

**PRELIMS
SAMPORNA*****Current Affairs
Yearly Compilation*****Jan 2021 - Feb 2022****Governance:
Programmes &
Schemes**

- 1 70+ Schemes and Policies Covered
- 2 National as well as State Schemes
- 3 Portals and Indices
- 4 Old, New & Revamped Schemes & Policies
- 5 Crisp Pointers for Prelims

PRELIMS SAMPOORNA

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GOVERNANCE: PROGRAMMES & SCHEMES

1.

New India Literacy Programme: the changing need of education in India

Context: Recently, the Government approved a new scheme “**New India Literacy Programme**” for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with **National Education Policy 2020**.

- As per Census 2011, the absolute number of non-literates in the country, who are 15 years and above, is 25.76 crore.
- It is estimated that currently, around 18.12 crore adults are still non-literate.

What is the New India Literacy Programme (NILP)?

- The New India Literacy Programme is implemented by the Ministry of Education in convergence with various Ministries and Departments to implement the scheme.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.
 - The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, maybe organized through face-to-face mode.
- The Objective of this Programme to impart **not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21st century**. Such as-
 - **Critical life skills** (financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare)
 - **Vocational skills** (with a view towards obtaining local employment);
 - **Basic education** (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency) and
 - **Continuing education** (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, etc and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners).
- The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in all states/UTs.
- The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is 5 crore learners at one crore per year by using “Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS).”

Status of Adult illiteracy in India

- As per Census 2011, the absolute number of **non-literates of the country in 15 years and above age group is 25.76 crore.**
 - About 7.64 crore persons are certified as literates under the **Saakshar Bharat programme.**
 - Hence, it is estimated that currently, **around 18.12 crore adults are still non-literate in India.**

Important Constitutional provisions

- Education was sole responsibility of state till 1976 but constitutional amendment made it **concurrent subject.**

Fundamental Rights

- **Article 21A:** Right to Education
- **Article 28:** Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.
- **Article 29:** Equality of opportunity in educational institutions.
- **Article 30:** Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.

Directive Principles:

- **Article 41:** Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases
- **Article 45:** Provision for free and compulsory education for children and Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years
- **Article 46:** It provides for special care to the promotion of education and economic interests of the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and the weaker sections of society.

Government initiatives promoting online education in India:

- **SWAYAM:** The 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) is an integrated platform for offering online courses and covering school (9th to 12th) to Post Graduate Level.
- **SWAYAM Prabha:** SWAYAM Prabha is an initiative to provide 32 High Quality Educational Channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on 24X7 basis.
- **National Digital Library (NDL):** The National Digital Library of India (NDL) is a project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility.
- **Free and Open Source Software for Education (FOSSEE):** FOSSEE is a project promoting the use of open source software in educational institutions.
- **E-Yantra:** e-Yantra is a project for enabling effective education across engineering colleges in India on embedded systems and Robotics.
- **Other major initiatives include:**
 - **UG/PG MOOCs** for non-technology courses
 - **e-PG Pathshala** or e-content containing modules on social science, arts, fine arts, natural and mathematical science
 - **CEC-UGC YouTube channel**
 - **Vidwan** – a database of experts who provide information to peers and prospective collaborators,

- ▶ **NEAT** – an initiative by AICTE based on the PPP model to enhance the employability skill among students, in collaboration with Education Technology Companies and National Digital Library (NDL), a repository of learning resources with single window facility.
- ▶ Many noteworthy initiatives have been taken up like Spoken Tutorial, Google Classroom and so on.

2. Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)

Context: Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was announced as a part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package.

Objective:

- To boost the economy, increase the employment generation in post Covid recovery phase
- To incentivize creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic

About the scheme

- This scheme is being implemented through the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).
- It reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries and encourages them to hire more workers.
- Under ABRY, Government of India is crediting for a period of two years both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers share' (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments.

3. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Context: The Ministry of Jal Shakti has approved Drinking Water Supply schemes of Rs. 15,381.72 Crore for Madhya Pradesh under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

What is Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)?

- **Announced in:** 2019
- JJM aims to ensure piped water supply to all rural households (HH's) by 2024.
- It is a decentralized, demand-driven community-managed water supply programme.
- **Quantity:** Ministry of Jal Shakti envisages supply of 55 liters of water per person per day to every rural household through **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC)** by 2024 under the mission.
- Under the mission, special focus is on women and children.
 - ▶ Ensuring safe water to children is a priority, as they are the most vulnerable to water-borne diseases like **diarrhea, dysentery, cholera, typhoid, etc.**

Ministry of Jal Shakti

- **Founded in:** 2019
- The Government of India has created the Ministry of Jal Shakti by integrating the

- ▶ **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**
- ▶ **Department of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**
- **Aim:** To integrate water resources management under one umbrella, so that all the issues relating to water are dealt with in a holistic manner.
- This Ministry also looks after rural sanitation and take forward the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.

4. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0)

Context: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship under Skill India Mission launched the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0)

What is Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)?

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- **Implemented by:** National Skill Development Corporation
- The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- **Established on:** 9 November 2014
- **Mandate:** to coordinate all skill development efforts across the country.

National Skill Development Corporation

- It is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008 under **section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956**.
- NSDC was set up by **Ministry of Finance** as **Public Private Partnership mode**.

5. National Strategy on Blockchain

Context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology released a “**National strategy on blockchain**”.

Key-highlights

- It identifies **44 potential areas of using the technology** and lays out the broad contours of how it can be leveraged across different sectors.
- The ministry has adopted a multi-institutional approach for the national blockchain framework, which includes

- ▶ C-DAC for research and development of the framework
- ▶ NIC and NICS for hosting the **national-level blockchain infrastructure** and offering blockchain as a service

What is a blockchain?

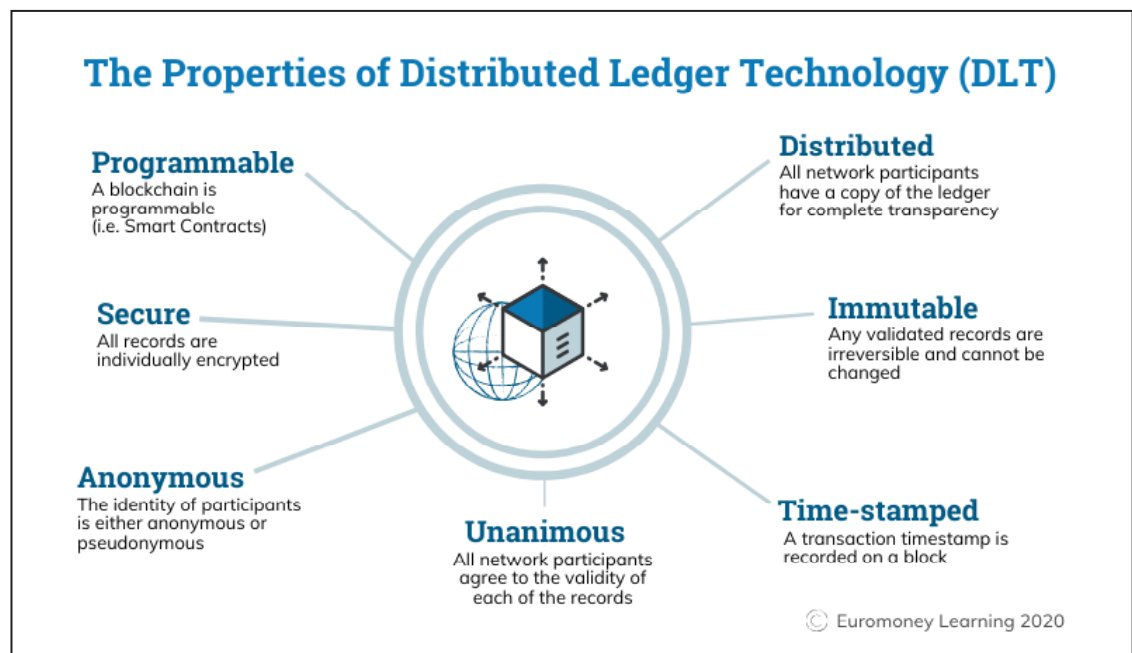
- **Blockchain** is a system of recording information in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system.
- A blockchain is essentially a digital ledger of transactions that is duplicated and distributed across the entire network of computer systems on the blockchain.
- Blockchain is a type of **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)** in which transactions are recorded with an immutable cryptographic signature called a **hash**.

6. WASH Scheme

Context: As the schools are gradually reopening for students of all classes across the states, it becomes inevitable to have functional and improved **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities** at the schools.

What is WASH program?

- UNICEF's **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** programs offer simple solutions on a large scale to reach children with improved drinking water and sanitation facilities, improve their health, and lower the risk of preventable disease.



- **Aim:** To provide safe and accessible drinking water and improve hygiene and sanitation in communities.
- Universal, affordable and sustainable access to WASH is a key public health issue within international development and is the focus of the first two targets of **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)**.
 - ▶ **SDG 6 is:** “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

Sanitation and hygiene in India

- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is a public issue in India.
- Launched in 2014, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SMB) of India has seen great success in recent years in improving the health and sanitation of India's people.

7. Vehicle Scrapping Policy

Context: The government launched the **Vehicle Scrappage Policy**.

The Policy

- The Vehicle Scrappage Policy was launched on August 13, 2021.
- It is a **government-funded programme** to replace old vehicles with modern & new vehicles on Indian roads.
- The policy is expected to reduce pollution, create job opportunities and boost demand for new vehicles
- The policy aims to scrap old, unfit and polluting vehicles by creating an infrastructure for automated testing of vehicles that have completed the registration period.

According to the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH)**, India is home to 2.1 crore vehicles that are older than 20 years, with the highest number in Karnataka (39.4 lakh), followed by Delhi (36.1 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (26.2 lakh), Kerala (20.6 lakh), Tamil Nadu (15.9 lakh) and Punjab (15.3 lakh).

Validity

- As per law, a registration certificate for a passenger vehicle is valid for 15 years from date of issue.
- For a commercial vehicle, it is valid for a period of 10 years.

Several countries including the **US, Germany, Canada and China** have introduced vehicle scrappage policies to boost their respective automotive industries and curtail vehicular pollution.

8. Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign

Context: Prime Minister launched '**Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain**' campaign on March 22 (**World Water Day**) for conserving water.

About the Campaign

- It is a nation-wide campaign "**Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain**" (JSA:CTR) focusing on saving and conserving rainwater with the theme "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" from 22

March 2021 to 30 November, 2021 in the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods of 2021, covering both urban and rural areas of all the districts in the country.

- The campaign aims to take water conservation at grass-root level through people's participation.
- It is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.

Water crisis in India

- India has 16 per cent of the world's population, the country possesses only **four per cent of the world's freshwater resources**.
- As many as 256 of 700 districts in India have reported 'critical' or 'over-exploited' groundwater levels according to the most recent **Central Ground Water Board data (from 2017)**.
- India has become the **world's largest extractor of groundwater**, accounting for **25 per cent of the total**.
- Some **70 per cent of water sources are contaminated** and its major rivers are dying because of **pollution**.

Major Schemes for rainwater harvesting

Government is implementing a number of schemes for rainwater harvesting which include

- Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal)
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme etc.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna
- Water to every farm - Har Khet ko Paani
- Per Drop More Crop' campaign
- Namami Gange Mission
- Har Ghar Pani-Jal Jeevan Mission
- Formation of a Ministry of Jal Shakti

National Water Mission

- The main objective of the National Water Mission is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management".
- The five identified goals of the Mission are:
 - ▶ comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resource
 - ▶ promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation
 - ▶ focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas
 - ▶ increasing water use efficiency by 20%
 - ▶ promotion of basin level integrated water resources management

State success stories: participatory and decentralized rural water management

- **Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlambhan Abhiyan , Rajasthan**
 - ▶ After first phase there was 56% reduction of water supply through tankers and an average rise in the groundwater table by 4.66 feet in 21 non-desert districts of the states
- **Neeru-Chettu Programme, Andhra Pradesh**
 - ▶ Efforts under the Neeru-Chettu programme have enabled irrigation access to nearly 2,10,000 acres of land in the state
- **Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan, Maharashtra**
 - ▶ 11,000 villages have been declared drought-free and agricultural productivity has increased by 30-50%.
- **Jakhni Village, Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh**
 - ▶ Jakhni village of Banda district in the Bundelkhand region was one of the most water scarce regions of India. Once a drought prone village, now produces nearly 23,000 quintals of Basmati rice.

9. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)

Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)** as a **single non-lapsable reserve fund** for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Section 136-b of **Finance Act, 2007**.

Salient features of the PMSSN

- A non-lapsable reserve fund for Health in the Public Account.
- Proceeds of share of health in the Health and Education Cess will be credited into PMSSN.
- Accruals into the PMSSN will be utilized for the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare namely,
 - ▶ **Ayushman Bharat** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
 - ▶ **Ayushman Bharat** - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)
 - ▶ **National Health Mission**
 - ▶ **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**
- Emergency & disaster preparedness and responses during health emergencies
- Any future programme/scheme that targets to achieve progress towards SDGs and the targets set out in the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017.
- Administration and maintenance of the PMSSN is entrusted to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- In any financial year, the expenditure on such schemes of the MoHFW would be initially incurred from the PMSSN and thereafter, from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS).

10. Gram Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme

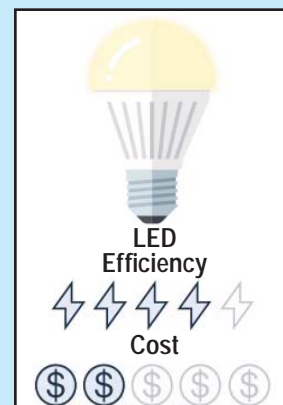
Context: Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) has recently achieved a remarkable milestone of distributing 50 lakhs LED bulbs under Project Crore of their **Gram Ujala programme**.

Gram Ujala Programme

- Gram Ujala was launched to raise awareness against climate change and to save electricity. The move will save 2025 million kilowatt of energy per year.
- The Ujala scheme is being implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture of leading PSUs under the administration of the ministry of power.
- The programme is financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.

LED Bulbs

- LED stands for “light-emitting diode.”
- They are tiny semiconductors (diodes) wrapped in plastic to protect the elements and focus the light.
- A diode is “a semiconductor device with two terminals, typically allowing the flow of current in one direction only.”
- The current comes into an anode (+) and flows out of a cathode (-). LEDs do not even have wire filaments like a lightbulb does.



11. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

Context: The government of India has published the **PMAY list 2021-22** for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAYG).

What is PMAY-G?

- The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) was introduced with the view to boost the “**Housing for All**” scheme.
- The central government came up with the vision to fulfil the ‘Housing for All’ scheme by the year 2022.
- The main aim of the PMAY-G scheme is to provide pucca house with some of the basic amenities.
- This scheme is meant for people who do not own a house and people who live in kutchra houses or houses which are severely damaged.

12. Swamitva Scheme

Context: **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the new framework for implementation of the **SVAMITVA Scheme**.

About the SWAMITVA Scheme:

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) is a Central Sector Scheme.
- **Ministry:** The Scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

- ▶ It was launched on 24th April 2020.
- ◉ **Aim:** It aims to promote a socio-economically empowered and self-reliant rural India.
- ◉ **Record of rights:** The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural abadi areas and issuance of Property cards.
- ◉ **Technology:** The Scheme has the potential to transform rural India using modern technical tools of mapping and surveying.
 - ▶ Drones are being used for the purpose of survey.
- ◉ **Significance:** It will give the way for using the property as a financial asset to villagers for availing loans and other financial benefits.
- ◉ **Time Period:** The Scheme will cover around 6.62 Lakh villages of the entire country for five years during 2021-2025.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- ◉ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is a branch of the Government of India looking after the ongoing process of decentralisation and local governance in the States.
- ◉ In a federation the powers and functions of the government are divided among two governments. In India it is the Union Government and the various State Governments.

However, with the passage of 73rd and 74th amendment act of the Constitution of India, in 1993 the division of powers and functions have been further trickled down to Local Self Governments:

- ▶ Panchayat at Village levels
- ▶ Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in towns and large cities
- ◉ As such India now has not two but three tier of Governments in its federal setup.
- ◉ Ministry of Panchayati Raj looks into all matters relating to the
 - ▶ Panchayati Raj
 - ▶ Panchayati Raj Institutions
- ◉ It was created in **May 2004**.
- ◉ The ministry is headed by a minister of cabinet rank.

13. e-SANTA

Context: Union Commerce and Industry Ministry inaugurated **e-SANTA**, an electronic marketplace platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers.

About the e-SANTA initiative

- ◉ e-SANTA is a digital platform to bring the **aqua market** divide to end.
- ◉ It is a paperless and end-to-end electronic trade initiative between Farmers and exporters.
- ◉ The term **e-SANTA** denotes the web portal that stands for **Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade-in Aquaculture**.

Significance of e-SANTA

- ◉ It will enable the farmers and exporters, to get a better price and to directly purchase quality products from the farmers.

- It will help in enhancing traceability which is a key factor in international trade.
- It will help in reducing the role of a middleman.
- e-SANTA will **RAISE** the lives & income of farmers by:
 - ▶ Reducing Risk
 - ▶ Awareness of Products & Markets
 - ▶ Increase in Income
 - ▶ Shielding Against Wrong Practice
 - ▶ Ease of Processes

How will it work?

- **Enlisting:** The farmers will have to enlist their produce and quote their price while the exporters have the freedom to list the requirements and also to choose the products based on their requirements.
- **Deal:** A deal is struck, advance payment is made and an estimated invoice is generated.
- **Procedure:** Once the harvest date is fixed, the buyer goes to the farm gate and the produce is harvested in his presence.
 - ▶ Once the harvest is completed, the final count, quantity of material is verified, the final amount is decided and the delivery challan is issued.
 - ▶ Once the material reaches the processing plant, the final invoice is generated and the exporter makes the balance payment.
 - ▶ This payment is reflected in the escrow account.
- **NaCSA** verifies it and accordingly releases the payment to farmers.

National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA)

- It is an extension arm of **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It was established by MPEDA in the year 2007.
- It aims for uplifting the livelihood of small-scale shrimp farmers.

14. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN)

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 10th installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on January 1, 2022.

About

- PM Kisan is a **Central Sector scheme** with 100% funding from Government of India.
- It is an initiative launched by the India Government to help the farmers financially.
- Under the scheme an income support of 6,000/- per year in three equal installments will be provided to all land holding farmer families.
- The scheme is like the minimum income support by the Government of India.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana is inspired by the **Rythu Bandhu scheme**, it is a scheme which is run by the Government of Telangana.

15. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Context: Himachal Pradesh has become the **first LPG enabled and smoke free-state** in the country due to the Ujjwala **scheme** of the Central Government and housewives welfare scheme of the State Government.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- PMUY is a programme launched by the **government on May 1, 2016**.
- The implementation of the scheme is under the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through its Oil Marketing Companies**.
- The primary purpose of the scheme is to **distribute LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to the women of low households in India**.
- The programme was initially launched with a **budget of Rs. 80 billion**.
- **Initially, five crores BPL (below poverty line) households** were targeted through PMUY; the target was achieved by March 31, 2019.
- An additional allocation of Rs 4,800 crore was done, and the **target was expanded to benefit 80 million low-income families through the scheme**.
- Under this scheme, towards an initiative for the loss by **Covid-19 outbreak**, the Finance Minister of India, announced to provide cylinders free of cost to the BPL families from March 26, 2020, for three months.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)

- Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is a fuel used in many household appliances for cooking, heating, and hot water.
- It is called liquefied gas because it is easily transformed into a liquid.
- LPG composition is primarily **propane, butane, isobutane, butylenes, propylene** and mixtures of these gases.
- LPG is composed of liquid or gas (vapor), depending on pressure and LPG gas temperature.
- LPG needs only low pressure or refrigeration to change it into liquid from its gaseous state.

About Mukhyamantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana

- The **Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana** was launched on May 26, 2018.
- With the concerted efforts of the Central and state governments, the women of the state had become free from indoor pollution.
- Besides, to conserve the environment, a free LPG connection was given to families with no gas connection.

16. AgriStack

Context: The government is developing a digital 'stack' of agricultural datasets, including land records at its core.

What is “Agristack”?

- It is a set of technology and digital databases geared toward farmers and the agriculture sector.
- AgriStack will provide a uniform platform for farmers to deliver end-to-end services throughout the agriculture food value chain.
- It aims to provide a larger push to digitize data in India, ranging from land titles to medical records.
- Each farmer will receive a unique digital identification (farmers’ ID) as part of the scheme, which will include personal information, information about the land they farm, as well as productivity and financial information.
- Each ID will be linked to the individual’s Aadhaar ID.

17. Jiyo Parsi Scheme

Context: A government scheme that offers cash assistance to encourage Parsi couples to have children has resulted in 214 births over the last five years through assisted reproductive techniques (ART).

About the Scheme

- The Centre announced the Jiyo Parsi Scheme in September 2013 to check the declining Parsi population.
- According to the Union minority affairs ministry, the population declined from about 114,000 in 1941 to 57,264 in 2011.

Parsis in India

- The tiniest of India’s religious minorities, the earliest Parsis came to the subcontinent more than 1,000 years ago from Persia.
- Over the centuries, they maintained their distinct customs but integrated themselves into Indian society.
- Maharashtra has the highest Parsi population in the country, followed by Gujarat.

18. AIM-iLEAP

Context: In a move to give a major push to tech startups across the country, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog concluded its first fintech cohort of AIM-iLEAP- an initiative to back tech start-ups with much-needed access to industry, markets and investors.

What is AIM-iLEAP?

- AIM-iLEAP (Innovative leadership for entrepreneurial agility and profitability) initiative.
- The objective of the AIM-iLEAP program is to invite technology start-ups across a broad range of functions and have them present their solutions to the corporate leadership and innovation team for enabling market access and industry partnerships.
- On the other hand, individual and institutional investors participating in this program shall consider investing in the curated set of AIM supported start-ups.

19. Biotech-KISAN

Context: The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** has issued a Special Call for North East Region as a part of its Mission Programme “**Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)**”, with the aim to understand the local problems of the NER farmers and provide scientific solutions to those problems.

What is Biotech-KISAN?

- Biotech-KISAN is a **scientist-farmer partnership scheme** launched in 2017 for agriculture innovation with an objective to connect science laboratories with the farmers to find out innovative solutions and technologies to be applied at farm level.
- Under this scheme, so far 146 Biotech-KISAN Hubs have been established covering all 15 agro-climatic zones and 110 Aspirational Districts in the country.
- The scheme has benefitted over two lakhs farmers so far by increasing their agriculture output and income.
- Over 200 entrepreneurship have also been developed in rural areas.

20. NIPUN Bharat programme

Context: The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has launched **National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat)**.

About the NIPUN Bharat Mission

- It is among the series of measures taken for implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.
- The vision of **NIPUN Bharat Mission** is to create an enabling environment to ensure the universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing, and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.
- NIPUN Bharat will be implemented by the **Department of School Education and Literacy**.
- It is basically a goal oriented set of targets or lakshyas for foundational literacy and numeracy.
- The Lakshyas are based on the learning outcomes developed by the NCERT and international research and ORF studies.
- There will be a special emphasis on capacity building of teachers.
- A special package for foundational literacy and Numeracy under **NISHTHA** is being developed by NCERT and around 25 lakh teachers teaching at pre-primary to primary grade will be trained this year on FLN.
- A five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the **National- State- District- Block-School level** in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of **Samagra Shiksha**.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- Implementing agency:** Department of School Education and Literacy

- It is a sector-wide development program to help to harmonize the implementation mechanisms and transaction costs at all levels, particularly in using state, district, and sub-district level systems.
- The Integrated Scheme envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage following the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education**.

21. National Urban Digital Mission

Context: Indian Central government recently launched 'National Urban Digital Mission' to establish digital infrastructure for cities.

What is National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)?

- The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) has been launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** along with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- It will institutionalize a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2024.
- It will help in supplementing **Digital India initiative along with Smart Cities Mission**.
- **Objective:** The mission will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India, working across the three pillars of people, process, and platform to provide holistic support to cities and towns.

Key- features of the mission

- NUDM is **citizen-centric, ecosystem-driven, and principles-based** in both design and implementation.
- NUDM has **articulated a set of governing principles**.
- It inherits **the technology design principles** of the National Urban Innovation Stack (NUIS).

Other major initiatives

Several other digital initiatives of MoHUA India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website, and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched.

- **India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX):** IUDX is an open-source software platform which facilitates the secure, authenticated, and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms.
- **Partnership program:** The India Urban Data Exchange has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- **SmartCode Platform:** SmartCode is a platform designed to address the challenges that ULBs face in the development and deployment of digital applications.

These initiatives are among the ongoing efforts of both Ministries to realize the Prime Minister's vision of **Digital India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat**, by making cities more self-reliant and enabled to meet the needs of and provide services to their citizens.

22. Biotech-PRIDE

Context: Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines” are released by the DBT.

About the Biotech-PRIDE

- **Biotech-PRIDE** is an indigenous database which will have a huge enabling mechanism for the exchange and adoption of data.
- The guidelines were developed by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The guidelines aim at providing a well-defined framework and guiding principle to facilitate and enable sharing and exchange of biological knowledge, information, and data and
- The wide range of large-scale data will help in advancing the understanding of the molecular and biological processes which will contribute to human health on agriculture, animal husbandry, fundamental research.
- The Guidelines will be implemented by the **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** at Regional Centre for Biotechnology supported by the **Department of Biotechnology**.
- Other existing datasets/ data centers will be bridged to IBDC which will be called Bio-Grid.
 - Bio-Grid will be a National Repository for biological knowledge, information, and data.
 - It will be responsible for enabling its exchange, developing measures for safety, standards, and quality for the dataset.
- The Biotech PRIDE Guidelines will facilitate and enable the exchange of information to promote research and innovation in different research groups across the country.

23. PM-KUSUM scheme

Context: The government needs to rework the pricing policy of solar-powered irrigation pumps for wider implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)**.

What is PM KUSUM Scheme?

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme** was initiated by the Government of India to increase the income of farmers and provide sources for irrigation and de-dieselize the farm sector.
- PM-KUSUM Yojana got its administrative approval in March 2019 and guidelines were framed in July 2019.
- This scheme was launched by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** for the installation of solar pumps and other renewable power plants across the nation.
- This scheme is divided into three components which are discussed further.

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24. Rebate of State and Central taxes and Levies(RoSCTL)

Context: The government notified the **RoSCTL scheme for textiles exporters** and said the duty credit scrips under this support measure would be issued without insisting on realisation of the export proceeds.

Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL)

- In 2019, the **Ministry of Textiles** notified a new scheme by the name Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL).
- Under this scheme, the exporters are issued a **Duty Credit Scrip** for the value of embedded taxes and levies contained in the exported product.
- Exporters can use this scrip to pay basic Customs duty for the import of equipment, machinery or any other input.

Tax Refund for Exported Products

- It is a globally accepted principle that taxes and duties should not be exported, to enable a level playing field in the international market for the exporters.
- In addition, to import duties and GST which are generally refunded, there are various other taxes/duties that are levied by Central, State and Local Government which are not refunded to the exporters.
- These taxes and levies get embedded in the price of the ultimate product being exported.
- Such embedded taxes and levies increase the price of Indian Apparel and Made-ups and make it difficult for them to compete in the international market.

25. Ministry of AYUSH launches Ayush Aahaar

Context: Recently, the **Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)** launched 'Ayush Aahaar' at its **Ayush Bhawan canteen**.

- The initiative aims to promote a nutritional diet and healthy living.

What is Ayush Aahaar?

- Ayush Aahaar is a healthy diet that includes **kokum drink, gajar ka halwa, bhajani vade and vegetable poha**.
- These dishes are rich in nutrition and are very popular among the public. Also, they are easily digestible.

AYUSH Lifestyle

- It mainly aims to reduce the burden of lifestyle diseases.
- Lifestyle diseases are heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity and stroke.
- AYUSH lifestyle includes a healthy diet, regular exercise and yoga.

Growth Potential of AYUSH in India

- India is the world leader in AYUSH practices.
- There are more than 500 colleges and 3000 hospitals dedicated to AYUSH. If the project becomes a success, the diet can be introduced in these hospitals.
- The AYUSH market in India is 10 billion USD.
- It is predicted to increase by 50% in the next five years. There are no FDI limits for AYUSH.
- India is the second largest exporter of alternative medicines in the world.
- Yoga and acupuncture are gaining popularity in developed countries.
- **Major partners:** The major AYUSH partners of India are Japan, Russia, UAE and USA. India is pushing AYUSH largely through the **National Ayush Mission**.
 - ▶ The mission was launched in 2014 to promote cost effective AYUSH medicines, cultivate medicinal plants, increase institutional capacities and to provide cost effective medical services.

Important Initiatives of the Ayush Ministry

- Aahaar Kranti Mission
- New Portals on Ayush Sector
- ACCR Portal and Ayush Sanjivani App

26. Sujal Mission

Context: The state government of Odisha launched the ambitious ‘**Sujal- Drink From Tap Mission**’ making **Puri** the first city in India to receive a 24/7 quality drinking water supply.

Sujal Mission

- Odisha government launched the ‘Sujal- Drink From Tap Mission’ on October 13, 2020, to supply tap drinking water throughout the state.
- With the program, Odisha became the first state in India to implement a scheme of providing water fit for direct consumption in urban areas.
- A fund of ₹1300 crore was granted to provide quality tap water to over 15 lakh people in 15 towns in a phased manner.

27. National Monetization Pipeline

Context: The Centre launched the **National Monetisation pipeline (NMP)** in an effort to list out the government’s infrastructure assets to be sold over the next four-years.

Key Features

- NMP aims to unlock value in Brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them revenue rights and not ownership in the projects.

- Ownership of the Brownfield assets to remain with the government.
- The generated funds will be used for infrastructure creation across the country.

What is brownfield project India?

A brownfield is an investment when a company or government entity purchases or leases existing production facilities to launch a new production activity.

Objective of the programme:

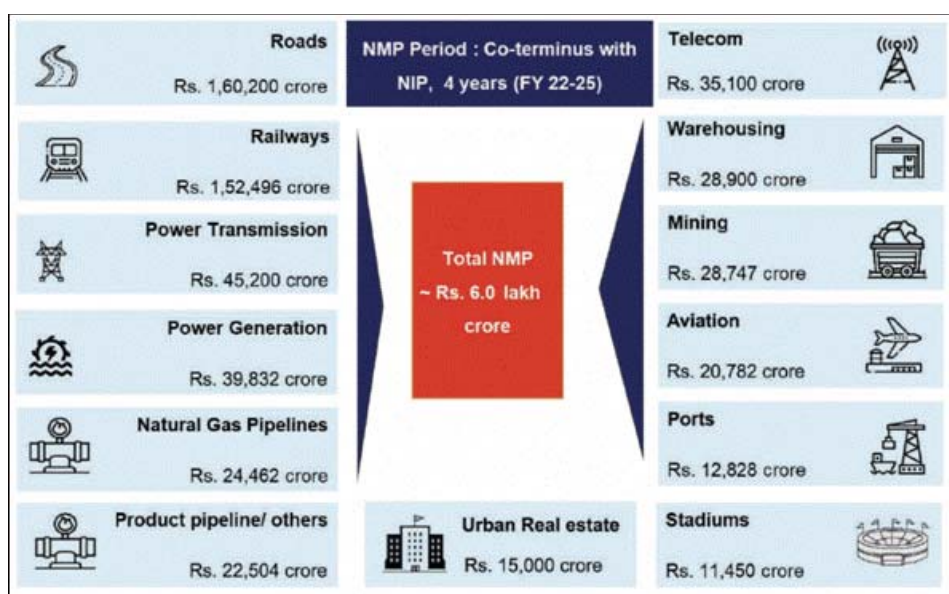
- To unlock the value of investments in Brownfield public sector assets by tapping institutional and long-term capital, which can thereafter be leveraged for public investments.
- To enable 'Infrastructure Creation through Monetization' wherein the public and private sector collaborate, each excelling in their core areas of competence, so as to deliver socio-economic growth.

Major sectors

- Roads, railways and power to be priority sectors.
- Roads, railways and power sector assets will comprise over 66% of the total estimated value of the assets to be monetised, with the remaining upcoming sectors including
 - telecom
 - mining
 - aviation
 - ports
 - natural gas and petroleum product pipelines
 - warehouses
 - stadiums

Estimated fund allocation

- NMP is indicatively valued at Rs 6.0 lakh crore for 4 years for FY 2022-2025.



28. Jan Dhan Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- Account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet.
- Accounts opened under PMJDY are being opened with Zero balance.
- However, if the account-holder wishes to get cheque book, he/she will have to fulfill minimum balance criteria.

29. NMEO-OP

Context: The Union Cabinet has given its approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)**.

What is NMEO-OP?

- It is a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Funding:** A financial outlay of Rs.11,040 crore has been made for the scheme, out of which Rs.8,844 crore is the Government of India share and Rs.2,196 crore is State share and this includes the viability gap funding also.
- **Salient features:** The salient features of NMEO-Oil palm include assistance for planting material, inputs for intercropping upto gestation period of 4 years and for maintenance, establishment of seed gardens, nurseries, micro irrigation, bore well/pumpset/water harvesting structure, vermi compost units, solar pumps, harvesting tools, custom hiring centre cum harvester Groups, farmers and officers training, and for replanting of old oil palm gardens etc.

- India is one of the major oilseeds grower and importer of edible oils.
- India's vegetable oil economy is world's fourth largest after USA, China & Brazil.
- The oilseed accounts for 13% of the Gross Cropped Area, 3% of the Gross National Product and 10% value of all agricultural commodities.

30. Samagra Shiksha Scheme

Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the continuation of the revised **Samagra Shiksha Scheme** for a period of five years i.e., from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

About the scheme

- The Samagra Shiksha scheme is an integrated scheme for school education which covers education from pre-school to class XII.

- **Launched by:** Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- Launched in 2018, it subsumed the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE).
- The scheme treats school education by **Sustainable Development Goal for Education (SDG-4)**.
- The scheme supports the implementation of the RTE Act and is aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020.
- The scheme covers 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students, and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools (from pre-primary to senior secondary level).

Implementation of the Scheme

- **State level:** It is implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** through a single **State Implementation Society (SIS)** at the State level.
- **National level:** At the National level, there is a Governing Council/Body headed by the Minister of Education and a Project Approval Board (PAB) headed by the Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy.
- The scheme ensures that all children have **access to quality education**.

Major interventions under the scheme

- **Major Interventions:** The major interventions proposed under the scheme are:
 - Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention
 - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
 - Gender and Equity
 - Inclusive Education
 - Quality and Innovation
 - Financial support for Teacher Salary
 - Digital initiatives
 - RTE Entitlements including uniforms, textbooks, etc.
 - Support for ECCE
 - Vocational Education
 - Sports and Physical Education
 - Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training
 - Monitoring
 - Program Management
 - National Component

Literacy in India

- According to the 2011 Census, any person aged seven and above and who has the ability to read and write is considered literate.
- The average literacy rate in India stands at 74.04%.
- While Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India at 93.91%, Bihar has the least literacy rate in India of 63.82%.

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- The **Ministry Of Home Affairs** conducts a census every 10 years in India.
- The Mid Day Meal Scheme, Samagra Shiksha Programme, Awareness campaigns and RTE Act are some of the measures of Indian Government to improve education.

31. SAMRIDH SCHEME

Context: The government launched **Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH)** programme.

About

- SAMRIDH aims to create a conducive platform for Indian software product startups to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- The programme is being implemented by **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)**.

32. Ubharte Sitaare Fund

Context: The Ministry of Finance launched the 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' for export-oriented small and mid-sized companies.

About the Fund

- The 'Ubharte Sitaare Fund' has been set up by **Exim Bank and SIDBI**.
- The fund is expected to identify Indian enterprises with potential advantages by way of technology, products or processes along with export potential, but which are currently underperforming or unable to tap their latent potential to grow.
- The Programme diagnoses such challenges and provides support through a mix of structured support covering equity, debt and technical assistance.

33. E-RUPI

Context: Prime Minister launched digital payment solution e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.

What is e-RUPI?

- e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless mode of digital payments medium, which will be delivered to beneficiaries' mobile phones in form of an SMS string or a QR code.
- This has been developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the **Department of Financial Services**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, and the **National Health Authority**.
- The payment system will be a person-specific and purpose-specific system.
- This will be like a prepaid gift voucher that will be redeemable without any credit or debit card, a mobile app, or internet banking at specific accepting centers.

- The system is built by NPCI on its UPI platform and has on boarded banks which will be the issuing entities.
- Any corporate or government agency will approach the partner banks, either private or public-sector lenders, with the details of specific persons and the purpose for which payments have to be made.
- The beneficiaries will be identified by their mobile number and a voucher will be allocated by a bank to the service provider.

Significance of e-RUPI

- The launch of e-RUPI could potentially highlight the existing gaps in digital payments infrastructure which is necessary for the success of the future digital currency.
- e-RUPI is still backed by the existing Indian rupee as an underlying asset and the specificity of the purpose makes it different from a virtual currency and makes it closer to a voucher-based payment system.

Digital Payment Methods

- The Digital India programme envisions for transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- “Faceless, Paperless, Cashless” is one of the professed role of Digital India.
- As part of promoting cashless transactions and to convert India into less-cash society, various modes of digital payments are available.

These mode are:

- Banking cards, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Mobile Wallets, Banks Pre-paid Cards, Point of sale, Internet banking (NEFT, RTGS or IMPS), Mobile banking and Micro ATMs etc.

34. PMFME scheme

Context: Micro food processing units in the informal sector are eligible for support under the **Prime Minister’s Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)** here in the district.

What is PMFME Scheme?

- The scheme was launched in 2020 under the ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’ and ‘Vocal for Local’ campaigns, to provide technical, financial and business support to micro food processing units in the country.
- **Funding:** PMFME is being implemented with the Central funding of 60% and the State funding of 40%.
- The scheme is geared towards strengthening unorganised micro food processing units and to promote formalisation of the sector.

Objectives of the PMFME Scheme

The scheme provides:

- Credit access to existing micro food processing businesses, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), co-operatives, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), for technology upgradation

- Assistance to 200,000 existing micro food processing units to transform them into organised units, by strengthening their marketing & branding, and integrating the supply chain with formal units
- Increased access to shared services, such as storage, incubation facilities, and packaging
- Professional and technical support for food processing entrepreneurs
- Proper training and research to individual or group owned food processing enterprises

One District-One Product (ODOP) Approach

- The PMFME Scheme has adopted the ODOP approach from the ODOP programme launched by the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government in 2018.
- Under this approach, the state identifies and selects a food product for the district, that could be a perishable agricultural crop, such as cereals, or a food product that is largely produced in the district.
- Tomato, mango, potato, litchi, millet-based goods, fishery, poultry, meat, and animal feeds are some of the food products covered by the ODOP.
- Traditional and innovative products like honey, minor forest products in tribal areas, and herbal items like turmeric are also supported by the scheme.

35. Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Context: The government will impart skills training to 50000 youth in trades related to Indian Railways under the **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**.

Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana

- Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana was launched by the Railway Ministry as part of 75 years of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- It is a program under the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**.
- The Centre's Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana aims to empower India's youth by offering entry level training in industry relevant skills through Indian Railways' training institutes.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

- PMKVY is the flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** implemented by **National Skill Development Corporation**.
- The objective of this **Skill Certification Scheme** is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

36. DigiSaksham

Context: The **Union Labour Ministry and Microsoft India** have jointly launched a digital skilled platform — **DigiSaksham** — to enhance youth employability.

What is DigiSaksham?

- This joint initiative is an extension of the ongoing programs to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas.
- Under the scheme, 10 million active registered job seekers on the National Career Service (NCS) platform will be provided with free-of-cost training over a few years.
- The training will include digital and technical skills along with advanced computing.
- The youth will be provided with three types of training under the scheme —
 - ▶ Digital Skills (self-paced learning)
 - ▶ VILT mode training (Virtual Instructor-led)
 - ▶ ILT mode training (Instructor-led)
- While the DigiSaksham scheme has been conceptualised and designed by Microsoft India, it will be implemented on the ground by **Aga Khan Rural Support Programme-India (AKRSP-I)** and its knowledge partner **TMI e2E Academy**.

37. PM Poshan Shakti Nirman

Context: The mid-day meal scheme will now be known as **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (PM POSHAN)**.

Key points of the scheme

- The PM POSHAN scheme has been launched for an initial period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- It will incorporate with the existing **Mid Day Meal Scheme**.
- The Scheme has a provision for **supplementary nutrition** for children in **aspirational districts** and those districts which are with **high prevalence of anaemia**.

Beneficiaries

- Under this scheme, hot cooked food will be given to the students from Classes 1 to 8 in government and government-aided schools.
 - ▶ It is likely to benefit about 11.80 crore children studying in 11.20 lakh schools.
- Mid-day meals will be extended to students studying in pre-primary or Balvatikas government aided schools.
 - ▶ **Balvatika** is the pre-school that was started in government schools which includes children aged younger than six years.

Mid day meal scheme

- The mid day meal scheme is the centrally sponsored scheme.
- It was launched in India on 15 August 1995 named as 'National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE)'.

- It was renamed as ‘National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools’ also known as the **Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme** in 2007.
- The scheme is considered as the world’s largest school meal programme.
- In this scheme the government provided cooked meals to every child who enrolls and attends the school within the age group of six to fourteen years studying in classes I to VIII.

Other Related Government Initiatives

- Anemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyan
- National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
- Poshan Abhiyaan

38. SAMBHAV Programme

Context: Recently, the **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has launched an **e-National Level Awareness Programme SAMBHAV**.

About the Programme

- It is an outreach program under the ministry of **MSME** where students from various colleges / ITIs from all parts of the country will be encouraged by 130 departmental offices to enter the business.
- During the campaign the college students will be made aware of the various schemes being implemented by the Ministry of MSME through **Audio/Video film presentations**.
- To encourage youth participation in business development, increase domestic production with a view to push economic growth.
- Government is working to increase MSME’s contribution to **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and exports**.
- Improving GDP contribution from the **current 30% to 50%**, and job creation in the MSME sector from **11 crore to 15 crore** have been stressed.

Related Initiatives

- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)
- Venture Capital Scheme for Agri-Business Development
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- Generation Unlimited in India (YuWaah)
- National Career Service
- Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)
- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)



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39. MGNREGA

Context: The Centre's flagship **rural employment scheme (MGNREGA)** has run out of funds halfway through the financial year. This means that payments for MGNREGA workers as well as material costs will be delayed unless the States dip into their funds.

About MGNREGA Scheme

- **The Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Equity Act**, formerly known as the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**, was passed in 2005 to increase employment generation and social security in India.
- The program is a demand-driven wage system, operated under the auspices of the Department of Rural Development.
- Every adult in a rural area with a work card is eligible for employment under this scheme.
- The program aims to provide 100 days of guaranteed employment in the financial year to senior member volunteers to do unskilled manual labor.
- It covers all regions of India except those with a population of 100% urban.
- There is also an offer for an additional 50 days of employment for the unskilled in rural areas to be notified of a drought / natural disaster.
- In terms of **Section 3 (4) of the MGNREGA**, States may make provision for the provision of additional days in excess of the time guaranteed under the Act to their funds.

Issues with MGNREGA

- Ridiculously Low Wage Rate
- Insufficient Funding
- Delays in Payment wages
- Ineffective Role of local government
- Large Number of Incomplete works
- Fabrication of Job cards

40. Krishi UDAN 2.0

Context: Recently, the **Union Minister of Civil Aviation** has released **Krishi Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) 2.0** to facilitate movement of agricultural produce by air.

About

- **Krishi UDAN** was launched in **August 2020**, on international and national routes to assist farmers in **transporting agricultural products** to improve their fulfillment.
 - **Krishi UDAN 2.0** will focus on the transportation of **perishable food products** from **hilly areas, northeastern provinces and tribal areas**.
- It will be used at **53 airports** across the country, especially in the **northeastern states and tribal states** and will likely **benefit farmers, transporters and airlines**.
 - Opted airports not only provide access to regional domestic markets but also connect them to international gateways of the country.

Key Features

- **Waiver**
- **Hub and Spoke Model:** The hub and spoke model refers to a distribution method in which a centralized “hub” exists.
- **Consolidation of Resources:** Resources-Integration by establishing a mechanism for integration i.e. working with other government departments and governing bodies.
- **E-KUSHAL:** An online platform called **E-KUSHAL (Krishi Udaan for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics)** will also be developed to facilitate the dissemination of information to all stakeholders regarding the transportation of agricultural products.
 - ▶ The department is also proposing a merger of **E-KUSHAL** with the **National Agricultural Market (NAM)**.

Other Initiatives Related to Farmers

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- Green India Mission
- Soil Health Card (SHC)
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
- Sub-mission on AgroForestry (SMAF)
- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

41. PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

Context: Prime Minister recently launched the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, one of India’s largest pan-India programs to strengthen health care infrastructure, in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

About:

- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is one of the largest pan-India programs to strengthen health care infrastructure across the country.
- It will provide assistance to 17,788 Rural Health Centres in 10 ‘highly focused’ provinces and establish 11,024 Urban Health and Health Centres across the country.
- In this regard, critical care services will be available in all regions of the country with more than five lakh people in blocks of intensive care units, and the remaining districts will be covered with referral assistance.
- Under this program, one national health centre, four new national virology centres, the WHO (World Health Organization) South East Asia Region regional research forum, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, and five new regional disease control centres will be set.

Brief overview of health care infrastructure in India:

- Seventy percent of all facilities have public health care services. However, availability was low in rural areas (65 percent) compared with urban areas (87 percent).

- In 45 percent of the areas surveyed, people can access health care services on foot, and 43 percent of the areas they need to use for transportation.
- The study also found that proximity to health care services was high in urban areas: 64 percent of urban enumerators found that people could access health care on foot, while only 37 percent in rural areas could.

42. SBM 2.0

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

What is Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?

- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is one of the most popular and significant missions in the History of India. This campaign was introduced by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and was launched on 2nd October 2014 to honour Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean country.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0

- The government in the Union Budget 2021 allocated Rs 1, 41,678 crores for the Swachh Bharat Mission (U) 2.0. The components of SBM-Urban 2.0 are:
- New component – Wastewater treatment, including faecal sludge management in all ULBs with less than 1 lakh population
- Sustainable sanitation (construction of toilets)
- Solid Waste Management
- Information, Education and Communication, and
- Capacity building

Is right to water and sanitation is fundamental?

- **World Health Organization (WHO):** The right to water and sanitation is recognized as fundamental to attaining all other human rights.
- **UNGA on Sanitation:** The UN General Assembly adopted two resolutions, one in 2010 and the other in 2015, which recognised human rights to sanitation and clean water. The 2015 resolution especially pressed on sanitation and called upon states to ensure women's proportionate participation in decision-making related to sanitation management and practices.

43. AMRUT 2.0

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0).

What is AMRUT 2.0?

- AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 urban local bodies by providing about 2.68 crore tap connections and 100% coverage of sewerage and septage in 500 AMRUT cities by providing around 2.64 crore sewer/ septage connections, which will benefit more than 10.5 crore people in urban areas.

- The scheme will adopt the principles of **circular economy** and promote conservation and rejuvenation of surface and groundwater bodies.

Circular economy

- A circular economy entails markets that give **incentives to reusing products**, rather than scrapping them and then extracting new resources.



- Circular economy, therefore, is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible.
- In this way, the **life cycle of products is extended**.
- In practice, it implies **reducing waste** to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible.
- These can be productively used again and again, thereby **creating further value**.

- ‘**Pey Jal Survekshan**’ will be conducted to promote progressive competition among cities.
- **Outlay**: The outlay of AMRUT 2.0 is around ₹2.87 lakh crore.

44. Vayo Naman Programme

Context: Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry organised **Vayo Naman Programme** in the honour of senior citizens on the occasion of the **International Day of Older Persons**.

Senior Citizens in India

- There are nearly 138 million elderly persons in India in 2021, including 67 million men and 71 million women.
- An increase of nearly 34 million elderly persons was seen in 2021 over the population census of 2011.
- This number is expected to increase by 56 million by 2031.
- Among 21 major Indian states, Kerala has the maximum proportion of elderly people in its population at 16.5%, followed by **Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh** in 2021.
 - This proportion is the least in Bihar at 7.7%, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Assam.

The day

- The Ministry celebrates International Day of Older Persons every year on 1st of October for the cause of elderly persons.
- The day is celebrated to spread awareness about the importance of senior citizens in our society and to appreciate their contributions.

SAGE and SACRED Portal

- The following portals were launched on the occasion:
 - SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine)
 - SACRED (Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity)
- The SAGE portal, designed by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, aims to encourage entrepreneurs in the area of elderly care.
- The SACRED portal aims to connect the senior citizens with job providers in the private sector.

45. PM Cares for Children Scheme

Context: The PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched to support children who have lost both the Parents or legal Guardian or Adoptive Parents or Surviving Parent to COVID-19 pandemic.

About the Scheme

- **Objectives:** The objective of the Scheme is
 - to ensure comprehensive care and protection of Children in a sustained manner

- to enable their well-being through health insurance
- to empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support on reaching 23 years of age
- **Nodal Agency (Central level):** The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** shall be the nodal Ministry for execution of the scheme at the central level.
- **Nodal Agency (State level):** **Department of the State/UT government** dealing with the **Juvenile Justice** set up in the State shall be the nodal agency at State level.
- **Nodal Agency (District level):** The **District Magistrates** shall be the nodal authority at **District level** for execution of the scheme.

What is Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)?

- **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** is a statutory body of **Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India**.
- It functions as the **nodal body for adoption of Indian children** and is mandated to monitor and regulate **in-country and inter-country adoptions**.
- CARA is designated as the **Central Authority** to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the **Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993**, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

Legislation pertaining to orphans

- There is no separate legislation governing the rights of orphans in India per se, as a result, the rights enshrined upon children by the constitution along with other laws protecting the rights of children in India and the UNCRC are also possessed by an orphan.
- **Article 14 and 15** gives the **right of equality** to all the citizens and right to be not discriminated respectively, including **orphan children too**.
- **Article 15(3)** also gives the state the authority to make special privileges to empower women and children.
- **Article 21** also grants the right of life and liberty to all individuals.
 - In **Mohini Jain v. State of Karnataka**, the Apex Court held that the Article also includes other rights important for personality and not mentioned in Part 3 of the constitution, such as the **right to education**.
- **Article 21A**, as inserted after the **86th amendment** also grants the right to all children aged 6 to 14 years.
- **Article 23 and 24** also prohibit trafficking and child labour for children under 14 years of age respectively.
- Articles in **Part 4**, encompassing **Directive Principles of State Policy**.
 - Orphans are also entitled to study in educational institutes run or funded by the state under **Article 29(2)** and education and care until age 6 under **Article 45**.
 - **Article 39(e) and (f)** direct states to ensure healthy citizens are healthy and are not abused while being provided conditions and opportunities ensuring freedom and dignity.
 - **Article 47** also directs the state to raise living standards by increasing the nutrition of all (hence including orphans).

- Apart from these, **India being a member of UNCRC**, also recognises the rights provided in 41 Articles of the convention.
- Along with these, many legislatures which protect children also protect orphans.
 - Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
 - POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act 2012
 - Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986
 - The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

46.

Pradhan Mantri - Mega Integrated Textile Region And Apparel Parks Scheme (PM MITRA)

NATURAL FIBERS:

The availability of natural fibres for textiles is dominated by India.

- **Silk:** After China, India is the world's second-largest silk producer. It accounts for around 32% of global silk production.
 - The Indian silk industry is worth estimated Rs. 75,000 crore (US\$ 10.01 billion).
 - The "**Silk Samagra**" **central sector initiative** provides R&D/Seed support, as well as technical and financial help, to improve the quality and output of silk.
- **Cotton:** Under MSP Operations, CCI was able to acquire around 2.6 million bales, with approximately 0.6 million cotton farmers benefiting from disbursement of Rs. 7,600 crores (US\$ 1.01 billion) directly into their bank accounts.
- **Jute:** To increase the quality and yield of raw jute production, the **Jute-ICARE (Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) system** was developed. The **Jute Raw Material Bank (JRGB) Scheme** provides MSME JDP firms with jute raw materials at mill gate prices for the manufacture of jute varied goods.
- **Wool:** With a total cash allocation of Rs. 126 crores (US\$ 17 million), the Ministry of Textiles has authorised the rationalisation and continuation of the Integrated **Wool Development Programme (IWDP)** from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The purpose of the 'Wool Processing Scheme' is to promote the woollen sector.

What is PM MITRA?

- PM MITRA is inspired by the 5F vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The '5F' Formula encompasses –
 - Farm to fibre
 - fibre to factory
 - factory to fashion
 - fashion to foreign
- This integrated vision will help furthering the growth of textile sector in the economy.
- No other competing nation has a complete textile ecosystem like us. India is strong in all five Fs.

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Other key-initiatives for textile sector

- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme For Textiles:** The Textiles Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme is aimed for the high-value and growing MMF and Technical Textiles areas of the Textiles Value Chain.
- **Rosctl Scheme And Duty Structure:** To strengthen the export competitiveness of Indian garments and made-ups, the government has approved the extension of the RoSCTL scheme till March 2024.
- **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS):** The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) is a credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at modernising and upgrading the Indian textile sector, as well as increasing ease of doing business, job creation, and exports.
- **Technical Textiles:** The Technical Textiles category is a new generation of textiles that will increase efficiencies in a variety of industries, including infrastructure, water, health & hygiene, defence, security, vehicles, and aviation.
- **SAMARTH (Skill Development & Capacity Building):** Samarth is a job-oriented initiative that focuses on developing the skills of jobless youth in the textile value chain for meaningful employment in the organised sector and upgrading the skills of weavers and artisans in the traditional sector.

47. E-Amrit Portal

Context: The Central government launched 'E-Amrit', a web portal on electric vehicles (EVs), at the COP26 Summit in United Kingdom's Glasgow.

What is 'e-Amrit' Portal?

- e-AMRIT is a one-stop portal for creating awareness about electric mobility through **Electric Vehicles (EVs)** in India.
- The portal has been developed and hosted by **NITI Aayog** under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with the UK government and as part of the **UK-India Joint Roadmap 2030**.
- The portal aims to ease the transition from fossil fuel driven vehicles to electric vehicles by providing all information about policies, incentives, charging stations, business requirements.
- This is an attempt to create awareness about the benefits of EVs, share information about the various types of EVs available in India, bust the myths surrounding their use, and also to share details of financing options, thereby helping the move towards a cleaner, greener, economical option.

What is EV?

- An electric vehicle (EV) is one that operates on an electric motor, instead of an internal-combustion engine that generates power by burning a mix of fuel and gases.

Schemes

- In 2013, India unveiled the '**National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020**' to make a major shift to electric vehicles.

- In 2015, the government announced **faster adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles (FAME)**.
- In 2019, the Union Cabinet cleared a Rs 10,000-crore programme under the **FAME-II scheme**.
 - ▶ The main objective of the scheme is to encourage a faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles by offering upfront incentives on purchase of electric vehicles and also by establishing necessary charging infrastructure for EVs.

48. Dairy Sahakar Scheme

Context: The government launched the “Dairy Sahakar” scheme at Anand, Gujarat, during the function organised by Amul for celebration of 75th Foundation Year of Amul.

About

- The Dairy Sahakar with a total investment of Rs 5000 crore will be implemented by **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** under **Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India** to realize the vision, “**from cooperation to prosperity**”.
- Under Dairy Sahakar, financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for activities such as bovine development, milk procurement, processing, quality assurance, value addition, branding, packaging, marketing, transportation and storage of milk and milk products, exports of dairy products within the overall objectives of “Doubling the farmers income” and “**Atmanirbhar Bharat**”.

The **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under the **Ministry of Cooperation**.

The Indian dairy landscape

- It is the **largest single agricultural commodity** with ~4 per cent share in economy.
- India is the largest producer of milk globally with an ~188 million MT production in 2019-20.
- The development of India’s dairy sector started through a program called “**Operation Flood**” launched on 13 January 1970, which was the world’s largest dairy development program and a landmark project of **India’s National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.

49. PM-KISAN

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 10th installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on January 1, 2022.

- Prime Minister had launched the scheme on 24th February 2019 at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

What is PM-KISAN?

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.

- Under the Scheme an income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided to all farmer families across the country in three equal installments of Rs.2000/- each every four months.
- The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments.
- The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
- Farmers covered under the Exclusion Criteria of the Operational Guidelines are not eligible for the benefit of the Scheme.
- For enrollment, the farmer is required to approach the local patwari / revenue officer / Nodal Officer (PM-Kisan) nominated by the State Government.
- The Common Service Centres (CSCs) have also been authorized to do registration of the farmers for the Scheme upon payment of fees.
- Farmers can also do their self-registration through the Farmers Corner in the portal.
- Farmers can also edit their names in PM-Kisan database as per their Aadhaar database / card through the Farmers Corner in the portal.
- Farmers can also know the status of their payment through the Farmers Corner in the portal.

50. Shrestha Yojna

Context: The Centre launched SRESHTA scheme for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students by providing quality residential education to meritorious students in reputed private schools.

What is SRESHTA Scheme?

- The Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA) scheme aims to enable meritorious SC students to have a better future and aid in controlling dropout rates of students from classes 9 to 12.
- **Beneficiaries:** Meritorious students of scheduled caste

51. Mission Coking Coal

Context: The Ministry of Coal has set up Mission Coking Coal to evolve a road map for increasing production and utilization of domestic coking coal.

Coking refers to the ability of coal to be converted into coke. It is a pure form of carbon. It can be used in ordinary oxygen furnaces.

About Mission Coking Coal

- The Mission Coking Coal (MCC) is based on the recommendations of the **Inter-Ministerial Committee** constituted to formulate a strategy for increasing the production of coking coal in India.

Coking coal in India

- 50 million tonnes (mt) of coking coal is imported annually and the value of coking coal imported in FY 2020-21 was Rs45,435 crore.

- India produced 53 mt of coking coal in FY 2020.
- India has the **world's fourth-largest reserves** and is the **second-largest producer of coal**.
- While CIL's annual production target is 660 mt for the current financial year, the coal off take is expected to be 740 mt.

What is Coking Coal?

- Coking coal is also known as **metallurgical coal**.
- It is mainly used in the manufacturing of steel through the blast furnace route.
- There are many varieties of coal in the world, ranging from brown coal or lignite to anthracite.
- The property that really sets coking coals apart from other coals is its **caking ability**, which is the specific property required in order to make coke suitable for steel making.
- Coke is produced by heating coking coals in a coke oven in a reducing atmosphere.
- As the temperature of the coal increases, it becomes plastic, fusing together before **resolidifying into coke particles**.
 - This is known as the **caking process**.
- The quality of the resultant coke is determined by the qualities of the coking coals used, as well as the coke plant operating conditions.

52. 'She Is A Changemaker' Programme

Context: The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a **Pan-India Capacity Building Programme 'She is a Changemaker'** for Women in Politics.

About

- The programme aims to improve leadership skills of grassroot women political leaders.
- The mission is for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties.
- The capacity building programme will be undertaken in association with region-wise training institutes with an objective to undertake capacity building of women political leaders and improve their decision making and communication skills including, oration, writing, etc.

Women in Politics

- As per the report of the **Election Commission of India**, women represent **10.5 percent of the total members of the Parliament**.
- The plight of women in the state assemblies is even worse, where they nearly account for 9 percent of the leaders.
- Women's representation in the Lok Sabha has not even grown by 10 percent in the last 75 years of independence.

- According to **Global Gender Gap Report 2020**, India ranks **112th in educational attainment out of 153 countries**, which reveals a stark involvement of education as a factor that determines women's participation in politics.

53.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

What is DAY-NRLM?

- Launched in 2011, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) aims at mobilizing about 9-10 crore rural poor households into Self Help Groups (SHGs) in a phased manner and provide them long-term support such that they diversify their livelihoods, improve their incomes and quality of life.

The progress so far

- As on 30th November 2021, Mission has its footprints in 6769 blocks of 706 districts in 30 states and 6 UTs.
- It has mobilised a total of 8.01 Crore women from poor and vulnerable communities into 73.19 lakhs SHGs and formed 4,24,189 Village organisation and 32,406 CLFs.
- In the current year, 248 blocks have been covered with the mobilization of 41.02 lakh households into 3.81 lakh SHGs.

54.

Pradhan Mantri Yuva (Young, Upcoming And Versatile Authors) Scheme

Context: The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education has launched **YUVA-Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors**.

About the YUVA scheme

- It is an **Author Mentorship programme** to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- It is a part of **India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)** to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers.
- Implementing Agency:** The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education will be the Implementing Agency which will ensure phase-wise execution of the Scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship.
- Publisher:** The books prepared under this scheme will be published by National Book Trust, India; and will also be translated into other Indian languages ensuring the exchange of culture and literature, thereby promoting '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**'.

Significance of the Scheme

- This scheme will help to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system.
- YUVA will go a long way in laying the foundation of the future leaders of the creative world.

55. Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP)

Context: Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog launches Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP) to empower innovators, entrepreneurs in 22 mother tongues.

India may be the first nation to launch such an initiative where an innovation ecosystem catering to 22 languages, plus English, is built.

About Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP)

- The program aims to empower innovators and entrepreneurs across the country by enabling them to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages by the Government of India.
- It has been launched by **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog**.
- **Task force:** To build the necessary capacity for the VIP, AIM has identified and will be training a **Vernacular Task Force (VTF)** in each of the 22 scheduled languages.
- Each task force comprises of vernacular language teachers, subject experts, technical writers, and the leadership of regional **Atal Incubation Centers (AICs)**.
- Vernacular Innovation Program strengthens the design and innovation capabilities of Indian communities, thereby assisting local entrepreneurs, artisans and innovators to seamlessly assimilate the knowledge cum technical materials that AIM will develop.
- This would assist India in building a strong local network of design experts and innovation practitioners.

56. Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0

Context: The government launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0**.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0.

- The mission aims to ensure that Routine Immunization (RI) services reach the unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and pregnant women.
- It will have three rounds and will be conducted in 416 districts (including 75 districts identified for **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**) across 33 States/UTs in the country.
- 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.
- In the first round (Feb-April 2022), 11 states will conduct IMI 4.0. – Assam, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura and Chhattisgarh.
- The others (22 states) will conduct the rounds from April to May 2022.

What is Intensified Indradhanush Mission?

- Intensified Indradhanush Mission (IMI) was launched in 2017, “to reach each and every child up to two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.”

- The program was to further intensify the existing **Mission Indradhanush**, which the government launched in December 2014.
- The government launched the second version of the mission IMI 2.0 from December 2019-March 2020, “to achieve targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts in 27 States and at block level (652 blocks) in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar among hard-to-reach and tribal populations.”

Immunization Programme

- The Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as the ‘Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**.
- In 1985, the programme was modified as the ‘**Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**’ to be implemented in a phased manner to cover all districts in the country by 1989-90 with the one of the largest health programmes in the world.
- To strengthen and re-energize the programme and achieve full immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women at a rapid pace, the Government of India launched “Mission Indradhanush” in December 2014.

57. PM-DevINE scheme

Context: Union Budget 2022-23 provided for a new scheme, **Prime Minister’s Development Initiative for North East (PM-DevINE)**, which will be implemented through the **North-Eastern Council**.

About PM-DevINE

- It will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of **PM GatiShakti**, and **social development projects based on felt needs of the northeast**.
- **Government announced the PM-DevINE scheme**, with an initial allotment of **Rs 1,500 crore**.
- The PM-DevINE scheme will be implemented through the **North-Eastern Council**.
- This will enable livelihood activities **for youth and women, filling the gaps in various sectors**.
- **The scheme aims to fund infrastructure and need-based social development, including one-of-a-kind ‘Bamboo Link Roads’ in Mizoram**.
- **Under the PM-DevINE scheme**, projects can be recommended by Centre and North East States as well but priority will be given to projects posed by the states.

Projects under PM-DevINE scheme

- Establishment of Dedicated Services for the Management of Paediatric and Adult Haemotolymphoid Cancers in North East India, Guwahati (Multi-State).
- Construction of Aizawl bypass on western side, gap funding for passenger ropeway system for Pelling to Sanga-Choeling in West Sikkim.
- Gap funding for eco-friendly Ropeway (Cable Car) from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in South Sikkim.
- Pilot project for the construction of Bamboo Link Road at different locations in various districts in Mizoram.

- NECTAR Livelihood Improvement Project (Multi-State).
- Promoting Scientific Organic Agriculture in North East Indian (Multi-State).

58. Vibrant Villages Programme

Context: In her budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the government would work on improving connectivity to the northern border under the **Vibrant Villages Programme**.

About

- The '**Vibrant Villages Programme**' aims to initiate the transformation of India's border villages.
- This is imperative to secure the country's sovereignty and further safeguard them from any possible friction with the neighbours.

Villages near the Indian border

- India has seven neighbouring countries- **Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka**.
- The country's international border is defined by both inland and maritime boundaries.
- Below is the list of villages at the border:
 - ▶ **India-Pakistan:** A village in **Firozpur district, Punjab, Hussainiwala** lies near the bank of **River Sutlej** that defines the border. Pakistani village of **Ganda Singh Wala** is on the other side.
 - ▶ **India-Bangladesh:** The haphazard partition in 1947 and 1971 had created long-standing issues between these two countries. Till this year, there were over 100 Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India.
 - ◆ On May 7 2015, India and Bangladesh adopted a revised version of the Land Boundary Agreement and some enclaves that were under adverse possessions were exchanged.
 - ◆ One such enclave is the Tin Bigha Corridor, a 85-metre wide strip of Indian land, which was leased to Bangladesh for access to the enclave.
 - ▶ **India-China:** The last inhabited village near the Indo-China border is **Chitkul**, a village at **Kinnaur district in Himachal Pradesh**.
 - ▶ **India-Myanmar:** **Moreh**, a village inhabited by the **Meitei community**, lies on the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur. It is a fast developing area that has become an important trade point as the **Burmese town of Tamu** is close to the border.
 - ▶ **India-Sri Lanka:** A ghost town to the **South-East of Pamban Island in Tamil Nadu**, **Dhanuskodi** is around 30km West of **Talaimannar in Sri Lanka**.
 - ▶ **India-Nepal:** Around 35km from **Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand**, lies the village of **Jhulaghat** on the Indo-Nepal border. Across the border lies another village that bears the same name - Jhulaghat.
 - ◆ River Kali flows from East to West along the border and the two countries are connected by a small suspension bridge on the river.
 - ▶ **India-Bhutan:** The gateway to Bhutan, **Phuntsholing**- is at the end of **Jaigaon**, a small town in **Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal**.

59. RAMP programme

Context: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech announced that the **RAMP programme** will be rolled out in the coming five years to improve the **competitiveness and productivity of MSMEs**.

What is RAMP Programme?

- The Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP) programme is a **central government scheme**.
- It is in partnership with the **World Bank** for five years – FY22 to FY26 to boost productivity and financing for Covid-hit MSMEs.
- It was announced with a total project cost of Rs 6,062.45 crore, of which World Bank's contribution was earmarked at Rs 3,750 crore under the **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme**.
- The programme was launched on the basis of the recommendations from the **UK Sinha Committee report** in June 2019.

Focus area

- The initiative will broadly focus on
 - ▶ first, strengthening institutional capacity and coordination for MSMEs
 - ▶ second, supporting MSMEs' capabilities and access to markets and finance

60. Fly Ash Management and Utilisation Mission

Context: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has recently directed the Centre to set up a fly ash management and utilization mission for monitoring scientific management and utilization of the remains of burnt coal, and asked it to take adequate action against non-compliant power plants.

What is Fly Ash?

- Fly ash is the finely divided residue that results from the combustion of pulverized coal and is transported from the combustion chamber by exhaust gases
- Fly ash is produced by coal-fired electric and steam generating plants.
- Fly ash is collected from the exhaust gases by electrostatic precipitators or bag filters.
- Fly ash consists primarily of oxides of silicon, aluminum iron and calcium. Magnesium, potassium, sodium, titanium, and sulfur are also present to a lesser degree.
- Fly ash can be tan to dark gray, depending on its chemical and mineral constituents.
 - ▶ Tan and light colors are typically associated with high lime content.
 - ▶ A brownish color is typically associated with the iron content.
 - ▶ A dark gray to black color is typically attributed to high unburned carbon content.
- Fly ash color is usually very consistent for each power plant and coal source.

- In order to encourage locally available materials and use of green technologies for construction of road under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**, guidelines were issued by the Ministry, wherein the State Governments are required to propose minimum 15% of total length of annual proposals under New technologies such as Cement stabilization, Lime stabilization, Cold mix, Waste plastics, Cell filled concrete, Paneled cement concrete pavement, Fly ash etc.

61. Chip to Start-up (C2S) Programme

Context: To make India a global hub for Electronic System Design and Manufacturing, the government of India has approved Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme, the comprehensive program for the development of a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in the country.

What is the Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme?

- The program aims to usher in a new era in electronics manufacturing by providing a globally competitive incentive package to companies in semiconductors and display manufacturing as well as design.
- The programme aims to train 85,000 high-quality and qualified engineers in the area of **very-large-scale integration (VLSI) and Embedded System Design**.
- With the help of this training, the government intends to usher the development of 175 ASICs (Application Specific Integrated Circuits), Working Prototypes of 20 System on Chips (SoC) and IP Core repository over a period of 5 years.
- The scheme will be a significant leap in the Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) backbone of India since, on one hand, it will inculcate the culture of SoC/ System Level Design at Bachelors, Masters and Research level, while on the other, it will act as a catalyst for the growth of Start-ups involved in the fabless design.
- The programme would be implemented at about 100 academic institutions/R&D organisations across the Country (including IITs, NITs, IIITs, Government/Private Colleges and R&D Organisations).
- Start-ups and MSMEs can also participate in the programme by submitting their proposals under Academia- Industry Collaborative Project, Grand Challenge/ /Hackathons/RFP for development of System/SoC/IP Core(s).
- **Nodal agency:** C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing), a scientific society operating under MeitY is going to serve as the nodal agency for this programme.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

Scope of the program

- The programme is going to be implemented at about 100 academic institutions/R&D organisations across India.
- These institutions include IITs, NITs, IIITs, government/private colleges and R&D organisations.
- Startups and MSMEs can also apply for the programme by submitting ideas for System/SoC/IP Core development under Academia-Industry Collaborative Projects, Grand Challenges/Hackathons/RFP.

62. National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) 3.0

Context: Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister recently launched NEAT 3.0, a single platform to provide the best-developed Ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country.

NEAT Scheme

- The Ministry of Education announced the National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) to use technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- The scheme aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.
- The Ministry of Education aims to recognize the development of technologies in Adaptive Learning and bring them under a common platform so that learners can access it easily.
- It proposes to create a National Alliance with such technology developing EdTech Companies through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- The ministry would act as a facilitator to ensure that the Adaptive Learning Solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students.
- Under the scheme, a National NEAT platform would be created to provide one-stop access to Adaptive Learning Solutions.
- EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage the registration of learners through the NEAT portal.
- NEAT is aimed at taking the concept of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS) platform a step ahead.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the implementing agency for the NEAT programme.
- It would help to certify maximum students with highly marketable skills and would also improve the employability of students.

63. Padhe Bharat

Context: Recently, the Union Education Minister launched a 100-day Reading Campaign called 'Padhe Bharat'.

About Padhe Bharat campaign

- **Padhe Bharat Campaign** was launched to **improve the learning levels of students**.
- **Coverage:** Children studying in **Balvatika to class 8** will be covered under the campaign.
- **Duration:** The reading campaign will be organised for **100 days (14 weeks) starting from 1st January 2022 to 10th April 2022**.

Promotion of local language

- The 100 days reading campaign will **focus on Indian languages including mother tongue/local/regional languages**.
 - It is in this regard, **21st February which is celebrated as International Mother Tongue Day**, has also been integrated with this campaign.

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- This day will be celebrated with the **activity of Kahani Padho Apni Bhasa Main (Reading story in own language) across the country by encouraging children to read in their mother tongue/local language.**

National Education Policy

- This Campaign is in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
 - ▶ The policy emphasises on promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring availability of age appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal Language.

Significance of the initiative

- It marks a significant step to improve learning levels because it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary as well as ability to express in writing & verbal forms.
- It will help children in relating to their **surroundings and real-life situations.**
- This will help in **promoting the local language and culture of our society.**

64.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Context: The mandate of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Objectives

- **The objectives of the Scheme are:**
 - ▶ Providing at least one hundred days of unskilled manual work in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability;
 - ▶ Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor;
 - ▶ Proactively ensuring social inclusion and
 - ▶ Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

Employment Generated:

- In the current financial year 2021-22 (as on 05.01.2022), following significant achievements have been made under the Scheme:
 - ▶ A total of 276.19 crore person-days have been generated.
 - ▶ A total number of 6.53 crore households covering 9.39 crore individuals have been availed employment under the Scheme.
 - ▶ The percentage of participation of SCs out of total person-days generated is 19.59 %.
 - ▶ The percentage of participation of STs out of total person-days generated is 18.08 %.
 - ▶ The percentage of participation of women out of total person-days generated is 54.25 %.

Achievements under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA:

- **Geo-tagging of the Assets:** GeoMGNREGA Phase-I was rolled out on 1st September 2016 for geo-tagging of all completed works which started before 1st November, 2017, under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. GeoMGNREGA Phase-II was rolled out on 01.11.2017 and under this phase, the geo-tagging of assets is carried out in three stages viz: before initiation of work, during the work and after completion of work. More than 4.82 crore assets have been geo-tagged (as on 05.01.2022) and made available in the public domain.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** 99% wage seekers are receiving their wage directly into their bank accounts.
- **Aadhaar based payment:** 11.59 crore Aadhaar seeded in Management Information System (MIS) which is 76% of total Active workers (15.21 crore). A total of 6.55 crore workers have been linked to Aadhaar Based Payment System.
- **UNNATI for Skill Development:** The project “UNNATI” intends to upgrade the skill-base of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers, and thereby improve their livelihoods, so that they can move from the current partial employment to full employment.
- **GIS based Planning of GPs:** The Ministry has initiated an integrated holistic planning of the Gram Panchayats based on watershed development principles (ridge to valley approach) using Geographical information system (GIS).

65. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

- It was launched in 2015 to address the issue of declining **Child Sex Ratio**.
- It is a tri-ministerial effort of:
 - Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD)
 - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW)
 - Ministry of Human Resources Development (MoHRD)

Need of the Scheme

- The scheme was launched after the national census results for 2011 revealed detraction in key gender metrics – Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB).

CSR is defined as the number of girls per 1,000 boys aged 0-6 years.

- This ratio has showcased a steady decline, from 945 in 1999 to 927 in 2001.
- This declined further to 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.

66. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

- **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)** is a unique scheme of the **Ministry of Rural Development** wherein, for the first time, the leadership, capacity, commitment and energy of the Members of Parliament are being leveraged directly for development at the Gram Panchayat level.
- Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched on 11 October 2014 with the aim of creating holistically developed model Gram Panchayats across the country.

- Primarily, the goal is to develop **three Adarsh Grams** by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016.
- Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.
- These 'Adarsh Grams' serve as 'nucleus of health, cleanliness, greenery and cordiality' within the village community and, become schools of local development and governance, inspiring neighboring Gram Panchayats.

67. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)** is one of the flagship schemes of the Government of India launched on 20th November, 2016 which aims to provide "Housing for All" through the provision of pucca house with basic amenities to all houseless households and households living in kutchha and dilapidated house in rural areas by March 2024.
- As on 27.12.2021, a total of 2.15 Crore houses have been sanctioned and 1.68 Crore houses have been completed.
- Against the total target of completion of 44.09 lakh houses in the FY 2021-22, a total of 31 lakh houses has been completed till 27th December 2021.

68. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

- The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission was launched by the Prime Minister on February 21st, 2016 with an outlay of Rs. 5142.08 crores.
- This is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.
- 300 Rurban clusters with thematic economic growth points, are being developed across the country under this Mission, with a funding support of up to 30% of the estimated investment for each Rurban cluster, given as Critical Gap Funding (CGF), while 70% of the funds is mobilized by the States through convergence with synergic State and Central programmes as well as private investment and institutional funding.
- Upon being re-classified as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the CGF is now shared between the Centre and the State in a ratio of 60:40 for Plain area States and 90:10 for Himalayan and NE States.

69. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of **Ministry of Rural Development**, wherein monthly financial assistance is provided to **elderly, widows and disabled persons belonging to BPL families**.
- One-time financial assistance is also provided to surviving members of a BPL family on the death of the primary breadwinner.

70. Stand-Up India Scheme

- Stand-Up India Scheme provides funding to women entrepreneurs and people who come under the SC/ST category of the society.

- Stand-up India scheme was introduced by the Government of India to provide credit services majorly to SC/ST category people.
- The primary purpose of this scheme is to help banks in offering loans between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore to at least one SC/ST applicant and one woman entrepreneur per bank branch in enabling them to set up their own business or enterprise.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- Launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of “**Har Khet Ko Paani**”, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through “**Jal Sanchay**” and “**Jal Sinchan**”.
- Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure “**Per drop-More crop**”.

71. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) is a scheme as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat to supply free food grains to migrants and poor.
- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana / Package is a comprehensive relief package of Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus.
- This was announced in March 2020, to reach out to the poorest of the poor, with food and money in hands, so that they do not face difficulties in buying essential supplies and meeting essential needs.

72. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

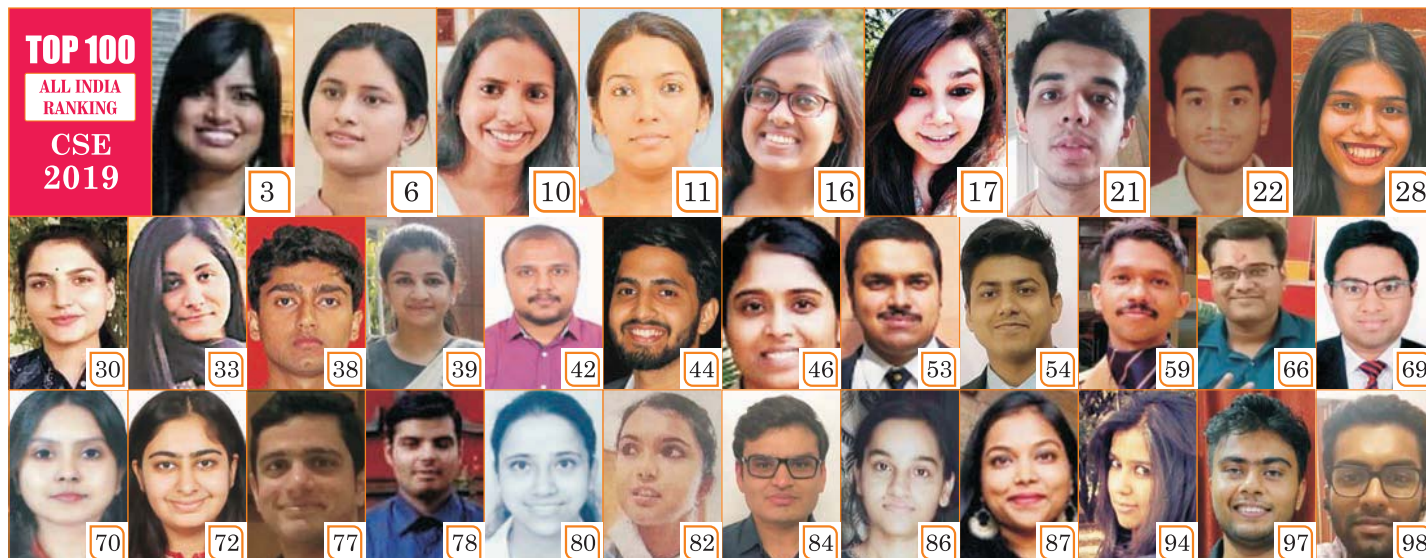
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana – PMMVY** is a **maternity benefit programme** offered by the government of India under which a **cash incentive of Rs. 5,000 is provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers**.
- The incentive is provided for the first living child of the family for fulfilling the specific maternal and child health conditions.

Other schemes for Pregnant women

Apart from PMMVY and Anganwadi Services, the various schemes run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for pregnant women are as follows;

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** implemented under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, it is a safe motherhood intervention promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women especially with weak socio-economic status i.e. women from **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Below Poverty Line (BPL) households**.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** The Government of India launched Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) in June, 2011 to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for pregnant women delivering in public health institutions and sick infants accessing public health institutions for treatment. The initiative entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to have absolutely free and no expense delivery, including caesarean section.

- ◉ **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** provides pregnant women free of cost assured and quality Antenatal Care on the 9th day of every month.
- ◉ **Surakshit Matratva Ashwasan (SUMAN)** aims to provide assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
- ◉ **LaQshya-** aims to improve the quality of care in Labor room and Maternity operation theaters to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.



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