount of data.

17

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR TECHNOLOGY (NEAT 3.0)

- The government launched **NEAT 3.0**, a single platform to provide the best-developed Ed-Tech solutions and courses to students of the country.
- **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)** is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners’ convenience.
- These solutions use artificial intelligence for a personalised and customised learning experience for better learning outcomes and skill development in the niche areas.
- The minister informed that 58 global and Indian start-up Ed-Tech companies are on-board NEAT and are offering 100 courses and e-resources for bettering learning outcomes, developing employable skills and overcoming learning loss.

18

VIGYAN JYOTI PROGRAMME

- **Vigyan Jyoti Programme** is a highly ambitious initiative of the **Science and Technology Ministry**.



- It aims to address the underrepresentation of women in different fields of **Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** in the country.
- Launched in **2020**, the **Vigyan Jyoti programme** is aimed at encouraging meritorious girl students of Class 9-12 to pursue higher education and career in STEM, particularly in the areas where gender parity is wider.
- The **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)**, an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Education, is the implementation partner of Vigyan Jyoti.

19

SKILLS ACQUISITION AND KNOWLEDGE AWARENESS FOR LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION (SANKALP)

- Launched by the Government in 2018, it is a **World Bank loan assisted project** that aims to strengthen institutional mechanisms for skill development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for youth across the country.
- MGNF is a unique **blend of academic and work-based training** handled at the IIM campus and the districts, respectively.
- **Eligibility:** 21-30 years age-group, have a graduation degree from a recognized university and be citizens of India.

20

VIDYANJALI

- Vidyanjali is an initiative of **Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education**, for facilitating the community and volunteers to directly connect with the government and government-aided schools to contribute their services and/or assets/materials/equipments through a dedicated portal.

- ⊙ This initiative connects schools with varied volunteers from the Indian Diaspora namely, young professionals, school alumni, in service and retired teachers / Government officials / professionals and many others.
- ⊙ Vidyanjali has two verticals: “**Participate in school Service/Activity**” and “**Assets/Material/Equipment**” in which volunteer can support and strengthen the government and government aided schools.

21 ABHYAAS

- ⊙ It is a program of **Accelerate Vigyan Scheme**, is an **attempt to boost research and development** in the country by enabling and grooming potential postgraduate / PhD students by developing dedicated research skills in selected areas / disciplines / fields through its two components - **high-end workshops (“KAARYASHALA”)** and **Training and Skill Internship (“VRITIKA”)**.
- ⊙ This is especially important for researchers with limited opportunities to access such learning capacities / facilities / infrastructure.
 - ◆ **SAMMOHAN:** It has been sub-divided into **SAYONJIKA** and **SANGOSHTI**.
 - ◆ **SAYONJIKA** is an open-ended program to catalogue capacity building activities in science and technology supported by all government funding agencies in the country.
 - ◆ **SANGOSHTI** is a pre-existing program of SERB for the organization of workshops.

22 NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY (NAS)

- ⊙ Launched in 2016, this scheme aims to provide an accurate picture of the learning levels of students in the country.
- ⊙ The survey is conducted for students of classes 3, 5, and 8 and provides a comprehensive report on the learning levels of students in different subjects, as well as the areas where students need improvement.

23 RASHTRIYA AVISHKAR ABHIYAN (RAA)

- ⊙ Launched in 2015, this scheme aims to promote science and mathematics education in schools.
- ⊙ The scheme provides for the development of science and mathematics laboratories in schools, as well as the appointment of additional teachers for science and mathematics.

24

PADHE BHARAT BADHE BHARAT (PBBB)

- ⊙ Launched in 2018, this scheme aims to improve the reading, writing, and arithmetic skills of students in classes 3 to 5.
- ⊙ The scheme focuses on providing training to teachers, developing reading materials, and creating a culture of reading in schools.

25

DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- ⊙ **DIKSHA-Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing**, launched in 2017, is a national platform for school education **to address the challenge of remote learning especially in rural areas**. It is available for all the learners of grades 1 to 12 and it can be accessed through a **web portal** and **mobile application**. Salient features include:
 - ◆ Autonomy and choice within a national framework
 - ◆ Online-offline and varied types of devices
 - ◆ Diversity of content and energized textbooks
 - ◆ Data provides the ability to see and empower
 - ◆ Local language content and open licensing framework
 - ◆ Bridging the physical and digital world
 - ◆ Diversity, flexibility and evolving, etc.
- ⊙ **ePathshala** is a joint initiative of **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**, Government of India and **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, New Delhi for the purpose of ‘**showcasing and disseminating all educational e-resources including textbooks, audio-video resources, periodicals and a variety of other digital resources**’.
- ⊙ **Swayam Prabha Channels:** Through **32 channels** earmarked for school education and higher education separately, high quality educational programmes are telecasted by the MHRD and the same are open for people of rural India for accessing remote digital learning.
- ⊙ **NROER-National Repository Educational Resources** is a collaborative platform for sharing of open educational resources. **NROER hosts large number educational resources in many subjects and in different Indian languages for Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary classes**.
- ⊙ **ICT Scheme under Samagra Shiksha** has integrated the efforts of **Computer Aided Learning(CAL)** of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** with the ICT interventions of **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)**

- **Shaala Darpan** is an e-Governance platform for all Kendriya Vidyalayas.
- **Shaala Siddhi** also known as **The National Programme on School Standards and Evaluation (NPSSE)** enables the schools to evaluate their performance and thereby bring improvement.
- **E-Granthalaya** is an **integrated Library Management Software** developed by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**
- **Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (DISHA)** to impart **IT training to people including Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and authorised ration dealers** in all the States/UTs across the country.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA):** The major focus is to 'bridge the digital divide, specifically **targeting the rural population** including the marginalized sections of society.
- **Role of UNISED:** Similar efforts have been made by **UNISED INDIA** for implementing various digital initiatives particularly in rural India that includes **Low Cost and No Cost e-Resources, Solar Energy Operated Smart Classes, Projector Based Learning, Computer Aided Learning, ICT Integrated Education, Formation and Use of Professional Learning Groups, Capacity Building on Early Grade Pedagogy and Virtual Learning and unique interventions under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA).**

Vishvakarma Puja, also rendered Vishvakarma Jayanti, is a Hindu observance dedicated to Vishvakarma, the architect of the gods. It falls on the date of Kanya Sankranti of the Hindu calendar.

16 MISSION KARMAYOGI

- **Launched in: 2020**
- **The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)-Mission Karmayogi** is meant to reform Indian bureaucracy and prepare civil servants for the future.
- **The mission has also created an online platform called as iGOT-Karmayogi.** iGOT stands for **Integrated Government Online Training.**

27

SKILL INDIA DIGITAL PLATFORM

- **Skill India Digital (SID)** is an innovative digital platform centred around Skills and Jobs, leveraging the robust framework of India Stack Global, ensuring top-notch security and scalability. This comprehensive platform offers various key features.

- ◆ **Firstly,** it facilitates **DISCOVERY & RECOMMENDATION** through advanced AI/ML technology, aiding users in identifying suitable skill sets.
- ◆ **Secondly,** it hosts a digital job exchange, connecting job seekers with relevant opportunities seamlessly.

28

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROMOTION SCHEME

- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** under a pan-India **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme** will be launched to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth over three years.

29

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA 4.0

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** is the flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** implemented by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).**
- The objective of this Skill Certification scheme is to enable Indian youth to take up industry relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (FY 2023-26)** was announced in the last **Union Budget 2023-24** with an aim to skill lakh of youth and provide training in courses on **Industry 4.0, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IoT and drones**

PYQ (2017)

1. Who among the following can join the National Pension System (NPS)? (UPSC 2017)

- (a) Resident Indian citizens only
- (b) Persons of age from 21 to 55 only
- (c) All State Government employees joining the services after the date of notification by the respective State Governments
- (d) All Central Governments Employees including those of Armed Forces joining the services on or after 1st April, 2004

Correct Option: (c)

PYQ (2017)**2. What is the purpose of Vidyanjali Yojana'?**

1. To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India.
2. To increase the quality of education provided in government schools by taking help from the private sector and the community.
3. To encourage voluntary monetary contributions from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for primary and secondary schools.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Correct Option: (a)

PYQ (2017)**3. What is the aim of the programme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?**

- (a) Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.
- (b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- (c) Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power.
- (d) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them.

Correct Option: (b)

PYQ (2017)**4. 'Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme' is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to**

- (a) Certifying the skills acquired by construction workers through traditional channels.
- (b) Enrolling the persons in Universities for distance learning programmes.

- (c) Reserving some skilled jobs to rural and urban poor in some public sector undertakings.
- (d) Certifying the skills acquired by trainees under the National Skill Development Programme.

Correct Option: (a)

PYQ (2018)**5. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements**

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Option: (c)

PYQ (2018)**6. Consider the following statements :**

1. As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State Council of Teacher Education.
2. As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
3. In India, more than 90% of teacher -5 education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Correct Option: (b)

30

**PM-DAKSH (PRADHAN
MANTRI DAKSHTA AUR
KUSHALTA SAMPANN
HITGRAHI) YOJANA**

CONTEXT: During last three years of implementation from 2020-21 to 2022-23, a total of 107156 beneficiaries have been trained and an amount of Rs. 213.83 crore has been spent under PM-DAKSH.

About

- PM-DAKSH (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalata Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana is a revolutionary scheme and national action plan to skill the marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, sanitation workers including waste pickers.
- It is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.
- The main objective of the scheme is to increase the skill levels of the targeted youth by providing for long term and short term skills, followed by settlement in employment and self-employment.
- The scheme has been launched by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment during 2020-21 to impart skill development training to the youth aged between 18-45 years belonging to Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes/Economically Backward Classes/De-notified Tribes and Safai karamcharis including Waste pickers through online registration at PM-DAKSH portal on pan India basis.

31

PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

CONTEXT: In commemoration of ‘Vishwakarma Jayanti’, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘PM Vishwakarma’ scheme for the benefit of traditional artisans.

What is PM Vishwakarma's scheme?

- PM Vishwakarma's scheme has been launched to support the people engaged in traditional crafts.
- **Objective:** The prime focus of the scheme is improving the quality as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and ensuring that they are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.
- **Funding:** PM Vishwakarma's scheme has been fully funded by the Union government with an outlay of Rs 13,000 crore.

- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise** is the nodal ministry of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana.
 - ◆ The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, would provide active support for implementation of the scheme for the wellbeing of the Vishwakarmas.
- Under the scheme, the prospective beneficiaries will be registered free of charge through common services centres using the biometric-based **PM Vishwakarma portal**.
- **Coverage:** The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople in rural and urban areas across India. Initially, 18 traditional trades will be covered.
 - ◆ These include carpenter (Suthar); boat maker; armourer; blacksmith; hammer and tool kit maker; locksmith; goldsmith; potter (Kumhaar); sculptor, stone breaker; cobbler; mason; basket/mat/ broom maker/coir weaver; doll and toy maker (traditional); barber; garland maker; washerman; tailor ; and fishing net maker.
- In the first year, five lakh families will be covered and a total of 30 lakh families will be covered over five years from FY24 to FY28.
- **Certification:** The beneficiaries of the scheme will be provided recognition through a PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, and skill upgradation involving basic and advanced training.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Ministers' RozgarYojana (PMRY):

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Small-Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.
2. Neither the income of the beneficiary along with the spouse nor the income of parents of the beneficiaries shall exceed Rs.40000 pa to reap the benefits of the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements regarding National Initiative for Promotion of Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) Scheme

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
2. It is an innovative project for the skill training of construction workers.

3. It is flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

3. Consider the following statements:

1. HARIHAR is an Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) aimed at family-based non-institutional care of children in difficult circumstances.
2. Mission Vatsalya is aimed at providing employment, educational and financial benefits to abandoned and surrendered children from all over India.
3. MusQan scheme aims to provide high-quality and safe Child-Friendly Services in Public Health Facilities.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

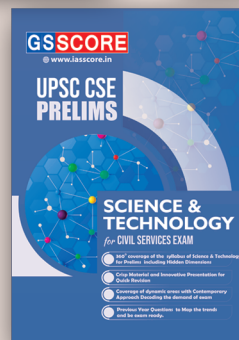
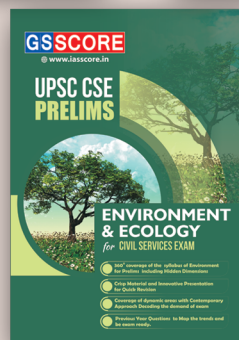
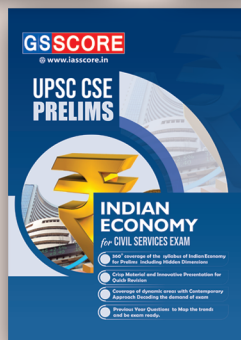
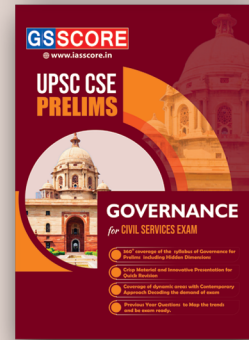
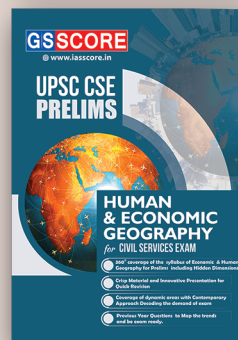
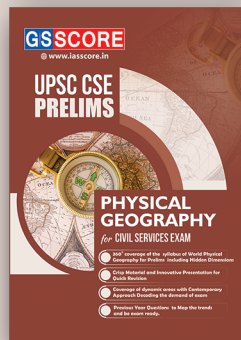
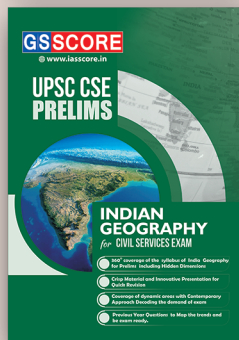
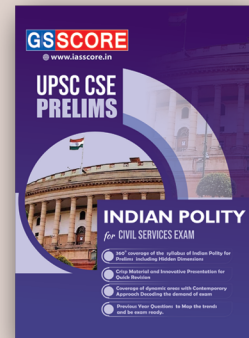
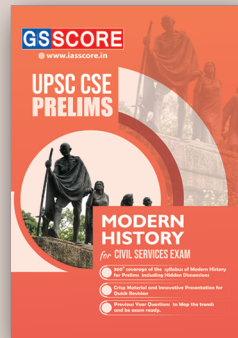
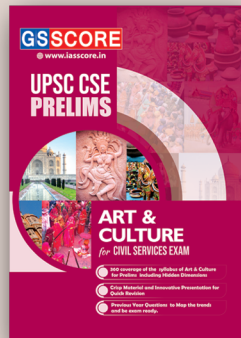
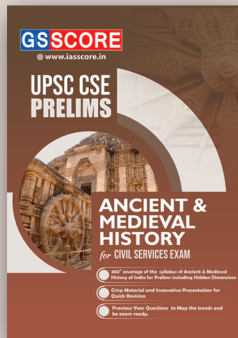
4. Which of the following statements regarding New India Literacy Programme are correct?

1. It aims to achieve universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by the end of Grade 3 by 2026-2027.
2. It covers non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all state and union territories.
3. All material and resources under the programme shall be provided digitally.

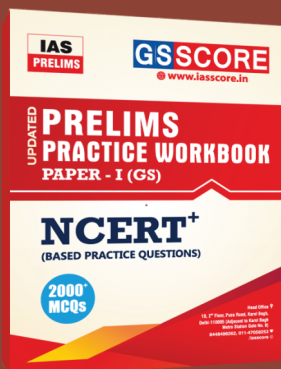
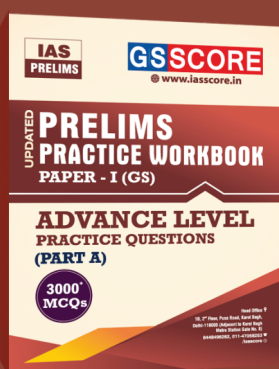
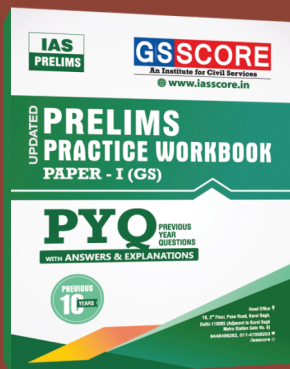
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWERS				
1. (c)	2. (b)	3. (a)	4. (c)	



UPDATED PRELIMS PRACTICE WORKBOOK



CHILDREN & ELDERLY

SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN

1 MISSION VATSALYA

CONTEXT: Recently, the Women and Child Development Ministry released guidelines in order to access Central funds and benefits under Mission Vatsalya.

About Mission Vatsalya

- It is an umbrella scheme for child protection services in the country.
- It promotes family-based non-institutional care of children in difficult circumstances based on the principle of institutionalization of children as a measure of last resort.
- It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with state governments and UT administrations, with a fund-sharing pattern in a 60:40.
- For the eight states in the Northeast as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir the Centre and state/UT's share will be 90:10.
- The Centre will cover the whole cost in UTs without a legislature.
- Mission Vatsalya, in partnership with states and districts, will execute a **24×7 helpline service** for children, as defined under **JJ Act, 2015**.

Objective of Mission Vatsalya include:

To secure a healthy and happy childhood for each and every child in the country:

- Improve functioning of statutory bodies
- Strengthen service delivery structures
- Upscale institutional care and services
- Encourage non-institutional community-based care
- Emergency outreach services
- Training and capacity building

2 ONE NATION ONE ANGANWADI PROGRAMME

CONTEXT: More than 57,000 migrant workers have registered for the special 'one nation one Anganwadi programme', to avail the benefits of schemes especially for children and mothers which is important for inclusive development and welfare society.

About One Nation One Anganwadi Programme:

- Under 'One Nation One Anganwadi Programme', people even if relocate to another State, they can avail of the benefits given to **children under six years** and **pregnant women and lactating mothers** by the government.
- Under the programme **each migrant worker** who had registered in their original state could go to the nearest Anganwadi in their current place of residence and avail of the schemes and services offered.
- This can become possible with the coordination of **Centre and the State governments** using the '**Poshan Tracker App**' on mobile phones.
- An **age-appropriate take home ration** is also being designed for children up to six years of age and a proposal has been sent for the same to the finance ministry.

The **Poshan Tracker management application** provides a **360-degree view** of the activities of the Anganwadi Centre (child care centres), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers and complete beneficiary management for pregnant women, lactating mothers and **children under six**.

- It also **digitizes and automates** physical registers used by workers that helps improve the quality of their work.

POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission):

- It was launched by the government on **March 8, 2018**.
- Aim:**
 - The Abhiyaan targets to reduce **stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight** by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

POSHAN 2.0:

- About:**
 - The government has amalgamated various programmes with similar objectives such as Supplementary Nutrition Programme and “**POSHAN Abhiyaan under one umbrella—Mission POSHAN 2.0**”—for creating synergies in operations and adopting an integrated approach in the nutrition services mechanism.

Components:

- Convergence:** The Abhiyaan is to ensure convergence of all nutrition related schemes of MWCD on the target population. The Abhiyaan will ensure convergence of various programmes.
- ICDS-CAS:** Software based tracking of nutritional status will be done.
- Behavioral change:** The Abhiyaan will be run as a **Jan Andolan** where mass involvement of people is desired. A community-based event will happen once a month to create awareness and address issues.
- Incentives:** Front line workers will be given incentives for performance.
- Training and Capacity Building:** Incremental Learning Approach will be adopted to teach **21 thematic modules**. The training will be given by Master Trainers to front line workers.
- Grievance Redressal:** A call centre will be set up for ease of access to solutions to any issues faced.

3 POSHAN TRACKER APP

CONTEXT: The Poshan Tracker app helps improve last-mile delivery of nutritional services and could be a precursor for targeted investments in healthcare for women and children.

Poshan Tracker App

- The rollout of the Poshan Tracker by the Government of India represents the largest mobile phone nutrition monitoring system in the history of global health.
- Other examples of **app-based nutrition monitoring systems** from around the world have been limited one-off pilots with little, if any, integration into national systems.
 - For example, **UNICEF’s RapidSMS project** in Malawi or a small project in nine primary health centres by university researchers in the **Republic of Mauritius**.
- In contrast, in India, within two years of the inception of the Poshan Tracker, there has been universal uptake — nearly **3 million Anganwadi workers** have downloaded the app across all states and Union territories and are using it every day for **monitoring ICDS services**.
- Central to the **new Poshan 2.0 guidelines released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development**, the Poshan Tracker is a centralised ICT-enabled platform, developed to promote transparency and accountability of nutrition service delivery to the last mile.

4 POSHAN BHI PADHAI BHI

CONTEXT: The government has launched the ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’, with an objective to ensure that India has a **high-quality preschool network**.

About Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi

- ‘Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi’ is **Ministry of Women and Child Development’s (MCWD)** latest endeavour for strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

ECCE is a significant component of **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0)** and is envisaged under the **National Education Policy**.

- It aims to ensure that India has the **world’s largest, universal, high-quality pre-school network**, as suggested by the **National Education Policy**.
- Target:** The scheme aims to target the development of children in every domain that is mentioned in the **National Curriculum Framework**, which includes- **physical and motor development, cognitive development, and socio-emotional-ethical development**, among others.

India’s Anganwadi centres playing crucial role in child development

- India Anganwadi centres are an integral part of India’s **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program**.

- ◎ The centres provide **supplementary nutrition, early care, and education** to around 8 crore beneficiary children under the age of 6 years across the country.
- ◎ Given the huge network of around 13.9 lakh operational centres, the Anganwadi eco-system becomes a critical access point for building a solid foundation for children in order to secure their future.

5

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO TARGET MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AMONGST CHILDREN

CONTEXT: As per the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) conducted in 2015-16, the prevalence of mental disorders among children between ages 13-17 was around 7.3% in both genders, which has been ignored under policies by the government.

However, the Parliament is yet to develop a framework for a national-level school mental health Programme.

Government Initiatives:

- ◎ In 1982, India launched the **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)** to ensure access to minimum mental healthcare for all, encourage inclusion of mental health knowledge in general medical services and to promote community participation in mental health service programmes.
- ◎ Under the NMHP, the **District Mental Health Program (DMHP)** was launched in 1996, covering some basic elements — early detection and treatment, training general physicians to diagnose and treat mental illnesses, public awareness and monitoring.
- ◎ The **National Mental health policy**, adopted in 2017, sought to destigmatise mental illnesses, take steps to prevent such illnesses and include those suffering from mental health issues in society.
- ◎ In 2018, the Modi government launched the **School Health Programme** under the aegis of the **Ayushman Bharat scheme**, launched the same year.

6

HARIHAR SCHEME

CONTEXT: The Government of Haryana initiated state level “HARIHAR” (Homeless, Abandoned and Surrendered Children Rehabilitation Initiative Haryana) Policy which is aimed at providing employment, educational and financial benefits to abandoned and surrendered children who have completed the age of 18 years from the Child Care Institutions of the State.

Objectives:

- ◎ To provide **free school and higher education** including technical education, skill development & industrial training and After Care stay, rehabilitation and financial assistance upto the age of 25 years or marriage whichever is earlier to abandoned and surrendered children who were admitted to Child Care Institutions before the age of 05 years (as abandoned) and before the age of 01 year (as Surrendered).
 - ◆ The objective is to also provide one time interest free loan for purchase of a house in Haryana State at the time of marriage to the beneficiaries covered under this policy.
- ◎ To provide jobs on compassionate grounds and **Economically Weaker Section (EWS) status**

7

NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS REVISED IN FOOD SAFETY SCHEMES

CONTEXT: A decade after the National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted, the Centre has revised the nutritional standards of meals at schools and anganwadis, augmenting the proportion of calories and protein, while also mandating the inclusion of micronutrients in them.

The upgraded standards

- ◎ The amended **NFSA schedule II** fixes nutritional standards for nine groups, starting from children aged six months to one year and those in upper primary classes (VI-VIII).
- ◎ Three new categories have been created for undernourished children aged between six months to six years.
- ◎ The nutritional standards for some existing categories such as lower primary classes, and upper primary classes have been revised.
- ◎ For instance, under the previous norms, every child in lower primary classes was entitled to get 450 kilocalories (kcal) and 12 gm protein with midday meals.
- ◎ Now, the protein quantity has been hiked to 15-20 gms, while fat (18-21 gms) and carbohydrates (70 gms) are part of the mix as well.
- ◎ Standards for micronutrients have also been fixed: **calcium 170 mg, zinc 2 mg; iron 3.5 mg; dietary folate 50 micrograms, Vitamin A 100 micrograms; Vitamin B6 0.43 micrograms; Vitamin B12 0.66 micrograms.**

8

SURAKSHIT MATRITVA AASHWASAN (SUMAN)

- **Launched in:** 2019
- **Aim:** zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths in India
- SUMAN provides assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting public health facilities to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

9

JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA (JSY)

- **Launched in:** 2005
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is an **intervention program for pregnant women and new mothers**.
- It is an initiative taken by the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)**.
- The aim of this scheme is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by making institutional delivery services affordable and accessible to poor pregnant women in India.
- The Janani Suraksha Yojana is **sponsored by the Central Government of India**.
- It is implemented in all the states and the union territories (UTs) of the country with special attention to low performing states.

10

BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP)

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme under **Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti** aims to prevent Gender biased sex selective elimination, to ensure survival and protection of girl child and also to ensure education of the girl child.
- The scheme has been expanded to cover all the districts of the country through multi-sectoral interventions focused on zero-budget advertising and encouraging greater spend on activities that have on ground impact, e.g., promotion of sports among girls, self-defence camps, construction of girls toilets, making available sanitary napkin vending machines and sanitary pads especially in educational institutions, awareness about **Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PC-PNDT Act, 1994)** and skilling of girls etc.
- The scheme is **100% funded by the Central Government** and the funds are routed through State to districts for multi-sectoral interventions.
- The Union Government is implementing BBBP scheme

on **PAN India basis**. However, the state of West Bengal is not implementing BBBP scheme.

11

JANANI SHISHU SURAKSHA KARYAKRAM (JSSK)

- **Launched in:** 2011
- The Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) Scheme is a significant initiative by the Government of India to provide comprehensive and free healthcare services to pregnant women and newborns.
- Launched as part of the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, the JSSK Scheme aims to reduce financial barriers and improve access to quality healthcare during pregnancy, childbirth, and infancy.
- Every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables & diet.

12

PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHIT MATRITVA ABHIYAN (PMSMA)

- The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.
- PMSMA provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality antenatal check up by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.
- The programme envisages to improve the quality and coverage of **Antenatal Care (ANC)** including diagnostics and counselling services as part of the **Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Strategy**.

13

LAQSHYA

- **Launched in:** 2017
- It improves the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.
- **Objective:** Reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.

14

MUSQAN SCHEME

- **Launched in:** 2021

- The MusQan scheme aims to provide high-quality and safe Child-Friendly Services in Public Health Facilities and contribute to preventable new-born child mortality and morbidity.
- It makes the child-friendly services accessible and available to patients and their parents, as well as provide a child-friendly environment, promote, protect, and support breastfeeding, and provide respectful and dignified care to the mother/parent-attendant.

15

MONTHLY VILLAGE HEALTH, SANITATION AND NUTRITION DAY (VHSND)

- It is an outreach activity at Anganwadi centers for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with the ICDS.

16

REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH (RCH) PORTAL

- The Portal is a name-based web-enabled tracking system for pregnant women and new born so as to ensure seamless provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.

RCH Programme was launched on 15th October 1997 with the objective of reducing total fertility rate, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in the country

17

MISSION VATSALYA SCHEME

- The Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely **Mission Vatsalya Scheme** to support the State and UT Governments for delivering services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in **Conflict with Law (CCL)**.
- The **Child Care Institutions (CCIs)** established under the scheme support inter-alia age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care and counselling.
- The Ministry regularly follows up with the State/ UT Governments so as to ensure that CCIs adhere to the standards of care as per the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021)** provisions.
- Various advisories have been sent to all State/UT Governments regarding mandatory inspection of all CCIs.

18

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

- The United Nations observes 11th October every year as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognise the rights of girl children and the challenges faced by them across the globe.
- The theme for **International Day OfThe Girl Child 2023** is '**Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being.**'

SCHEMES FOR ELDERLY

18

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (NPHCE)

CONTEXT: The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had launched the "National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly" (NPHCE) during 2010-11.

About

- The National Programme for the Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE), launched in 2010, aims to promote the concept of "active and healthy ageing" and provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality, long-term care services to the ageing population.
- NPHCE is an articulation of the International and

national commitments of the Government as envisaged under the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD)**, **National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP)** adopted by the Government of India in 1999 & Section 20 of "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" dealing with provisions for medical care of Senior Citizen.

20

DECADE OF HEALTHY AGEING (2021-2030) CAMPAIGN

CONTEXT: The government recently launched the **Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030)** campaign in India on **International Day for Older Persons (1st October)** to offer support to seniors and ensure easy access to age-specific products and services for them.

About

- ◎ The **United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)** is a global collaboration, aligned with the last ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals, to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.
- ◎ The numbers:
 - ◆ By the end of the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020–2030), the number of people aged 60 years and older will be 34% higher, increasing from 1 billion in 2019 to 1.4 billion.
 - ◆ By 2050, the global population of older people will have more than doubled, to 2.1 billion.

21

NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS)

- ◎ NPS is a **voluntary-contribution** based pension scheme that provides a host of benefits to the subscribers.
- ◎ NPS was launched in 2004, and it was initially available only for the government employees. In 2009, it was extended to all the sectors.
- ◎ The NPS is regulated by the **PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority)**, and it is specifically designed to provide financial security to the senior citizens post-retirement.
- ◎ The scheme allows the subscribers to make periodic contributions towards their NPS account during the working years and build a corpus that they can use during their old age.

22

SENIOR CITIZENS SAVING SCHEME (SCSS)

- ◎ The SCSS is for Indian citizens above 60 years of age. Although it isn't specifically a pension scheme in the conventional sense, since the minimum entry age is 60, it implies the same.
- ◎ The minimum deposit amount is ₹1,000 with a maximum contribution of ₹15 lakhs.
- ◎ It takes five years for the deposit to mature, and a single extension for another three years is allowed.
- ◎ SCSS is available in banks and post offices. Penalties of 1% to 1.5% are charged for early withdrawal.
- ◎ **Eligibility**
 - ◆ Must be an Indian citizen.
 - ◆ Should be at least 60 years of age.

23

SCHEME OF NATIONAL AWARD FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

- ◎ The scheme was launched in 2005 and is dedicated to senior citizens.
- ◎ It is **funded by the Central government**.

- ◎ This scheme is applicable for eminent senior citizens and institutes involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons.
- ◎ Institutes and senior citizens can avail this scheme by contacting **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

24

PRADHAN MANTRI VAYA VANDANA YOJANA (PMVVY)

- ◎ It is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
- ◎ The scheme is now extended up to 2023 for a further period of three years beyond 2020.

25

INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR OLDER PERSONS

- ◎ The main goal of this policy is to improve the quality of life of senior citizens.
- ◎ This is done by providing them with various basic amenities such as food, shelter, medical care, and even entertainment opportunities.

26

RASHTRIYA VAYOSHREE YOJANA

- ◎ It is a central sector scheme funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund. The fund was notified in the year 2016.
- ◎ All unclaimed amounts from small savings accounts, PPF and EPF are transferred to this fund.
- ◎ It aims to provide aids and assistive living devices to senior citizens belonging to **Below Poverty Line (BPL) category** who suffer from age-related disabilities such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disabilities.

27

SAMPANN PROJECT

- ◎ It was launched in 2018. It is a seamless online pension processing and payment system for **Department of Telecommunications** pensioners.
- ◎ It provides direct credit of pension into the bank accounts of pensioners.

28

SACRED PORTAL FOR ELDERLY

- ◎ The portal was developed by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- ◎ Citizens above **60 years of age** can register on the portal and find jobs and work opportunities.

29 LIC INSURANCES SCHEMES

- It has been providing several schemes for aged persons like **Jeevan Dhara Yojana**, **Jeevan Akshay Yojana** and **Medical Insurance Yojana**.

30 MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS (MWPSC) ACT, 2007

- It was enacted to provide financial security, welfare and protection for senior citizens.
- It requires children to provide maintenance for their parents, and the government to provide old age homes and ensure medical care for senior citizens.

31 AYUSHMAAN BHARAT SCHEME

- It is the government's health insurance scheme which includes various former schemes for the elderly such as **Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS)** and **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)**.

32 RASHTRIYA AROGYA NIDHI (RAN)

- The scheme provides **financial assistance** to patients, living **below the poverty line** and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality Hospitals/ Institutes or other Government hospitals.



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AGRICULTURE

1

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP)

CONTEXT: The farmer protest (2.0) has once again brought the issue of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the forefront.

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.



- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years.

Status of MSP

- At present, MSP is declared for 23 agricultural commodities by the government on the recommendation of CACP before cropping season, apart from this **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)** for sugarcane is also declared.
 - 7 Cereals** (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi and barley)
 - 5 Pulses** (chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong and masoor)

- 7 Oilseeds** (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower and niger seed)
- 4 Commercial crops** (cotton, sugarcane, copra and raw jute)

2

CABINET APPROVES PM-PRANAM YOJANA

CONTEXT: The Union Cabinet gave its nod to PM PRANAM — the scheme designed for balanced use of fertilisers by farmers. With this scheme the reliability of chemicals by the farmers will be reduced.

What is PRANAM?

- The Yojana's full form is 'Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth' (PRANAM).
- The scheme is to incentivise States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilisers and counteracted use of chemical fertilisers.
- Aim:** The PM-PRANAM is aimed at restoring the "health of Mother Earth" through
 - promoting balanced/sustainable use of chemical fertilisers
 - adopting alternate fertilisers such as organic, bio and nano fertilisers
 - promoting natural and organic farming
- This scheme strives to decrease the usage of chemical fertilisers in the states.
- Financing:** The scheme will not have a separate budget and will be subsidized by the savings of existing fertiliser assistance under schemes run by the Department of fertilisers.

- ◆ Under the PM-PRANAM, 50 per cent of the fertiliser subsidy saved by a State or Union Territory in a particular financial year by way of a reduction in consumption of chemical fertilisers (Urea, DAP, NPK, MOP) compared to the previous 3 years' average consumption, will be given to that state or UT as a grant. The grant will be provided during 2023-2026.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Budget 2023, had announced the launch of "PM Pranam Yojana" for the promotion of alternative Fertilisers and balanced use of chemical fertilisers.

3

NATIONAL MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (NMSA)

CONTEXT: The government has had several initiatives and sub-missions under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which began in 2014-15.

About NMSA

- ◎ NMSA derives its mandate from Sustainable Agriculture Mission which is one of the eight Missions outlined under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- ◎ It aims at promoting sustainable agriculture through a series of adaptation measures focusing on ten key dimensions encompassing Indian agriculture namely;
 - ◆ Improved crop seeds
 - ◆ livestock and fish cultures
 - ◆ Water Use Efficiency
 - ◆ Pest Management
 - ◆ Improved Farm Practices
 - ◆ Nutrient Management
 - ◆ Agricultural insurance
 - ◆ Credit support
 - ◆ Markets
 - ◆ Access to Information
 - ◆ Livelihood diversification
- ◎ NMSA give special emphasis on soil & water conservation, water use efficiency, soil health management and rainfed area development.
- ◎ The focus of NMSA will be to infuse the judicious utilization of resources of commons through community based approach.
- ◎ **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**, includes programmatic interventions like **Soil Health Card (SHC)**, **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**, **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region**

(**MOVCDNER**), **Rainfed Area Development (RAD)**, **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)** and **Sub-mission on Agro Forestry (SMAF)**.

Program Components

NMSA has following four (4) major programme components or activities:

- ◎ **Rainfed Area Development (RAD):** RAD will adopt an area based approach for development and conservation of natural resources along with farming systems. This component will introduce appropriate farming systems by integrating multiple components of agriculture such as crops, horticulture, livestock, fishery, forestry with agro based income generating activities and value addition.
- ◎ **On Farm Water Management (OFWM):** OFWM will focus primarily on enhancing water use efficiency by promoting efficient on-farm water management technologies and equipment. This will not only focus on application efficiency but, in conjunction with RAD component, also will emphasize on effective harvesting & management of rainwater.
- ◎ **Soil Health Management (SHM):** SHM will aim at promoting location as well as crop specific sustainable soil health management including residue management, organic farming practices by way of creating and linking soil fertility maps with macro-micro nutrient management, appropriate land use based on land capability, judicious application of fertilizers and minimizing the soil erosion/degradation.
- ◎ **Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN):** CCSAMMN will provide creation and bidirectional (land/farmers to research/scientific establishments and vice versa) dissemination of climate change related information and knowledge by way of piloting climate change adaptation/mitigation research/model projects in the domain of climate smart sustainable management practices and integrated farming system suitable to local agro-climatic conditions.

4

PARAMPARAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJNA (PKVY)

CONTEXT: "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY)" aims at development of sustainable models of organic farming through a mix of traditional wisdom and modern science to ensure long term soil fertility buildup, resource conservation and helps in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

About PKVY

- ◎ Launched in 2015, a sub-component of Soil Health Management (SHM) scheme under National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

- It primarily aims to increase soil fertility and thereby helps in production of healthy food through organic practices without the use of agro-chemicals.
- PKVY also aims at empowering farmers through institutional development through clusters approach not only in farm practice management, input production, quality assurance but also in value addition and direct marketing through innovative means.
- Participatory Guarantee System under PGS-India programme will be the key approach for quality assurances under the PKVY.
- The farmers will have option to adopt any form of organic farming in compliance of PGS-India standards.
- While adopting a system it must be ensured that the system adopted is compatible to the area and crop and assures optimum yield and provides adequate measures to manage nutrients, pests and diseases.
- Funding pattern under the scheme is in the ratio of 60:40 by the Central and State Governments respectively. In case of North Eastern and Himalayan States, Central Assistance is provided in the ratio of 90:10 (Centre: State) and for Union Territories, the assistance is 100%.
- Farmers will have the flexibility to use appropriate package of practice(s) best suited to their situations.

5

PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA (PMKSY)

CONTEXT: The overarching vision of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) will be to ensure access to some means of protective irrigation to all agricultural farms in the country, to produce 'per drop more crop', thus bringing much desired rural prosperity.

About PMKSY

- Launched in 2015, PMKSY seeks to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level.
- PMKSY has been formulated amalgamating schemes viz. **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)** of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation; **Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)** of Department of Land Resources; and **On Farm Water Management (OFWM)** component of **National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
- All the States and Union Territories including North Eastern States are covered under the programme.
- PMKSY is to be implemented in an area development approach, adopting decentralized state level planning and projected execution, allowing the states to draw their irrigation development plans based on district/

blocks plans with a horizon of 5 to 7 years.

- States can take up projects based on the District/State Irrigation Plan.
- The **National Steering Committee (NSC)** of PMKSY under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, will provide policy direction to programme framework.
- A **National Executive Committee (NEC)** under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman of **NITI Aayog** will oversee the programme implementation at national level.

6

PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)

CONTEXT: PMFBY provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers.

About the Scheme

- Launched in:** 2016
- The **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna** covers all Food & Oilseeds crops and Annual Commercial/Horticultural Crops.
- The scheme is implemented by empanelled general insurance companies.
- Selection of **Implementing Agency (IA)** is done by the concerned State Government through bidding.
- The scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan /KCC account for notified crops and voluntary for other others.
- The scheme is being administered by **Ministry of Agriculture**.
- Integration of land records with the PMFBY portal, Crop Insurance mobile-app for easy enrollment of farmers and usage of technology such as satellite imagery, remote-sensing technology, drones, artificial intelligence and machine learning to assess crop losses are some of the key features of the scheme.
- The scheme makes it easier for the farmer to report crop loss within 72 hours of occurrence of any event through the Crop Insurance App, CSC Centre or the nearest agriculture officer.
- Premium cost over and above the farmer share is equally subsidized by States and GoI. However, GoI shares 90% of the premium subsidy for North Eastern States to promote the uptake in the region.

7

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE MARKET (ENAM)

- National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a **pan-India electronic trading portal** which networks the existing

APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

- **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**, Government of India.
- It envisions to promote uniformity in agriculture marketing by streamlining of procedures across the integrated markets, removing information asymmetry between buyers and sellers and promoting real time price discovery based on actual demand and supply.
- It aims to integrate the APMCs across the country through a common online market platform to facilitate pan-India trade in agriculture commodities, providing better price discovery through transparent auction process based on quality of produce along with timely online payment.
- e-NAM is not a parallel marketing structure but rather a device to create a national network of physical mandis which can be accessed online.
- It seeks to leverage the physical infrastructure of the mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the Mandi/ State to participate in trading at the local level.

8

PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN)

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is one of the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer schemes.
- A flagship scheme of the Government of India, it exemplifies the continued commitment of the Government of India to initiate policy actions for an inclusive and productive agricultural sector.
- It is a central sector scheme launched on 24th February 2019 to supplement the financial needs of all land-holding farmers subject to certain exclusion criteria of higher income status.
- Financial benefit of Rs 6,000/- per year in three equal instalments, every four months, is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

9

PM-KISAN AI CHATBOT (KISAN E-MITRA)

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has also launched a PM-KISAN AI Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra), which will provide the farmers with a one-stop solution for their grievances related to the PM-KISAN scheme.

- Integrated with Bhashini, the chatbot offers support in local languages such as Hindi, Tamil, Odia, Bengali and English through voice and text assistance.
- These technological solutions aim to address general queries and grievances raised by the beneficiaries promptly and effectively.
- The Chatbot is enabling farmers in obtaining answers to all their scheme-related questions, providing them with accurate and timely information.

10

'KISAN BHAGIDARI, PRATHMIKTA HAMARI' CAMPAIGN

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** organized the 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign.
- 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' was organised as **part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- The key objective of the awareness session was to generate mass awareness amongst fishers, fish farmers, livestock & dairy farmers and other stakeholders about various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and encourage them to avail the benefits.

11

UNIQUE LAND PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ULPIN) OR BHU-AADHAR

- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) system is a **14-digit Alpha-numeric unique ID** for each land parcel based on **Geo-coordinates** of vertices of the parcel.

The 14-digit alpha-numeric unique ID is assigned to each land parcel based on geo coordinates of the parcel's vertices. It complies with the **Electronic Commerce Code Management Association (ECCMA) standard** and the **Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standard**.

- **Target:** By March 2024, India aims to digitise 100 per cent of its land records and the land registration process, and give a unique 14-digit alpha-numeric identity, also called **Bhu-Aadhaar**, to each land parcel.
- ULPIN is part of the **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**, a 100 per cent centrally funded scheme.
 - ◆ It was earlier known as the **National Land Record Modernisation Programme** and was approved by the cabinet in August 2008.
 - ◆ It was later revamped as DILRMP and implemented as a central sector scheme from 1 April 2016.

12

GENERIC DOCUMENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM

- ⊙ In order to have a uniform process for registration for deeds/documents, “**One Nation One Registration Software Namely National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)**” is being implemented in States/UTs.
- ⊙ **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme** (erstwhile National Land Record Modernization Programme) was revamped and converted as a **Central Sector Scheme** with effect from 1st April, 2016 with 100% funding by the Centre.
- ⊙ The objective of DILRMP is to develop a **modern, comprehensive and transparent land record management system** with the aim to develop an **Integrated Land Information Management System** which will *inter alia*:
 - ◆ improve real-time information on land
 - ◆ optimize use of land resources
 - ◆ benefit both landowners & prospectors
 - ◆ assist in policy & planning
 - ◆ reduce land disputes
 - ◆ check fraudulent / benami transactions
 - ◆ obviate need of physical visits to Revenue/Registration offices
 - ◆ enable sharing of information with various organisations/agencies
- ⊙ Government has approved extension of DILRMP for a period of five years i.e 2021-22 to 2025-26.

13

OPEN MARKET SALE SCHEME (OMSS):

- ⊙ OMSS refers to the **selling of food grains** by the government/government agencies at predetermined prices in the open market from time to time.
- ⊙ This scheme aims to enhance the supply of grains, especially during the lean season and thereby to moderate the general open market prices, especially in the deficit regions.
- ⊙ The Food Corporation of India (FCI) on instructions from the Government sells wheat and rice in the open market from time to time.
- ⊙ This enhances the supply of wheat and rice especially during the lean season and moderates the open market prices, especially in the deficit regions.

14

ONE NATION, ONE FERTILIZER SCHEME:

- ⊙ The scheme will consist of a “Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo” under the fertilizer subsidy scheme named

“**Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna**” (PMBJP).

- ⊙ The scheme would extend to all four fertilizers – Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash, and complex NPK – with ‘**BHARAT**’ pre-fixed.
- ⊙ The single brand name would be BHARAT UREA, BHARAT DAP, BHARAT MOP, and BHARAT NPK, etc. respectively for all Fertiliser Companies, State Trading Entities (STEs) and Fertiliser Marketing Entities (FMEs).
- ⊙ Under the scheme, companies are allowed to display their name, brand, logo, and other relevant product information only on one-third space of their bags.
- ⊙ On the remaining two-thirds of the space, the “Bharat” branded **Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana logo** will have to be shown.

Need of the Initiative:

- ⊙ India is among the world’s largest buyers of fertilizer, besides China, Brazil, and the US.
- ⊙ **India imports four types of fertilizers:**
 - ◆ Urea
 - ◆ diammonium phosphate (DAP)
 - ◆ muriate of potash (MOP)
 - ◆ nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium (NPK)

15

PARAMPARAGAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJNA (PKVY)

- ⊙ “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY)” aims at development of sustainable models of organic farming through a mix of traditional wisdom and modern science to ensure long term soil fertility buildup, resource conservation and helps in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

About PKVY

- ⊙ Launched in 2015, a sub-component of **Soil Health Management (SHM)** scheme under **National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**.
- ⊙ It primarily aims to increase soil fertility and thereby helps in production of healthy food through organic practices without the use of agro-chemicals.

16

AGRISTACK:

- ⊙ Agri Stack is the digital foundation being set up by the government to make it easier to bring various stakeholders together to improve agriculture in India and enable better outcomes and results for the farmers by using data and digital services.

- Under the Agristack scheme, the Centre looks to transform the agricultural sector by creating a digital ecosystem that integrates farmers, markets, and agribusinesses, through the use of technology.

17

PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADE YOJANA (PMMSY)

- PMMSY was introduced as part of the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' package with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crores, the **highest-ever investment** in this sector.
- The scheme is being implemented in **all States and UTs** for a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.
- The Government has launched the PMMSY for the **development of marine & inland fisheries**.
- There are provisions of **Ban Period Support to fishermen** (during the period fishing is not permitted).
- The focus will be on **Islands, Himalayan States, and North-east & Aspirational Districts**.
- Objectives:**
 - Harness the potential of the fisheries sector in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive and equitable manner
 - Enhance fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilisation of land and water
 - Modernise and strengthen the value chain including post-harvest management and quality improvement
 - Double fishers' and fish farmers' incomes and generate meaningful employment
 - Enhance the contribution of the fisheries sector to agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) and exports
 - Ensure social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers
 - Build a robust fisheries management and regulatory framework.

18

KUSUM SCHEME

- In the budget of 2018-19 **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** announced a new scheme for farmers of the country, named **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha and Utthaan Mahabhiyan** commonly known as the **PM-KUSUM scheme**.
- This scheme focuses on the decentralized solar power plant for the production of electricity which will help the farmers.
- Under this scheme, individual farmers/groups of farmers/panchayats/cooperatives/Water User Association / Farmer Producer Association can set up small renewable energy-based power plants on their barren or cultivated lands.

19

DIGITAL AGRICULTURE MISSION

- This has been initiated for 2021 -2025 by the government for projects based on new technologies like artificial intelligence, block chain, remote sensing and GIS technology, use of drones and robots etc.

20

SUB-MISSION ON AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (SMAM)

- Under this Scheme, subsidies are provided for purchase of various types of agricultural equipment and machinery.
- Other Digital Initiatives:** Kisan Call Centres, Kisan Suvidha App, Agri Market App, Soil Health Card (SHC) Portal, etc.

PYQ (2017)

1. Consider the following statements :

The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at

- expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.
- enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.
- checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Correct Option: (b)

PYQ (2017)

2. What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' scheme?

- It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities.
- It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Option: (c)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements regarding Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC):

1. It is the central procurement agency for wheat and rice under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF).
2. It is an exclusive society focused on increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers.
3. SFAC is the lead agency for implementing the National Agriculture Market Electronic Trading (e-Nam) platform.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following crops:

1. Cereals
2. Millets
3. Pulses
4. Oilseeds
5. Annual Horticultural crops

Which of the crops given above is/are covered under PradhanMantriFasalBimaYojana?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three

(c) Only four

(d) All five

3. With reference to Agricultural Credit in India, consider the following statements:

1. Regional Rural Banks (RRB) need to provide 75% of the lending to priority sectors
2. RBI assigns higher weights to the priority sector credit given in the districts where the per capita priority sector lending is less
3. RRB's can access the marginal standing facility of the RBI, if required.
4. RRBs have the highest share in agricultural credit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

4. With reference to the National Agricultural Market (e-NAM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
2. States seeking Central assistance under e-NAM must issue a single unified trading licence for all mandis in the state.
3. It is funded equally by central and state government.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (d) | 3. (a) | 4. (b) |
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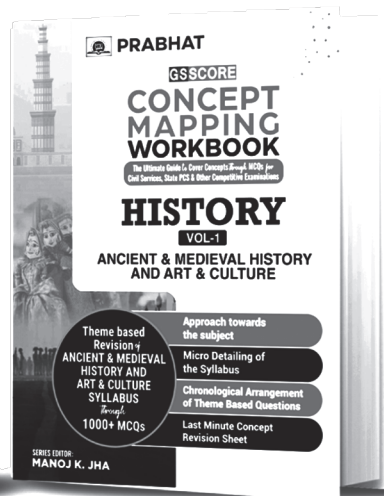
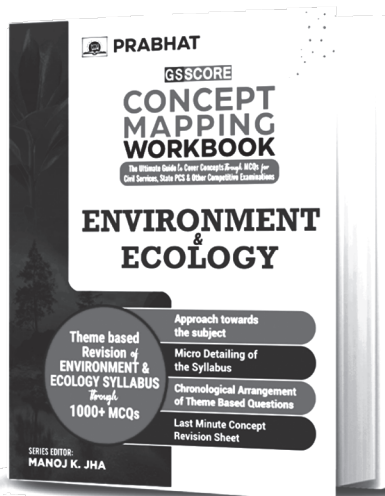
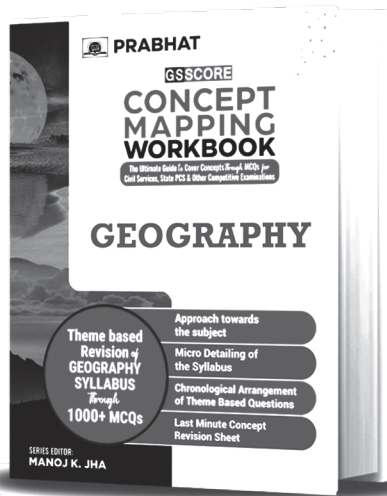
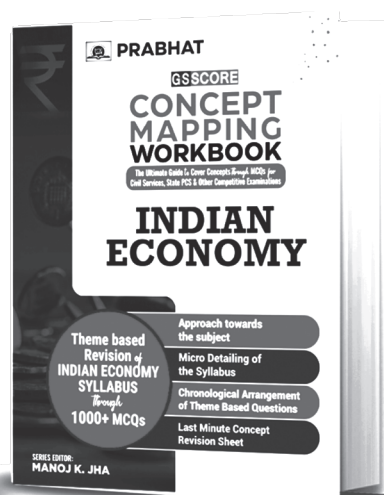
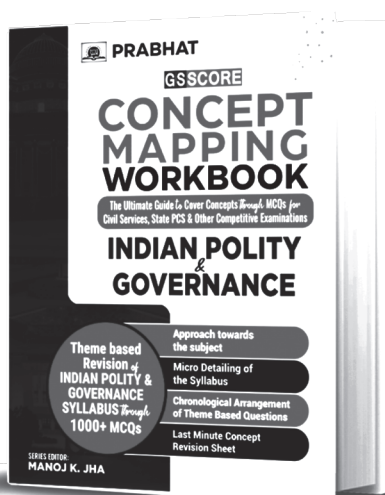
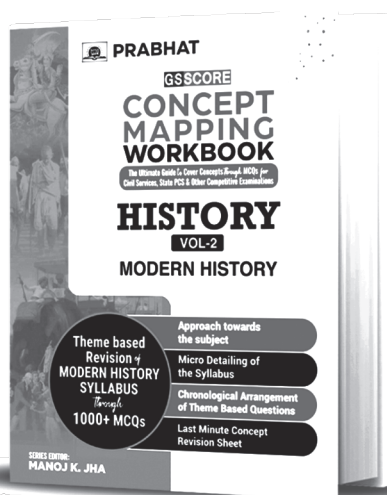
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INFRASTRUCTURE

FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

1

PAYMENTS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (PIDF)

- ⦿ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme by two years till December 2025.
- ⦿ Initially launched in 2021 for a three-year period, this extension aims to continue fostering financial inclusion and supporting the country's payment infrastructure.
- ⦿ The PIDF scheme was set up to encourage the deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier three to tier-six centres, such as:
 - ◆ physical Point of Sale (PoS) terminals
 - ◆ Quick Response (QR) codes
 - ◆ General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)
 - ◆ Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)
- ⦿ **Special Focus regions:** North Eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh

2

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY)

- ⦿ **Launched in:** 2014
- ⦿ **Objective:** to ensure comprehensive financial inclusion of all the households in the country by providing universal access to banking facilities.
 - ◆ Under this, a person not having a savings account can open an account without the requirement of any minimum balance and, in case they self-certify that they do not have any of the officially valid documents required for opening a savings account, they may open a small account.

- ⦿ Thus, PMJDY offers unbanked persons easy access to banking services and awareness about financial products through financial literacy programs.

3

PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY)

- ⦿ **Scheme:** PMJJBY is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason.
- ⦿ **Eligibility:** Persons in the age group of 18-50 years having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme. People who join the scheme before completing 50 years of age can continue to have the risk of life covered up to age of 55 years upon payment of regular premium.
- ⦿ **Benefits:** Life cover of Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death due to any reason against a premium of Rs. 436/- per annum.

4

PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY)

- ⦿ **Scheme:** PMSBY is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- ⦿ **Eligibility:** Persons in the age group of 18-70 years having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.
- ⦿ **Benefits:** Accidental death cum disability cover of Rs.2 lakh (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) for death or disability due to an accident against a premium of Rs.20/- per annum.

5

ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY)

- **Background:** The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector. It is an initiative of the Government to provide financial security and cover future exigencies for the people in the unorganised sector.
- ◆ APY is administered by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** under the overall administrative and institutional architecture of the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- **Eligibility:** APY is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years who are not income tax payers and the contributions differ, based on pension amount chosen.
- **Benefits:** Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 after the age of 60 years, based on the contributions made by the subscriber after joining the scheme.
- **Disbursement of the Scheme Benefits:** The monthly pension is available to the subscriber, and after him to his spouse and after their death, the pension corpus, as accumulated at age 60 of the subscriber, would be returned to the nominee of the subscriber.
- In case of premature death of subscriber (death before 60 years of age), spouse of the subscriber can continue contribution to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period, till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years.
- **Contribution by Central Government:** The minimum pension would be guaranteed by the Government i.e., if the accumulated corpus based on contributions earns a lower than estimated return on investment and is inadequate to provide the minimum guaranteed pension, the Central Government would fund such inadequacy. Alternatively, if the returns on investment are higher, the subscribers would get enhanced pensionary benefits.
- **Payment frequency:** Subscribers can make contributions to APY on monthly/ quarterly / half-yearly basis.
- **Withdrawal from the Scheme:** Subscribers can voluntarily exit from APY subject to certain conditions, on deduction of Government co-contribution and return/interest thereon.
- **Achievements:** As on 27.04.2023 more than 5 crore individuals have subscribed to the scheme.

6

**PRADHAN MANTRI
MUDRA YOJANA (PMMY)**

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme set up by the Government of India (GoI) through MUDRA (a subsidiary of SIDBI) that helps in facilitating micro credit upto Rs. 10 lakh to small business owners.
- MUDRA supports Financial Intermediaries to extend loans to the non-corporate, non-farm sector income generating activities of micro and small entities with credit needs upto Rs. 10 lakhs).

7

STAND-UP INDIA SCHEME

- **Stand up India Scheme** was launched on 5th April 2016 to promote entrepreneurship at grassroot level focusing on economic empowerment and job creation.
- This scheme has been extended up to the year 2025.
- The scheme is designed to address the challenges faced by SC, ST and women entrepreneurs in setting up enterprises, obtaining loans and other support needed from time to time for succeeding in business.

PYQ (2018)

1. The identity platform 'Aadhaar' provides open "Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)". What does it imply?

1. It can be integrated into any electronic device.
2. Online authentication using iris is possible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Option: (c)

PYQ (2017)

2. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)', recently seen in the news?

- (a) It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.
- (b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.
- (c) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- (d) It is an important provision in 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' recently implemented by the Government.

Correct Option: (b)

PYQ (2018)

3. Which of the following is/are the aim/aims of “Digital India” Plan of the Government of India?

1. Formation of India’s own Internet companies like China did.
2. Establish a policy framework to encourage overseas multinational corporations that collect Big Data to build their large data centres within our national geographical boundaries.
3. Connect many of our villages to the Internet and bring Wi-Fi to many of our school, public places and major tourist

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Option: (b)

Select the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements regarding Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL) project:

1. It is an innovative and participatory approach to financial literacy at the Block level involving select banks and nongovernmental organisation (NGOs).
2. CFL project conceptualised by NITI Aayog in 2017.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements regarding PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) scheme:

1. The scheme was launched by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. PM-KUSUM has no role in the installation of small Solar Power Plants of the 10,000 MW of solar capacity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

1. (a)

2. (a)

3. (a)

8

AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME (ABSS)

CONTEXT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone virtually to revamp the 508 railway stations across the country with an investment of Rs.25,000 crore under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme. Out of 508, 13 stations are listed in Karnataka.

About the Scheme:

- The ‘Amrit Bharat Station Scheme’ is a new policy

launched by the **Ministry of Railways**.

- The scheme envisages development of stations with a long term vision.
- The policy is based on **Master Planning** for long term and implementation of the same as per needs and demand of the station to station.
- This is in line with the government’s vision of ‘Naya Bharat’.
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ Transform the railway stations
 - ◆ Modernise the infrastructure with latest technologies, amenities and others from time to time

LOGISTICS

- ◆ Enhancing the facilities beyond the Minimum Essential Amenities
- ◆ Construction of Roof Plazas and City Centres at the station
- ◆ Introduction of new amenities as well as upgradation and replacement of existing amenities
- ◎ The project will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration and signage for the guidance of passengers.
- ◎ The design of the station buildings will be inspired by **local culture, heritage and architecture**.
- ◎ Amrit Bharat Station Scheme embodies a commitment to progress, convenience, and a brighter future for passengers.
- ◎ **Key features of the scheme:**
 - ◆ **Elegant Station Building:** A new station building will redefine Station's architectural landscape, reflecting a modern and inviting design.
 - ◆ **Focus on Swachh Bharat:** Keeping in step with the **Swachh Bharat mission**, the station will introduce a modular Sewage Treatment Plant, ensuring efficient sewage treatment and a cleaner environment.
 - ◆ **Guidance and Information:** Modernized train indication boards and passenger-friendly signages will facilitate seamless navigation within the station premises.
 - ◆ **Inclusivity:** All improvements will be designed to be divyangjan (specially-abled) friendly, ensuring equal access and convenience for all.

9 PM GATI SHAKTI NMP

- ◎ The PM Gati Shakti NMP was launched in October 2021.
- ◎ **Objective:** Holistic integration of various ministries and to address the gaps to ensure infrastructure for seamless movement of people, goods and services.
- ◎ The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is driven by seven engines - **roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways, and logistics infrastructure**.
- ◎ **Composition:** The NPG is composed of representatives from various connectivity infrastructure ministries and departments.
- ◎ These representatives include the heads of the network planning division, and their purpose is to ensure unified planning and integration of the proposals
- ◎ **Development this fiscal:** As of this fiscal year, a total of **85 major infrastructure projects** worth Rs 5.4 lakh crore from various ministries have been recommended for approval under the initiative.

- ◎ All logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects requiring investments of over Rs 500 crore are directed through the NPG.

10 NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE (NIP)

- ◎ National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) was launched with 6,835 projects and has expanded to capture over 9,288 projects with a total outlay of Rs 108.88 lakh crore between 2020-25.
- ◎ NIP consists of projects implemented by all the states and Union Territories of India and 22 infrastructure ministries.
- ◎ NIP is a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens.
- ◎ It will improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic and foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for attaining the target of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by FY25.

11 NATIONAL LOGISTICS POLICY

- ◎ To complement **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP)**, the **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** was launched in 2022.
- ◎ The vision of NLP is to drive economic growth and business competitiveness of the country through an integrated, seamless, efficient, reliable, green, sustainable and cost-effective logistics network by leveraging best in class technology, processes and skilled manpower.
- ◎ This will reduce logistics cost and improve performance.
- ◎ **Targets:** The targets of the NLP are to:
 - ◆ Reduce cost of logistics in India
 - ◆ improve the Logistics Performance Index ranking – endeavor is to be among top 25 countries by 2030
 - ◆ create data driven decision support mechanism for an efficient logistics ecosystem

India's logistics sector

- ◎ India's current logistics cost as a proportion of the GDP is some **13-14 per cent**.
- ◎ The sector's present market size is 160 billion USD.
 - ◆ Its improvement can ensure a 10 per cent decrease in indirect logistics cost and increase the growth of exports by 5 to 8 per cent.
- ◎ India's logistics sector provides jobs for more than 22 million people.

12

UDE DESH KA AAM NAGRIK (UDAN)

- The government has planned to develop 100 airports by 2024 under the **Regional Connectivity scheme (RCS)- Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) infrastructure scheme**.
- The scheme was initiated in October 2016 with the objective of fulfilling the aspirations of the common citizen, with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and tier III cities.
- Over the period of 6 years, various versions of UDAN Scheme were launched, as follows:
 - ◆ **UDAN 1.0:** 5 airlines companies were awarded 128 flight routes to 70 airports (including 36 newly made operational airports)
 - ◆ **UDAN 2.0:** 73 underserved and unserved airports were announced and for the first time, helipads were also connected.
 - ◆ **UDAN 3.0:** In coordination with the Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Routes were included. In addition to Seaplanes for connecting Water Aerodromes, several routes in the North-East Region came under the ambit of the scheme.
 - ◆ **UDAN 4.0:** Gave impetus to North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands. The operation of helicopters and seaplanes incorporated.
 - ◆ **UDAN Version 5 – 5.0, 5.1 and 5.2**

13

BHARATMALA

- The Indian government grants a six-year extension, pushing the completion deadline of **Bharatmala Phase-I** to 2027-28.
- The **Bharatmala Pariyojana** is conceived as an ecosystem of 74,942 km of road development consisting of seven components -- economic corridors, inter-corridors and feeder roads, national corridors, border and international connectivity roads, coastal and port connectivity roads, greenfield expressways and residual **National Highway Development Programme (NHDP)** projects.
- **Progress so far**
 - ◆ As of November 2023, 15,045 km (42 percent) of the project has been completed, with 26,418 km (76 percent) of highway stretches awarded.
 - ◆ The revised completion schedule aims to expedite approvals for the remaining 40,412 km, addressing financial constraints and implementation challenges.

14

SAGARMALA

- Sagarmala is a **National Perspective Plan (NPP)** for

the comprehensive development of India's 7,500 km coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and maritime sector.

- The Sagarmala concept was approved in 2015.
- **Vision:** to reduce logistics cost for EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.

15

PARVATAMALA

- The Union government launched the **National Ropeway Development Programme**, Parvatmala, to construct ropeways in mountainous terrains of India under the **Public Private Partnership (PPP)**.
- Primarily, the project aims to decongest mountainous areas where road and train connectivity cannot be upgraded beyond a limit.
- Places like Kedarnath, Manali, etc. face consistent traffic inflow and jams.

16

E-SANCHIT, SINGLE WINDOW INTERFACE FOR TRADE (SWIFT)

- SWIFT is Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade.
- It is a transformative approach adopted by the CBIC to facilitate the ease of doing business.
- The word 'Single Window' plays a very vital role in improving the efficiency of import and export procedures.
- e-SANCHIT is an integral part of SWIFT. e-SANCHIT means **e-storage and computerised handling of indirect tax documents**.
- It allows the trader to upload all supporting documents digitally for obtaining clearances.

17

INDIAN CUSTOMS ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE GATEWAY (ICEGATE)

- Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE) is the national portal of **Indian Customs of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** that provides e-filing services to the Trade, Cargo Carriers and other Trading Partners electronically.
- ICEGATE is internally linked with multiple partner agencies including **RBI, Banks, DGFT, DGCIS, Ministry of Steel, Directorate of Valuation** and other various Partner Government Agencies involved in **EXIM trade** enabling faster Customs clearance.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements regarding the National Logistics Policy, 2022 are correct?

- Under the NLP, a Non-Lapsable Logistics Fund is created.
- Dashboard for Ease of Logistics Services (E-LogS) is one of the major components of the policy.
- Logistics Parks will be set up under its Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following sectors of Indian Economy:

- Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components
- Manufacturing of Medical Devices
- Automobiles and Auto Components
- Pharmaceuticals Drugs
- Specialty Steel
- Telecom & Networking Products

How many of the above sectors are covered under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme?

- (a) Only three
(b) Only four
(c) Only five
(d) All six

3. Consider the following statements regarding industrial corridors:

- The objective of the Industrial Corridors program is to establish multimodal connectivity with fully equipped “plug and play” infrastructure that extends up to individual plot levels.
- The National Industrial Corridor Development & Implementation Trust (NICDIT) holds the responsibility for the integrated development of Industrial Corridors across the nation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWERS

1. (b)

2. (d)

3. (c)

TOWN & CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

18 PUSHP PORTAL

- The **National Power Committee (NPC)** has asked States to provide suggestions for offering incentives to buyers and sellers on the **surplus power portal, PUSHp**, to encourage wider participation, which has been found missing.
- High Price Day Ahead Market and Surplus Power Portal (PUSHp)** aims to ensure greater availability of power during the peak demand season.
- The portal is a national-level generating capacity utilisation mechanism to help States, which are facing power cuts, buy power.
- The tariffs are regulated and determined by the concerned regulatory commissions. Power crisis is generally observed during the months of April, May, September and October.

19

HERITAGE CITY DEVELOPMENT AND AUGMENTATION YOJANA (HRIDAY) PROGRAMME

- Launched in: 2015

- The **Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)** programme were introduced by the Ministry of Urban Development of the Government of India with a focus on the comprehensive development of heritage cities.

20 SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

- The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti that commemorates birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi also known as Mahatma, Bapu or Father of the Nation.
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0:** In 2021, PM Modi introduced the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 with the objective of making all Indian cities ‘Garbage Free’ and ‘Water Secure.’ SBM-U 2.0 was initiated on October 1 in the year 2021 which spans five years.
 - The Swachh Bharat Mission -U 2.0 strives for 100% source segregation, door-to-door waste collection, scientific waste management of all fractions of waste including safe disposal in scientific landfills, and the remediation of legacy dumpsites into green zones.

21 SMART CITIES MISSION

- SCM was launched in June 2015 with the objective of promoting 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.
- The purpose of the Mission is to "drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local area development and harnessing technology, especially technology that leads to smart outcomes".

22**ATAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION (AMRUT)**

- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched on 25th June 2015 in selected 500 cities and towns across the country.
- The Mission focuses on development of basic infrastructure, in the selected cities and towns, in the sectors of water supply; sewerage and septage management; storm water drainage; green spaces and parks; and non-motorized urban transport.
- A set of Urban Reforms and Capacity Building have been included in the Mission.
- AMRUT 2.0:** Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme, which has been launched on 01 October, 2021 for the period of 05 years.
 - It is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in first phase of the AMRUT scheme.

23**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)**

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched to provide connectivity to unconnected Habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.
- Govt. of India is endeavoring to set high and uniform technical and management standards and facilitating policy development and planning at State level in order to ensure sustainable management of the rural roads network.

24**SETU BHARATAM YOJANA**

- The **Setu Bharatam Yojana** was initiated by the Indian government in 2016 under the **Ministry of**

Road Transport & Highway with consideration of the significance of road safety.

25 SVAMITVA SCHEME

- Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme.
- It is a central sector scheme that was launched in 2020.
- It provides an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- It is a collaboration between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development, and the Survey of India.

26**SAANSAD AADARSH GRAM YOJANA (SAGY)**

- Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a village growth program under which each Member of Parliament (MP) is responsible for developing the organizational and physical infrastructure in three villages by 2019.
- By 2024, the plan plans to build five 'Adarsh Villages' or 'Model Villages'.
- 'SAGY' also aims to develop five model villages or Adarsh Grams by 2024.

PYQ (2021)

4. The first freight village of India is being developed at-

- (a) Haldia (b) Ennore
(c) Varanasi (d) Prayagraj

Correct Option: (c)

PYQ (2017)

5. With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It has a corpus of Rs. 4, 00,000 crore at present.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Option: (d)

PRACTICE QUESTION

1. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Mission Shakti':

1. It is an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation.
2. The mission has two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements regarding 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)':

1. Under the scheme, an additional 5 kg of foodgrains are supplied free to all beneficiaries of the NFSA.
2. The amount of food grains provided is uniform for all the beneficiaries.
3. Families belonging to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) categories are eligible for the PM-GKAY scheme.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

3. Regarding 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)', recently seen in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous body.
2. It aims to benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. What does the acronym APAAR, introduced as part of the National Education Policy 2020 in India, stand for, and what is its primary purpose?

- (a) APAAR stands for All-Purpose Academic Achievement Registry and aims to digitize academic records of students.
- (b) APAAR stands for Academic Progress and Achievement Access Registry, facilitating student access to higher education institutions.
- (c) APAAR stands for Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry and provides students with lifelong IDs for tracking academic progress and digital storage of documents.
- (d) APAAR stands for Academic Performance Assessment and Report System, focusing on evaluating students' performance.

5. Consider the following statements regarding PM SVANidhi Scheme:

1. The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
2. This centrally sponsored scheme is available to all street vendors engaged in vending in urban areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Which of the following is the correct objective of the "Kalaigiar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam" Scheme, recently mentioned in news?

- (a) To promote women's entrepreneurship and business development in the state.
- (b) To improve the quality of education for girls in Tamil Nadu.
- (c) To enhance the representation of women in the state's legislative bodies.
- (d) To boost agricultural productivity by providing land subsidies to women.

7. Regarding the Skill India Digital Platform, consider the following statements:

1. It is the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for skilling, education, employment, and entrepreneurship ecosystem of India.
2. The platform is designed to encompass all training programmes initiated by both central and state governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana” (PMUY):

1. The release of LPG connection under this Scheme is in the name of the women belonging to the BPL family.
2. The scheme aims to help increase LPG usage and reduce air pollution.
3. The price of LPG is calculated based on the formula known as import parity price (IPP).
4. Burning solid fuels results in high levels of toxic pollutants, a major risk factor for lung cancer.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs):

1. It is a central system at the State level for tracking and monitoring data related to student enrolment.
2. It is a National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) compliant institutional setup.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA):

1. It is a centrally sponsored programme.
2. The scheme aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.
3. The central funding is based on norms and is outcome dependent.

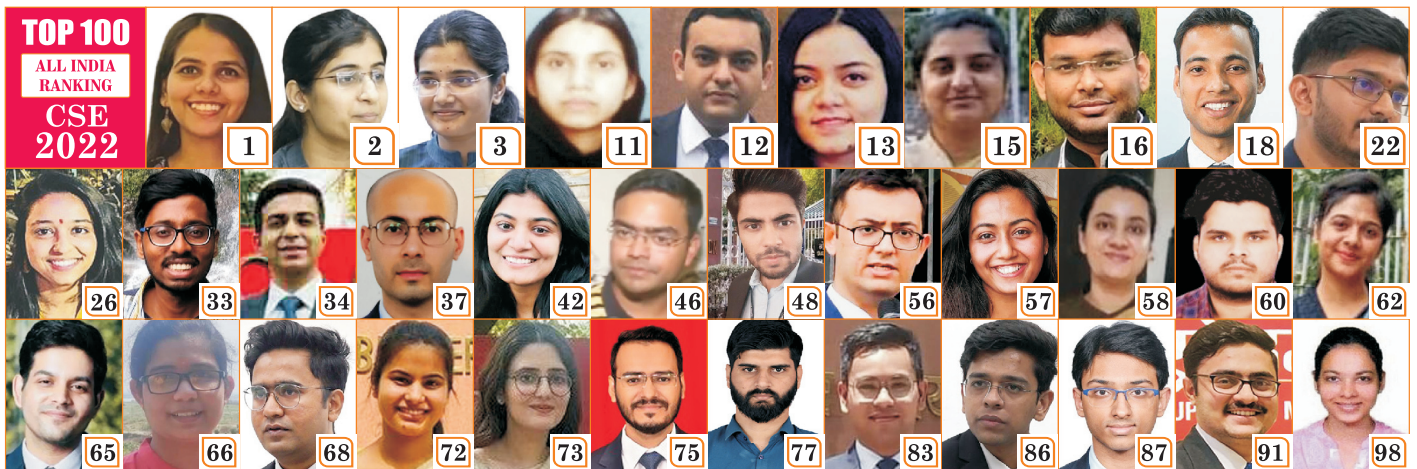
How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

11. The ‘PUSHp portal’, often mentioned in news, aims to-

- (a) Ensure greater availability of power during the peak demand season.
- (b) To provide elderly care products and services by credible startups.
- (c) To protect information related to Electronic Vehicles.
- (d) To enable the planning of new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing.

ANSWERS				
1. (c)	2. (b)	3. (c)	4. (c)	5. (a)
6. (a)	7. (c)	8. (d)	9. (c)	10. (c)
11. (a)				



SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!

