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1

Land & The People

◉ Physical Features

- ▶ The mainland **comprises four regions**, namely, the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region and the southern peninsula.
- ▶ The **mountain wall extends** over a distance of about **2,400 km with a varying depth of 240 to 320 km**.
- ▶ In the east, between India and Myanmar and India and Bangladesh, hill ranges are much lower.
- ▶ Garo, Khasi, Jaintia and Naga Hills, running almost east-west, join the chain to **Mizo and Rakhine Hills running north-south**.
- ▶ The **plains of the Ganga and the Indus, about 2,400 km long and 240 to 320 km broad**, are formed by basins of three distinct river systems—the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- ▶ The desert region can be divided into two parts—the 'great desert' and the 'little desert'.
- ▶ The great desert extends from the edge of the Rann of Kutch beyond the Luni river northward. The whole of the Rajasthan-Sind frontier runs through this.
- ▶ The **little desert extends from the Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur** up to the northern west.
- ▶ The Peninsular Plateau is marked off from the plains of the Ganga and the Indus by a mass of mountain and **hill ranges varying from 460 to 1,220 metres** in height. Prominent among these are the **Aravali, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta**.
- ▶ The southern point of the plateau is formed by the Nilgiri Hills where the **Eastern and the Western Ghats meet**.
- ▶ The Cardamom Hills lying beyond may be regarded as a continuation of the Western Ghats.

India at a Glance:

- ◉ **Geographical Area: 32,87,263 sq. Km** (seventh largest country in the world)
- ◉ **Latitude & Longitude:** the mainland extends between **latitudes 8°4' and 37°6' north, longitudes 68°7' and 97°25' east**.
- ◉ **Distance:** from **north to south: about 3,214 km** between the extreme latitudes and **about 2,933 km from east to west** between the extreme longitudes.
- ◉ **Land frontier of about 15,200 km.** The **total length of the coastline** of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands is **7,516.6 km**.
- ◉ **Bordering Countries:** Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west, China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Myanmar to the far East and Bangladesh to the east. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.
- ◉ **Divided into six zones** mainly north, south, east, west, central and north-east zone and It has **29 states and seven union territories**

Notable Passes:

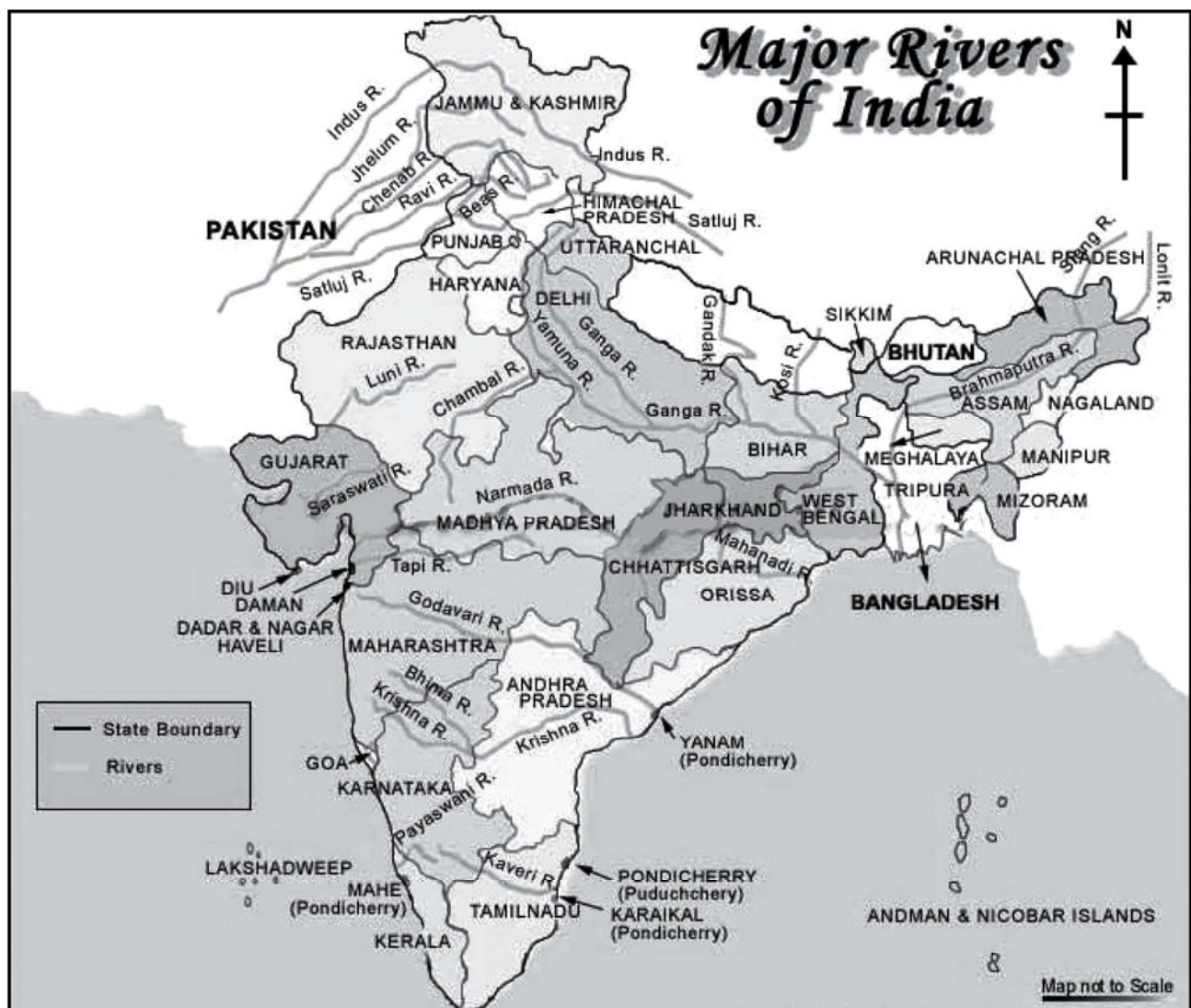
- ◉ **Jelep La and Nathu La** on the main Indo-Tibet trade route **through the Chumbi valley**, north-east of Darjeeling and
- ◉ **Shipki La in the Satluj valley**, north-east of Kalpa (Kinnaur)

◉ Geological Structure

- ▶ The geological regions broadly follow the physical features and may be **grouped into three regions: the Himalayas and their associated group of mountains, the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the Peninsular Shield.**
- ▶ The Himalayan mountain belt to the north and the Naga-Lushai mountain in the east, are the regions of **mountain-building movement (by compression of sediment and basement rocks)**
- ▶ The Indo-Ganga plains are a **great alluvial tract** that separates the Himalayas in the north from the Peninsula in the south.
- ▶ The Peninsula is a region of relative stability and occasional seismic disturbances (igneous, metamorph and Deccan Trap formation).

◉ River Systems

- ▶ The river systems of India can be classified into four groups viz.,
 - Himalayan rivers
 - Deccan rivers
 - Coastal rivers
 - Rivers of the inland drainage basin.



- ▶ The **Himalayan Rivers are formed by melting snow and glaciers** and therefore, continuously **flow throughout the year**. The main Himalayan river systems are those of the Indus and the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system.
- ▶ The **Deccan Rivers** on the other hand **are rain-fed and therefore fluctuate in volume**. Many of these are non perennial. In the Deccan region, most of the major river systems flowing generally in the east fall into Bay of Bengal.
- ▶ The major east flowing rivers are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Mahanadi. Narmada and Tapti are major west flowing rivers. **The Godavari in the southern Peninsula has the second largest river basin covering 10 per cent of the area of India.**
- ▶ The **Coastal streams**, especially on the **west coast are short in length and have limited catchment areas**. Most of them are non-perennial.
- ▶ The **streams of inland drainage basin of western Rajasthan** few rivers in Rajasthan do not drain into the sea. These are **Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others**.
- ▶ The entire country has been divided into **20 river basins/group of river basins comprising 12 major basins and eight composite river basins**. The 12 major river basins are : (1) Indus, (2) Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna, (3) Godavari, (4) Krishna, (5) Cauvery, (6) Mahanadi, (7) Pennar, (8) Brahmani-Baitarani, (9) Sabarmati, (10) Mahi, (11) Narmada and (12) Tapti. Each of **these basins has a drainage area exceeding 20,000 sq. km.**
- ▶ The eight composite river basins combining suitably together all the other remaining **medium (drainage area of 2,000 to 20,000 sq. km) and small river systems (drainage area less than 2000 sq. km)** for the purpose of planning and management.

◉ **Climate/Seasons**

- ▶ The **climate of India may be broadly described as tropical monsoon type**. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) **designates four official seasons**:
 - Winter, from December to early April.
 - Summer or pre-monsoon season, lasting from April to June (April to July in north-western India).
 - Monsoon or rainy season, lasting from June to September. The season is dominated by the humid south-west summer monsoon.
 - Post-monsoon season, lasting from October to December. In north-western India, October and November are usually cloudless.
- ▶ **India's climate is affected by two seasonal winds—the north-east monsoon and the south-west monsoon**. The north-east monsoon commonly known as winter monsoon blows from land to sea. The south-west monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year in the country.

◉ **Flora**

- ▶ India is rich in flora. From about **70 per cent geographical area surveyed** so far, over **46,000 species of plants have been described** by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata.
- ▶ The vascular flora, which forms the conspicuous vegetation cover, comprises 15,000 species.
- ▶ **India can be divided into eight distinct floral regions**, namely, the western Himalayas, the eastern Himalayas, Assam, the Indus plain, the Ganga plain, the Deccan, the Malabar and the Andamans.
- ▶ The **western Himalayan region extends from Kashmir to Kumaon**. Its temperate zone is rich in **forests of chir, pine, other conifers and broad-leaved temperate trees**. Higher up, forests of **deodar, blue pine, spruce and silver fir** occur.
- ▶ The **eastern Himalayan region extends from Sikkim eastwards and embraces Darjeeling, Kurseong** and the adjacent tracts. The temperate zone has **forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch**.
- ▶ The **Indus plain region comprises the plains of Punjab, western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat**. It is dry, hot and supports natural vegetation.

- ▶ The **Ganga plain region covers the area which is alluvial plain** and is under cultivation for wheat, sugarcane and rice.
- ▶ The Deccan **region comprises the entire table land of the Indian Peninsula** and supports vegetation of various kinds from shrub jungles to mixed deciduous forests.
- ▶ The **Malabar region covers the excessively humid belt of mountain** country parallel to the west coast of the Peninsula. Besides being rich in forest vegetation, this region produces important **commercial crops, such as coconut, betelnut, pepper, coffee, tea, rubber** and cashewnut.
- ▶ The **Andaman region abounds in evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests.**
- ▶ Owing to destruction of forests for agricultural, industrial and urban development, several Indian plants are facing threat of extinction. **About 1,336 plant species are considered vulnerable and endangered.** BSI brings out an inventory of endangered plants in the form of a publication titled '**Red Data Book.**'

◉ Faunal Resources

- ▶ India is very rich in terms of biological diversity **due to its unique biogeographical location, diversified climate conditions and enormous ecodiversity and geodiversity.**
- ▶ India's immense biological diversity encompasses ecosystems, populations, species and their genetic make-up.
- ▶ According to world biogeographic classification, **India represents two of the major realms (the Palearctic and Indo-Malayan) and three biomes (Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry/Deciduous Forests and Warm Deserts/Semi-Deserts).**
- ▶ The Wildlife Institute of India has proposed a modified classification which divides the country into ten biogeographic regions: Trans- Himalayan, Himalayan, Indian Desert, Semi-Arid, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plain, North-East India, Islands and Coasts.
- ▶ Within only about **2 per cent** of world's total land surface, India is known to have over **7.50 per cent** of the species of animals that the world holds.

DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

◉ Census 2011 was the 15th Census of its kind since 1872

▶ Population

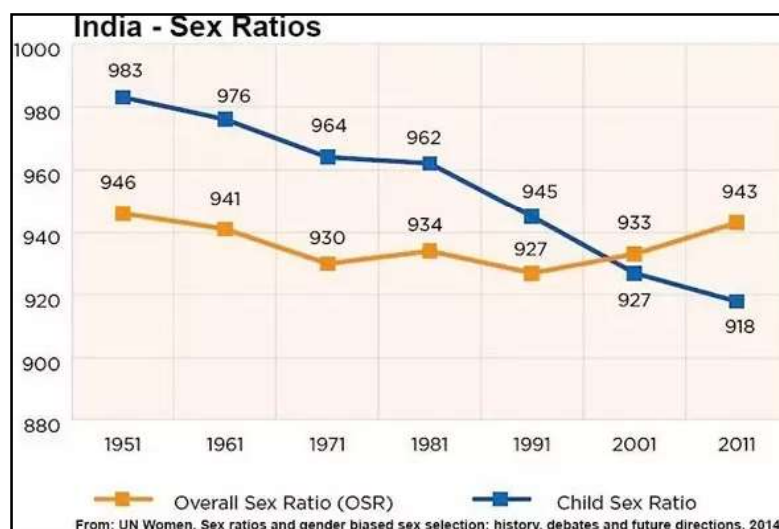
- The population of India as on March 1, 2011 stood at **1,210.9 million (623.2 million males and 587.6 million females)**. Currently it is estimated at near 138 crores.
- India accounts for a meagre 2.4 per cent of the world surface area of 135.79 million sq.km. Yet, it supports and sustains a whopping per cent (17.7%) of the world population.

▶ Population Density

- The population density of India in 2011 was **382 per sq. km-decadal growth 17.72 per cent.**
- The density of population increased in all states and union territories between 1991 and 2011. Among major states, **Bihar is the most thickly populated state** with (a population density of) **1,106 persons per sq.km followed by West Bengal 1,028 and Kerala 860.**

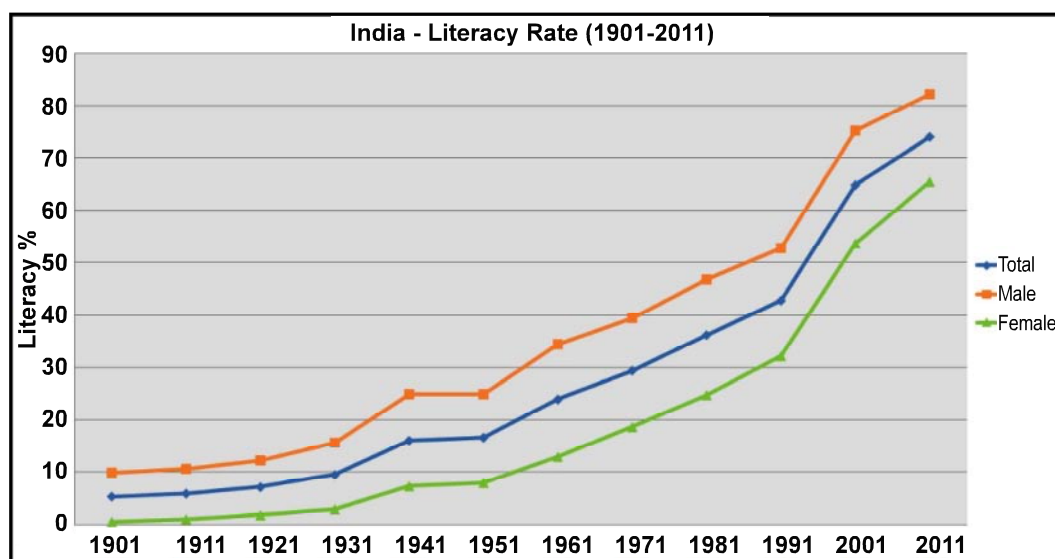
▶ Sex Ratio

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



- The sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavourable to females. As per the **census 2011 the sex ratio in India is 943 per 1000 males** which were 933 in the previous census 2001.
- **Child sex ratio has declined to 918 per thousand male.**

► Literacy



- For the purpose of census 2011, **a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate.**
- **The literacy rate in the country is 73.0 per cent, 80.9 for males and 64.6 for females.**
- **Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 94 per cent literacy rate**, closely followed by Lakshadweep (91.9 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 61.8 per cent ranks last in the country.
- **Bihar has recorded the lowest literacy rates** both in case of males (71.2 per cent) and females (51.5 per cent).

2

National Symbols

The Republic of India has several official national symbols. These symbols are intrinsic to the Indian identity and heritage. These are discussed as follows:

◉ National Flag

■ Features :

- The National Flag is a horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (kesaria) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion.
- The ratio of width of the flag to its length is **2:3**. In the centre of the white band is a navy-blue wheel which represents the chakra.
- Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka**. Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has **24 spokes**.
- The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on **July 22, 1947**.
- The flag is **based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya**.



■ Constitutional & Statutory Provisions Related to National Flag

Art 51A(a) - To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

■ Statutes Governing Use of Flag

- Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950
- Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971

■ Flag Code of India, 2002

- There is no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organizations, educational institutions, etc., except as provided for by the above statutes.
- **Half-mast:** The flag should be flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning. The decision to do so lies with the President of India, who also decides the period of such mourning.

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who later became India's first Vice President and second President, clarified the adopted flag and described its significance as follows:

- State Emblem

- It is an adaptation of from the **Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka**. Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the Capitol is crowned by the **Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra)**.
- In the state emblem, adopted by the Government of India (by Madhav Sawhney) in 1950 on January 26, 1950, only 3 lions are visible. The wheel appears in the centre of the abacus with a bull on right and a horse on left.
- The outlines of other wheels on extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted.
- The words **Satyameva Jayate from Mundaka Upanishad**, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs', are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script.
- The use of the state emblem of India, as the official seal of the Government of India, is regulated by the State of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005. No individual or private organisation is permitted to use the emblem for official correspondence.



- The song Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in **Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore**, was adopted in its Hindi version as the National Anthem of India on **January 24, 1950**.
- It was first sung on **December 27, 1911** at the **Kolkata Session of the Indian National Congress**.
- It has five stanzas with first stanza containing the full version of the National Anthem.
- The duration of the National Anthem is approximately **52 seconds**.

- ▶ The song Vande Mataram, composed in **Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji**, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom.
- ▶ It has an equal status with Jana-gana-mana.
- ▶ It was **first sung at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress**.

◉ **National Calendar**

- ▶ The National Calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from **March 22, 1957** along with the Gregorian calendar for:
 - Gazette of India
 - News broadcast by All India Radio
 - Calendars issued by the Government of India
 - Government communications addressed to the public.
- ▶ Dates of the National Calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar, 1 Chaitra falling on March 22 normally and on March 21 in leap year.

◉ **National Flower: Indian Lotus**

Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and mythology of ancient India and has been an auspicious symbol of Indian culture.

◉ **National Fruit: Mango**

Mango (*Mangifera indica*) originated in India and the country is home to more than 100 varieties of the fruit.

◉ **National River: Ganga**

Ganga is the longest river of India with the most heavily populated river basin in the world. The river is revered by Hindus as the most sacred river on earth.

◉ **National Tree: Indian Banyan**

Indian banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*) roots themselves to form new trees and grow over large areas.

◉ **National Animal: Royal Bengal Tiger**

Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), the largest carnivore is found only in the Indian subcontinent and can be found in most regions of the country.

◉ **National Aquatic Animal: River Dolphin**

Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is said to represent the purity of the holy Ganga River as it can only survive in pure and fresh water.

◉ **National Bird: Indian Peacock**

Indian peacock (*Pavo cristatus*) is designated as the national bird of India. A bird indigenous to the subcontinent, peacock represents the unity of vivid colors and finds references in Indian culture.

◉ **National Currency: Indian Rupee**

The Indian rupee sign (sign: ₹; code: INR) is the currency symbol for the Indian rupee, the official currency of India. The design is based on the Devanagari letter “र” (ra) with a double horizontal line at the top. It also resembles the Latin capital letter “R”, especially R rotunda (₹). The issuance of the currency is controlled by the Reserve Bank of India.

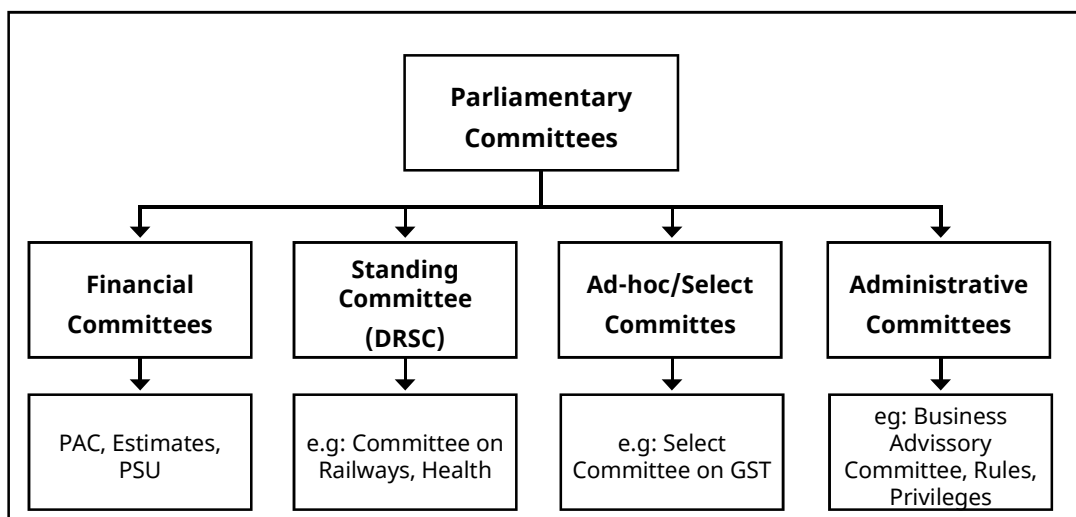
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Polity

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

- ▶ **The President of India** is the constitutional head of executive of the union. Article 74(1) of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head to aid and advise the President who shall in exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. The real executive power thus vests in the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head.
- ▶ The Constitution distributes legislative power between Parliament and State Legislatures and provides for vesting of residual powers in Parliament. The power to amend the Constitution also vests in Parliament. The Constitution has provision for independence of Judiciary, Comptroller and Auditor-General, Public Service Commissions and Chief Election Commission.

◉ Parliamentary Committees



- ▶ The functions of Parliament are varied in nature. The time at its disposal is limited. It cannot make very detailed scrutiny of all legislative and other matters that come up before it. A good deal of Parliamentary business is, therefore, transacted in the committees.
- ▶ Both Houses of Parliament have a similar committee structure, with few exceptions. Their appointment, terms of office, functions and procedure of conducting business are also more or less similar and are regulated as per rules made by the two Houses under Article 118(1) of the Constitution.

◉ Leaders of Opposition in Parliament

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

◉ Government Business in Parliament

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is entrusted with coordinating, planning and arranging government business in both Houses of Parliament. In discharge of this function, he is assisted by two ministers of state.

◉ Consultative Committees

- ▶ Functioning of Consultative Committees of Members of Parliament for various ministries is one of the functions allocated to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.
- ▶ The minimum membership of a Consultative Committee is ten and the maximum membership is thirty.
- ▶ The Consultative Committee stands dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha and are re-constituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha.

◉ Youth Parliament Competition

In order to develop democratic ethos in the younger generation the Ministry conducts Youth Parliament Competitions in various categories of schools and colleges/universities.

◉ All India Whips' Conference

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, organises All India Whips' Conference from time to time with the purpose of establishing suitable links among the whips of various political parties at the centre and the states/union territories who are concerned with the practical working of the legislatures to discuss matters of common interest and to evolve high standards to strengthen the institution of parliamentary democracy.

◉ Special Mentions

- ▶ The **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs takes follow-up action** on matters raised under Rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and by way of Special Mentions in Rajya Sabha.
- ▶ After 'Question Hour' in Lok Sabha **members raise matters of urgent public importance at 12.00 noon**. In Rajya Sabha members raises matters of urgent public importance at 11.00 am.
- ▶ Though it is not mandatory, ministers often react to the points made by the members. In the absence of concerned minister, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs assures the House or the member that their sentiments would be conveyed to the concerned ministers.

◉ Administrative Set-up

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

◉ Cabinet Secretariat

- ▶ **The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister.**

- ▶ The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
- ▶ The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat is (i) secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and (ii) rules of business.
- ▶ It **facilitates smooth transaction of business in ministries/departments** of the government by ensuring adherence to these rules.
- ▶ It **assists in decision-making by ensuring inter-ministerial coordination**, ironing out differences amongst ministries/departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing and ad hoc Committees of Secretaries.
- ▶ The Cabinet Secretariat ensures that the President, the Vice-President and ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all ministries/departments by means of monthly summary of their activities.
- ▶ **Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of various ministries** in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat. The Secretaries keep the Cabinet Secretary informed of developments from time to time

◉ **National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention**

- ▶ The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (NACWC) is a **multilateral international treaty which outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors**.
- ▶ The CWC **came into force with effect from 1997**.
- ▶ The **National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) was set up as an office of the Cabinet Secretariat**, Government of India to fulfill, on behalf of the Government of India, the obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to act as the national **focal point for effective liaison with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** and other state parties on matters relating to the Convention.

◉ **Public Grievances**

The Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) was set up in 1988 to entertain grievances from the public after they fail to get satisfactory redress from the ministry/department concerned within a reasonable time. It is thus, an office of the last resort for redress of grievances relating to sectors in its purview.

◉ **National Disaster Management Authority**

- ▶ In 2005, the government enacted the **Disaster Management Act**, which envisaged the creation of **National Disaster Management Authority, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers**, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to disasters management in the country.
- ▶ NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.

◉ **Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances**

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

◉ **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration**

Government of India instituted 'Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration' to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by officers of the central and state governments.

◉ **Civil Services Day**

The Government of India celebrates April, 21 every year as '**Civil Services Day**' for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitment to public service and excellence in work.

◉ **National Conference on e-Governance**

- ▶ The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in association with one of the state governments organises the National Conference on e-Governance every year since 1997.
- ▶ This conference **provides platform for the senior officers of the government including IT secretaries of state governments.**
- ▶ IT managers of the central government, and resource persons, experts, intellectuals from the industry and academic institutions, etc. to discuss, exchange views and experiences relating to various e-Governance initiatives.

◉ **National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment**

- ▶ National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) aims at assessing the states, UTs and central ministries on the depth and efficiency of e- Governance service delivery.
- ▶ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) brings out the UN e-Government Survey every two years which provides an analysis of progress in using e-Government. India stood at 118 in 2014 which improved to 107 in 2016 and 96 in 2018, out of 193 member countries.

◉ **e-Office Project**

- ▶ e-Office is one of the important Mission Mode Projects for implementing the Digital India Plan. The DAR & PG is the administrative ministry for ensuring e-Office implementation.
- ▶ e-Office aims to increase the usage of workflow and rule based file routing, quick research and retrieval of files and office order, digital signatures, forms and reporting components.

◉ **Cooperation with Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management**

- ▶ The Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), with its **headquarters at Ottawa, Canada**, is an organization dedicated to strengthening public management and consolidating democracy and good governance in the Commonwealth.
- ▶ It was formed in 1994 as a result of decisions taken at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings in Harare in 1991 and in Cyprus in 1993.
- ▶ The membership enables the Government of India to keep pace with the latest developments in the field of public administration, through participation in various programmes of CAPAM viz., international innovations awards programme, international innovations cascading programme, international meetings, seminars and conferences organized by CAPAM, as well as through various publications, journals and study reports.

- CAPAM recognizes and promotes good governance through its award programmes given under four categories.

◉ **Administrative Reforms Commission**

- The second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was constituted in 2005, as a Commission of Inquiry for preparing a **detailed blueprint for revamping the public administrative system**. It presented 15 reports.
- The central government considered 14 out of 15 reports and the decisions on the accepted recommendations of 2nd ARC are at various stages of implementation.

◉ **Official Language**

- Article 343 (1) of the Constitution provides that Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union. Article 343 (2) also provides for continuing the use of English in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years (i.e., upto January 25, 1965) from the date of commencement of the Constitution.
- Article 343 (3) empowered the Parliament to provide by law for continued use of English for official purposes even after January 25, 1965.

◉ **Committees/Samitis**

- The Kendriya Hindi Samiti was constituted in 1967.
- Chaired by Prime Minister it is the apex policy making body which lays the guidelines for the propagation and progressive use of Hindi as official language of the Union.

◉ **Organizational Structure of Zonal Councils**

- **The Union Home Minister** is the Chairman of all the zonal councils.
- The Office of the Vice-Chairman is held by the Chief Minister of the Member State of the respective zonal council by annual rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.

4

Agriculture

Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. **54.6 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities (census 2011) and it contributes 17.4 per cent to the country's Gross Value Added (current price 2016-17).** Given the importance of this sector, Government of India took several steps for its sustainable development. The government launched soil health card scheme, Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for improvement in soil health, improve irrigation facilities, boost organic farming and to reduce agriculture risk respectively.

Three Departments under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare:

- ▶ The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW).
- ▶ Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) and
- ▶ Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).

◉ Production

- ▶ **As per 4th Advance Estimates for 2017-18, total foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 284.83 million tonnes** which is higher than what was produced during 2016--17.
- ▶ The production during 2017-18 is higher by 24.66 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2012-13 to 2016-17) average production of foodgrain.
- ▶ **As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2018-19, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 284.95 million tonnes** (with Rice at 116.42 million tonnes and wheat 102.19 million tonnes) which is higher by 19.20 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2013-14 to 2017-18) average production of foodgrain.

◉ National Policy for Farmers

- ▶ Government of India approved the **National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in 2007**. Many of the provisions of the NPF are being implemented by different central government departments and ministries.

◉ Major Programmes

■ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- The scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore **for a period of 5 years** (2015-16 to 2019-20).
- The major **objective of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision irrigation and**

other water saving technologies (**More crop per drop**), promote sustainable water conservation practices, etc.

- The mission is administered by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Per Drop More Crop component being administered by DAC&FW.

■ **Agriculture Credit**

- Government announces annual target for agriculture credit in the budget every year. Agricultural credit flow has shown consistent progress every year. The agriculture credit flow target for 2017-18 has been fixed at ₹10,00,000 crore.
- The Department implements the **Interest Subvention Scheme under which interest subvention is provided on short-term crop loans upto ₹ 3 lakh for a period of one year** which is made available to farmers at **subvented interest rate of 7 per cent per annum** and in case of **timely repayment, the same gets reduced to 4 per cent per annum**.

■ **Crop Insurance**

- In order **to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases, weather conditions**, Government of India introduced the **National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP)** with component schemes of **Modified National Agricultural Scheme (MNAIS)**, Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS).
- A new scheme **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** has been introduced along with pilot Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under the PMFBY, **a uniform maximum premium of only 2 per cent will be paid by farmers for all kharif crops and 1.5 per cent for all rabi crops**. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5 per cent. Balance premium will be paid by the Government.

⦿ **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices**

- Commission for 'Agricultural Costs and Prices' (CACP), **set up with a view to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure, is mandated to advice on the price policy (MSP) of 23 crops**.
- These include seven cereal crops (paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and barley), five pulse crops (gram, tur, moong, urad and lentil), seven oilseeds (groundnut, sunflower seed, soyabean, rapeseed, mustard, safflower, nigerseed and seasmum), copra (dried coconut), cotton, raw jute and sugarcane. **CACP submits its recommendations in the form of Price Policy Reports every year**, separately for five groups of commodities namely kharif crops, rabi crops, sugarcane, raw jute and copra.

⦿ **Minimum Support Prices**

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is **a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices**. The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, government agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.
- **Determinants of MSP**
 - **Cost of production (CoP)** is one of the important factors in the determination of MSP of mandated crops.

- Besides cost, the Commission considers other important factors such as **demand and supply, price trend in the domestic and international markets, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors** and the likely impact of MSPs on consumers, in addition to ensuring rational utilization of natural resources like land and water.
- The pricing policy is rooted not in 'cost plus' approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

◉ Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- ▶ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is **an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)**. Formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was **established on July 16, 1929** as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. With its headquarters at New Delhi, the **ICAR is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences**.
- ▶ In this endeavour, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has played a vital role by **way of technology development, demonstration and transfer** in India. With 101 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country, this is **one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world**.
- ▶ The ICAR has played a pioneering role in **ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India** through its research and technology development that has **enabled the country to increase the production of foodgrains by 5.4 times, horticultural crops by 10.1 times, fish by 15.2 times, milk 9.7 times and eggs 48.1 times since 1951 to 2017**. This has enabled a visible impact on the national food and nutritional security. It has played a major role in promoting excellence in higher education in agriculture.
- ▶ The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of the country has taken up number of **activities through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** and other programmes for application of farm technologies in farmers' field.
- ▶ Besides, taking up technology assessment, refinement, demonstration and capacity development programmes the other initiatives such as Farmers First, attracting and retaining youth in agriculture (ARYA), climate resilient integrated farming systems (IFS), cluster frontline demonstration (CFLD) of pulses and oilseeds, Cereal Systems Initiatives for South Asia (CSISA), documentation and registration of farmers' varieties under PPV&FRA, pulses seed hubs, KVK Portal, Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav and awareness creations about mega government schemes, etc., were also implemented to espouse the cause of farming community through technology application with their active participation.

◉ Soil and Water Productivity

- ▶ The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) developed **NBSS BHOOMI Geo-portal to access various thematic information on major physiographic regions, sub-physiographic regions, agro-ecological regions (1992), agro-ecological regions (2015)** and agroecological sub-regions of the country.
- ▶ Area/region specific efficient and remunerative crops and cropping sequences were delineated **based on soils, landforms, rainfall temperature, length of growing period and irrigability**.
- ▶ The NBSS & LUP developed **an android based mobile application on GIS platform to facilitate web-based decision support system (DSS) for land use planning and dissemination of soil health cards** information at village and farm level for Gujarat. App will display details of soil map unit information and suggested land use plan for that survey number.

◉ Genetic Resources

- ▶ The Geographical Information System (GIS) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) of India was developed as a standalone package by which the users can extract and highlight habitats of selected breeds on the map.
- ▶ Major explorations were undertaken and 1,532 germplasm accessions were collected comprising 1,095 of cultivated plants and 437 wild accessions

◉ **Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries**

- Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries activities, along with agriculture, continue to be an integral part of human life since the process of civilization started.
- These activities have contributed not only to the food basket and draught animal power but also by maintaining ecological balance. Owing to conducive climate and topography, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors have played prominent socio-economic role in India.
- Livestock production and agriculture are intrinsically linked, each being dependent on the other, and both crucial for overall food security. Livestock sector is an important subsector of the agriculture of Indian economy.
- **There are about 300 million bovines, 65.07 million sheep, 135.2 million goats and about 10.3 million pigs as per 19th livestock census in the country.**

◉ **Livestock Improvement**

- Improvement of **indigenous cattle breeds through selection project** was conceptualized for the genetic improvement of **Gir, Kankrej and Sahiwal cattle** in their home tracts. Under **network project of buffalo improvement Nli-Ravi, Bhadawari and Swamp breed centres** are functioning as conservation and improvement units whereas **Jaffarabadi, Pandarpuri and Surti breed centres are concentrating on field progeny testing** and maintaining the elite herd for bull production.
- All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on goat improvement covered 13 tribal villages and contributed for a better livelihood security for tribal people as goats are major source of income to poor people in tribal areas and North-Eastern Hill region.

◉ **Livestock Production**

- According to estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value of output livestock sector **at current prices is about 28.5 per cent of the value of output from agricultural and allied sector(during 2015-16)**. India continues to be the largest producer of milk in the world.
- Milk production during 2016-17 and 2017-18 was 165.4 million tonnes and 176.3 million tonnes respectively showing an annual growth of 6.62 percent. The **per capita availability of milk was around 375 grams per day in 2017-18**.
- Poultry production has taken a quantum leap in the last four decades, emerging from an unscientific farming practice to commercial production system with state-of-the art technological interventions. Currently the total poultry population is 729.21 million (as per 19th Livestock Census) and **egg production was around 88.14 billion during 2016-17. The per capita availability (2017-18) was around 74 eggs per annum**.

◉ **Wool Production**

- Wool production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13) was 46.05 million kgs and increased to 48.1 million kgs in 2014-15 but declined to 43.5 million kgs in 2016-17. **The production has shown negative growth during 2017-18.**

◉ **Meat Production**

- Meat production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13) was 5.95 million tonnes which further increased to 7.7 million tonnes in 2017-18.

◉ **Fisheries Production**

- The country has vast potential for fisheries in view of long coastline of about 8,118 kms apart from the inland water resources. **During 2017-18, India exported ₹ 13,77,244 tonnes fish and fisheries products worth ₹ 45,106.89 crore.**

◉ National Livestock Mission

- ▶ For sustainable and continuous growth of livestock sector by emulating the success achieved in dairy and poultry sectors, across species and regions, the National Livestock Mission was launched in 2014-15 with an approved outlay of Rs. 2,800 crore during XII Plan.
- ▶ This Mission is formulated with the objectives of sustainable development of livestock sector, focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder, risk coverage, effective extension, improved flow of credit and organisation of livestock farmers/rearers, etc.
- ▶ The followings are sub-missions of the National livestock mission:
 - Sub-mission on livestock development.
 - Sub-mission on pig development in north-eastern region.
 - Sub-mission on fodder and feed development.
 - Sub-mission on skill development, technology transfer and extension.

◉ Livestock Health

- ▶ With improvement in the quality of livestock through cross-breeding programmes, the susceptibility of these livestock to various diseases including exotic diseases has increased. In order to reduce morbidity and mortality, efforts are being made by the state/union territory governments to provide better health care through polyclinics/veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and first-aid centres including mobile veterinary dispensaries available in the states. **At present, the Drugs Controller General of India regulates the quality of veterinary drugs and biological.**

◉ Livestock Census

- ▶ The first Livestock census was conducted during 1919-1920 and since then it is being conducted quinquennially by all states/UTs of the country.
- ▶ It is the only source, which gives disaggregated information on various species of farm animals and poultry birds.
- ▶ The 20th Livestock Census was conducted in 2019 in the country in participation with animal husbandry departments of the states/UTs. It indicates that the livestock population in the country increased by 4.6 per cent to 536 million from 512.06 million in 2012.

◉ Fisheries

- ▶ **Presently, India is the second largest fish producing and second largest aquaculture nation in the world.** India is also a major producer of fish through aquaculture and ranks second in the world after China.
- ▶ The **total fish production during 2017-18 (provisional) stood at 12.61 million metric tonne (MMT)** with a contribution of 8.92 MMT from inland sector and 3.69 MMT from marine sector.
- ▶ Fisheries are a sunrise sector with varied resources and potential, **engaging over 14.50 million people at the primary level and many more along the value chain.** Transformation of the fisheries sector from traditional to commercial scale has led to an increase in fish production.
- ▶ The historical scenario of Indian fisheries reveals a **paradigm shift from marine dominated fisheries to a scenario where inland fisheries emerged as a major contributor to the overall fish production in the country.**
- ▶ Within inland fisheries there is a shift from capture fisheries to aquaculture during the last two and a half decade. **Freshwater aquaculture with a share of 34 per cent in inland fisheries in mid-1980s has increased to about 80 per cent in recent years.** It has emerged as a major fish producing system. **Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA) was set up in various districts for delivering a package of technologies, practices, training and extension and for providing financial assistance to the beneficiaries.**

5

Culture & Tourism

The mandate of the Ministry of Culture revolves around the functions like preservation and conservation of ancient cultural heritage and promotion of art and culture both tangible and intangible and knowledge heritage in the country.

- ▶ It has organized **four missions namely National Mission for Manuscripts, National Mission for Monument and Antiquities, National Mission on Libraries, and Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission.**
- ▶ It also nurtures **Gandhian Heritage** and is responsible for commemoration of important historical events and centenaries of great personalities.
- ▶ In tangible heritage, the Ministry takes care of all the centrally protected monuments of national importance, which is achieved through Archaeological Survey of India. Similarly, the Ministry is also promoting a museum movement in the country and majority of the museums are under its administrative control. The Ministry also promotes regional museums through grants-in-aid.
- ▶ In the field of intangible heritage, the Ministry extends financial support to individuals, group of individuals and cultural organizations engaged in performing visual and literary arts.
- ▶ In knowledge heritage, the Ministry is the custodian of all the major libraries in the country. It also extends grant-in-aid for library development and is also responsible for all policy matters regarding library development.
- ▶ **Through National Archives of India, Ministry is responsible for maintenance of all archival records of the country.**
- ▶ The Ministry is also involved in protection and promotion of Buddhist and Tibetan Culture and is doing this through various institutions located at Sarnath, Varanasi and Leh.
- ▶ **The Ministry is also responsible for implementation of various UNESCO conventions in field of agriculture and for entering to cultural agreements with partnering countries.**

Achievements:

- India's nomination of the 'Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai' has been inscribed on the World Heritage list of the UNESCO. With this, Mumbai becomes the second city in the country after Ahmedabad to figure in the list. India now has in all 37 World Heritage inscriptions with 29 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site.
- The first ever international Kala Mela was held in New Delhi in February 2018; with its aim to promote the spirit of unity in diversity and the relevance of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- The Ministry of Culture launched a new scheme, namely, Seva Bhoj Yojana in 2018. The scheme envisages to reimburse the central government share of Central Goods and Services Tax and Integrated Goods and Services Tax so as to lessen the financial burden of religious/charitable institutions who provide food/prasad/langar (community kitchen)/bhandara, free of cost without any discrimination to public/devotees.

- Government of India commemorated the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak at national as well as international level in befitting manner.
- The 500th death anniversary of 15th century poet-saint Kabir was held in June 2018 in Maghar, Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh.

◦ **Lalit Kala Akademi**

- ▶ It is **national academy of Arts and government's apex cultural body in the field of visual arts** in India. It has been established to **promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, both within and outside the country.**
- ▶ It was **established on August 5, 1954 at New Delhi.** The Academy has regional centres called Rashtriya Lalit Kala Kendra at Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Garhi in New Delhi, Shimla and Bhubaneswar.
- ▶ **Working Area**
 - The Academy has been organizing national exhibition of contemporary Indian art with 15 national awards.
 - Once in every three years, **the Academy also organizes Triennial international exhibition of contemporary art in New Delhi.**
 - The **Academy honours eminent artists and art historians every year** by electing them as Fellows of the Academy.
 - In order to foster contacts with artists from outside, it sponsors exchange of artists with other countries under the various Cultural Exchange Programmes.
- ▶ The Lalit Kala Akademi accords recognition to art institutions/associations and extends financial assistance.
- ▶ It also **gives scholarships to deserving young artists** belonging to its regional centres.
- ▶ The academy has also started a regular programme on research and documentation.
- ▶ Under art promotional activities Akademi provides studios to artists who work in various disciplines of art like sculpture, ceramics, graphics, paintings etc.

◦ **Sangeet Natak Akademi**

- ▶ Sangeet Natak Akademi, **India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama**, is a pioneer in creation of modern India.
- ▶ **In 1961, the Sangeet Natak Akademi** was reconstituted by the Government as a society and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ▶ **Working Area**
 - The **festivals of music, dance and drama presented or promoted by the Akademi** are held all over India.
 - The great masters of the performing arts have been elected as Fellows of the Akademi.
 - The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards conferred annually on eminent artists and scholars.
 - Financial assistance to artists for their work from the Akademi.
 - It has a **large archive of audio and video tapes and remains the single most important resource for researchers in the field of performing arts.**
 - The Akademi establishes and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the field of performing arts. **In 1959, the Akademi established the National School of Drama and in 1964, Later in 1975, it became an autonomous organization, totally financed by Department of Culture.**

- The **objective of the NSD is to train students in all aspects of theatre, including theatre history, production, scene design, costume design, lighting, make-up, etc.**
- Being the apex body, the Akademi also advises and assists the Government of India in formulating and implementing policies and projects in the field.

◉ **Sahitya Akademi**

- Sahitya Akademi is the Indian National Academy of Letters, **to promote Indian literature through publications, translations, seminars, workshops, cultural exchange programmes and literary meets** organized all over the country **in 24 languages of India** recognized by it
- The Akademi was founded in March **1954** as an autonomous body fully funded by the Department of Culture. It was registered as a Society in 1956 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It has an Office at Shillong for promotion of oral and tribal literature and an Archive of Indian literature in Delhi.
- The three fellowships by Sahitya Akademi are:-
 - Sahitya Akademi Honorary Fellowship
 - Ananda Coomaraswamy
 - Premchand Fellowship
- Every year since its inception in 1954, the **Sahitya Akademi awards prizes to the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages.**
- **Bhasha Samman** [the Award carries the prize money of ₹ 1 lakh and citation] is given to writers/ scholars / editors collectors / performers / translators who have made considerable contribution to the propagation and enrichment of languages that have not been recognized by the Akademi in addition to stellar contributions to the research into classical and medieval literature of the country.
- It has also launched a new project Encyclopedia of Indian Poetics.
- The Akademi **organizes Festival of Letters every year to celebrate Indian writing.**
- **Sahitya Akademi promotes Tribal and Oral Literature in the country through its Centre for Tribal and Oral Literature** in Delhi and North-East Centre for Oral Literature in Imphal.
- To promote literature among youth, the Akademi issues Travel Grants to young writers and publishes the first of the young author under its Navodaya scheme.
- Recently, **Sahitya Akademi** has launched a **Village Outreach programme**, Gramalok, to promote literature in rural spaces.
- Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellowship for scholars from Asian countries to pursue literary projects and Premchand Fellowship for scholars doing research on Indian literature from SAARC countries are two other prominent Fellowships of the Akademi.

◉ **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts**

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) is **an autonomous trust under the Ministry of Culture**. It is a **national level academic research centre, encompassing the study and experience of all arts, classical and folk, written and oral, ancient and modern.**
- The IGNCA's view of the arts encompasses wide areas such as creative and critical literature, written and oral; the visual arts, architecture, sculpture, painting, graphics, photography and film.
- IGNCA has 6 functional units: **Kalanidhi**, the multi-form library; **Kalakosa**, devoted mainly to study and publication of fundamental texts in Indian languages; **Janapada Sampada**, the division engaged in lifestyle studies, **Kaladarsana**, the executive unit which transforms researches and studies emanating from IGNCA into visible forms through exhibition; **Cultural Informatics Lab**, which applies technology tools for cultural preservation and propagation; and **Sutradhara**, the administrative section that acts as spine supporting and coordinating all activities.

- IGNCA also manages **National Mission for Manuscripts** which has conserved and digitised precious heritage through resource and conservation centres across India.

◉ **Centre for Cultural Resources and Training**

- The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) is one of **the premier institutions working in the field of linking education with culture.**
- The centre was **set up in May, 1979 as an autonomous organization by the Government of India.** With headquarters in New Delhi, it has **three regional centres at Udaipur, Hyderabad and Guwahati.**
- The broad **objectives of CCRT have been to revitalize the education system by creating an understanding and awareness among students about the plurality of the regional cultures of India and integrating this knowledge with education.**
- It conducts a variety of training programmes for in-service teachers drawn from all parts of the country. This training also stresses on the role of culture in science and technology, housing, agriculture, sports, etc.
- It creates awareness amongst students and teachers of their role in **solving environmental pollution problems and conservation and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage.**
- It also aims to revive and encourage the art and crafts of rural India. It prepares publications to provide an understanding and appreciation of aspects of Indian art and culture.
- CCRT implements the **Cultural Talent Search Scholarships Scheme which provides scholarships to outstanding children between 10-14 years, studying in recognize schools or to families performing traditional performing Arts or other arts.**
- **Project Sanskriti** is an initiative of Ministry of Culture in developing/ establishing of interpretation centres in educational institutions in Varanasi.

◉ **Zonal Cultural Centres**

- Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) aim to **arouse awareness of the local cultures and to show how these merge into zonal identities** and eventually into the rich diversity of India's composite culture.
- The **seven zonal cultural centres** were established under this scheme during 1985-86 at Patiala, Kolkata, Thanjavur, Udaipur, Nagpur, Allahabad and Dimapur.
- Master craftsmen and artisans from various ZCCs participate in Crafts Fair. Documentation of various rare folk and tribal art forms is one of the main thrust areas of the ZCCs.
- Under the **National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP)**, exchanges of artists, musicologists, performers and scholars between different regions within the country take place.
- The ZCCs promote craftsmen through Shilpgrams.

The Seven ZCCs with Headquarters and States, they cover are as follows:

Zonal Centres	Head Quarters	Component States
North Central Zone Culture	Allahabad	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar,
	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Delhi
North Zone Cultural Centre	Patiala	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir,
	Punjab	Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab & Union Territory of Chandigarh

Zonal Centres	Head Quarters	Component States
West Zone Cultural Centre	Udaipur	Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Union
	Rajasthan	Territory of Daman, Diu and Dadra, Nagar Haveli
North East Zone Cultural	Dimapur	Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh,
	Nagaland	Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya
Eastern Zone Cultural Centre	Kolkata	Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Tripura,
	West Bengal	Manipur, Sikkim, Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Jharkhand
South Zone Cultural Centre	Thanjavur	Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh,
	Tamil Nadu	Karnataka, Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry
South Central Zone Cultural	Nagpur, Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh

- The main objectives of the ZCCs are the preservation, promotion and dissemination of the traditional folk arts and culture of the various States/Union Territories.
- They have been implementing the following schemes to preserve and promote traditional art and culture:
- These are: National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP); Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme; Young Talented Artistes Scheme; Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms; Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme; Shilpagram Activities and Loktarang - National Folk Dance Festival and Octave.

◉ Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced in 2015 on the occasion of the 140th Birth Anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- The broad objectives of the initiative are:
 - **To celebrate the unity in diversity of our nation and to maintain and strengthen the fabric** of traditionally existing emotional bonds between the people of our country;
 - To **promote the spirit of national integration** through a deep and structured engagement between all states and union territories through a year-long planned engagement between states;
 - To **showcase the rich heritage and culture, customs and traditions** of either state for enabling people to understand and appreciate the diversity that is India, thus fostering a sense of common identity;
 - To **establish long-term engagements**; and
 - **To create an environment which promotes learning between States** by sharing best practice and experiences

◉ Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas

- The aim of Buddhist Tibetan Institutions (BTI) is to help preserve, promote and propagate the intangible Buddhist/Tibetan/Himalayan cultural heritage of the country.

- ▶ The **objective of the scheme is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayas.** The scheme was revised in 2011.
- ▶ As per the revised scheme the grant shall be provided for undertaking the following activities:
 - Study and research on cultural heritage
 - Preservation of old manuscripts, literature, art & crafts and documentation of cultural activities/ events like music, dance, etc.
 - Dissemination through audio-visual programmes of art and culture
 - Training in traditional and folk art - in the States falling under the Himalayan Region, i.e., Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

◉ Other Projects

- ▶ Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Organization: The objective of the scheme to give financial assistance to the voluntary Buddhist/Tibetan organizations including monasteries engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan culture and tradition and research in related fields.
- ▶ Central Institute of Buddhist Studies: The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Leh Ladakh formerly known as School of Buddhist Philosophy was established at the behest of late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1959. The Institute has obtained the status of Deemed University in January, 2016.
- ▶ Nava Nalanda Mahavihara: The Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (NNM) was established in 1951 in Nalanda, Bihar by the Government of Bihar. The NNM is an institution of post graduate studies and research in Pali and Buddhism. At present, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Culture and accorded Deemed University status in 2006.
- ▶ Central University of Tibetan Studies: The Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi was established in 1967 with a view to educating the youths of Tibet and Indian students of Himalayan border areas. The Institute was declared as a "Deemed to be University" in 1988.
- ▶ Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies: The Institute undertakes under graduate, post graduate and doctoral programmes in Buddhist and Himalayan studies and may also establish and maintain feeder schools.

◉ Archaeological Survey of India

- ▶ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 1861. It functions as an attached office of the **Ministry of Culture.**
- ▶ The major activities of the Archaeological Survey of India are: Survey of archaeological remains and excavations; maintenance and conservation of centrally protected monuments, sites and remains; chemical preservation of monuments and antiquarian remains; architectural survey of monuments; development of epigraphical research and numismatic studies; setting up and re-organization of site museums; expeditions abroad; training in archaeology; publication of technical reports and research works.
- ▶ Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, ASI has declared 3, 686 sites of National importance. Out of this 21 are inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO. 3 sites namely, Champaner- Pavagarh Archaeological park in Gujarat, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Station in Mumbai and the Brihadeshwara temple complex, Gangaikondacholapuram and Airavatesvara temple complex, Darasuram as an extension of Brihadeswara temple complex, Thanjavur have been inscribed on World heritage list of UNESCO in 2004.

◉ National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

- ▶ It prepares a National Register for Built Heritage, Sites and Antiques and setting up of a state level database on Built Heritage. As per the recommendations of National Productivity Council in its 3rd Party evaluation report, NMMA has been made a division of Archaeological Survey of India.

- ▶ As part of the mandate, NMMA has to prepare two national registers, viz., (i) National Register on Built Heritage and Sites and (ii) National Register on Antiquities.

◉ **National Mission for Manuscripts**

- ▶ The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) was launched in 2003 with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) as the nodal agency to reclaim India's inheritance of knowledge contained in the vast treasure of manuscripts.
- ▶ Major activities are: Documentation of manuscripts through survey, preventive and curative conservation, conducting training courses and workshops on conservation, documentation through digitization, research and publication and public outreach programmes.

◉ **National Museum**

- ▶ Works under the **Ministry of Culture** since 1960.
- ▶ Main activities: Exhibitions, Reorganization/Modernization of Galleries, Educational Activities and Outreach Programmes, Public Relations, Publications, Photo Documentation, Summer Holiday Programmes.

◉ **National Council of Science Museums**

- ▶ National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, is the largest network of science centres/museums in the world functioning under a single administrative control.
- ▶ It is primarily engaged in spreading the culture of science in the society especially among students with a motto of 'Communicating Science to Empower People' through its network of Science Centres spread across India.
- ▶ NCSM is the implementing agency for the Science City Scheme for developing new science centres in the country of national, regional and district level. NCSM has its own network of 25 science museums/centres and has also developed and handed over 24 science centres to various State/UT governments.

◉ **Anthropological Survey of India**

- ▶ The Anthropological Survey of India (An.S.I.) is an institution of its unique kind anywhere the world. It has been mandated to study the bio-cultural attributes of the Indian populations since its establishment, about 65 years before.
- ▶ The activities include collection, preservation, maintenance, documentation and study of ethnographic materials as well as ancient human skeletal remains.

◉ **National Archives of India**

- ▶ NAI is the custodian of non-current records of the Government of India and is holding them in trust for the use of the records creators and users at large. It functions as an attached office to Ministry of Culture.
- ▶ It is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993. Making public records accessible to various Government agencies and research scholars.
- ▶ Its major activity includes making public records accessible to various government agencies and research scholars; an online search portal www.abhilekh-patal.in now facilitates access to records.
- ▶ It also renders technical assistance to individuals and institutions in the field of conservation of records. Preservation and maintenance of records and conducting of scientific investigations for the said purpose.

◉ **National Library**

- ▶ The National Library, Kolkata was established in 1948. It enjoys the status of an institution of national importance.
- ▶ Functions are: (i) Acquisition and conservation of all significant printed material as well as of manuscripts of national importance; (ii) Collection of printed material concerning the country, no matter where it is published; and (iii) Rendering of bibliographical and documentary services of current and retrospective material.

◉ **Performing Arts**

- ▶ The Ministry of Culture administers the following schemes:
 - Performing Arts Grants Scheme: Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children's theatre and for all genres of performing arts activities.
 - Scheme for Cultural Organizations with National Presence: To promote and support cultural organizations with national presence involved in promotion of art and culture throughout the country.
 - Scheme of Building Grants: The objective of the scheme is to support voluntary cultural organizations and government-aided cultural organizations to augment their efforts to create cultural space viz, auditorium, appropriately equipped training, rehearsal and performance spaces for artistes etc. and also for purchase of equipment.
 - Tagore Cultural Complexes Scheme : Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for the setting up of new cultural complexes of varying scales as also for modernization, renovation and upgradation of existing Tagore auditoria etc., that were built in 1960s and 1970s in various parts of the country to mark Tagore's Birth Centenary.

◉ **TOURISM**

- ▶ Ministry of Tourism is the nodal agency to formulate national policies and programmes for the development and promotion of tourism.
- ▶ The Ministry is according priority for holistic development of Tourism destinations into world class destinations using a cluster approach including development of infrastructure, amenities, interpretation centres and skill development.
- ▶ As a step in this direction , it has recently launched the 'Adopt A Heritage' Project. Heritage sites are being offered for adoption by the public sector, private sector and individuals to become 'Monument Mitras' for developing amenities and facilities at these sites under the programme.
- ▶ Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during 2018 were 10.56 million (prov.) with a growth of 5.2 per cent over the same period of the previous year.

◉ **e -Visa facility**

- ▶ Facilitative visa regime is a pre-requisite for increasing inbound tourism. The Ministry of Tourism takes the initiative of pursuance with Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs for achieving the same.
- ▶ As in December 2018, e-visa facility has been extended to the nationals of 167 countries under sub-categories, i.e.—'e-Tourist visa', 'e-Business visa', 'e-Medical visa', 'e- Medical Attendant visa' and 'e-Conference visa'. During this period 2.4 million foreign tourists arrived on e-Tourist visa registering a growth of 39.6 percent over the previous year.

◉ **National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board**

- ▶ A National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been set up to work as an umbrella organisation to govern and promote medical tourism in India.

◉ **Incredible India**

- ▶ The Ministry, as part of its ongoing promotional activities, releases campaigns in the international and domestic markets under the Incredible India brandline, to promote various tourism destinations and products of India to increase foreign tourist arrivals and domestic visits within the country

◉ **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

- ▶ Swadesh Darshan scheme has a vision to develop theme based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner by synergizing efforts to focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities. Under the scheme thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

◉ **PRASAD Scheme**

- ▶ Under PRASAD scheme, 25 sites of religious significance have been identified for development namely; Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath (Uttarakhand), Dwarka (Gujarat), Deoghar (Jharkhand), Belur (West Bengal), Gaya (Bihar), Guruvayoor (Kerala), Hazratbal (Jammu & Kashmir), Kamakhya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Puri (Odisha), Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Somnath (Gujarat), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu).

◉ **India Tourism Mart**

- ▶ The first edition of the India Tourism Mart 2018 was organized by the Federation of Associations in the Indian Tourism and Hospitality with the support of the Ministry of Tourism and state governments/ union territory administrations in New Delhi. It provided a national platform to different tourism stakeholders for interacting with foreign buyers under one umbrella.

◉ **Swachh Paryatan Mobile App**

- ▶ "Swachh Paryatan Mobile App" operated by the Ministry of Tourism for 25 Adarsh Smarak Monuments.
- ▶ The Ministry of Tourism has launched an initiative for providing pre-loaded Sim Cards to foreign tourists arriving in India on e-Visa. This initiative was launched in 2017 in association with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., (BSNL), wherein BSNL would distribute pre-loaded SIM cards to foreign tourists on e-Visa.
- ▶ This initiative is aimed at providing connectivity to foreign tourists to enable them to stay in touch with their family and friends and also help them to contact with the 24x7 multi-lingual toll free helpline of Ministry of Tourism for any assistance and guidance during times of distress / medical emergency, etc.

6

Basic Economic Data

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is a ministry of Government of India **concerned with coverage and quality aspects of statistics released**. The surveys conducted by the Ministry are based on scientific sampling methods MoSPI came into existence as an independent ministry in 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation. The Ministry has two wings, one relating to statistics and the other relating to programme implementation.

- ▶ The Statistics Wing redesignated as National Statistics Office (NSO), consists of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
- ▶ The Programme Implementation Wing has three divisions, namely : (i) twenty point programme, (ii) infrastructure and project monitoring, and (iii) Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.
- ▶ Besides these three wings, there is National Statistical Commission (NSC) created through a resolution of Government of India and one autonomous institute, viz., Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) declared as an institute of national importance by an Act of Parliament.

◉ National Statistical Commission

- ▶ The Government of India through a resolution in 2005 decided to set up the National Statistical Commission (NSC) on recommendation of the Rangarajan Commission.
- ▶ The NSC was initially constituted in 2006, to serve as a nodal and empowered body for all core statistical activities of the country, to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical coordination.

◉ Central Statistics Office

- ▶ The Central Statistics Office (CSO), an attached office of the ministry, coordinates the statistical activities in the country and evolves statistical standards.
- ▶ Its activities inter-alia, include compilation of National Accounts, Index of Industrial Production, Consumer Price Indices for Urban/Rural/Combined, Human Development Statistics, including Gender Statistics in the states and union territories and disseminates Energy Statistics, Social and Environment Statistics and prepares the National Industrial Classification.
- ▶ The **National Accounts Division (NAD) of the CSO is responsible for preparation of national accounts, which include the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), national income, government/private final consumption expenditure, capital formation and savings** along with details of transactions of institutional sectors.
- ▶ Accordingly, the annual inflation rates, based on these indices were made available since January, 2012. CSO revised the base year of CPI from 2010-2012 and revised series was launched in 2015. The back series for the revised series of CPI was also made available for the users.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)	Wholesale Price Index (WPI)
It measures the change in the retail prices of goods and services	It measures change in price of goods charged by whole seller.
CPI releases on a monthly basis.	WPI releases on a weekly basis
CPI includes both goods and services.	WPI includes only goods.
It includes about eight categories of products and services.	It includes primary articles, fuel & power and manufactures goods.
Base year is calendar year.	Base year here is Financial Year.
It calculates the final stage of inflation.	It measures inflation in the first stage
CPI is of importance to the general public	WPI is of importance of those who keep track of wholesale prices.

◉ Annual Survey of Industries

- ▶ The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the **principal source of industrial statistics in India**. It **provides statistical information to access and evaluate, objectively and realistically, the change in the growth, composition and structure of the organized manufacturing sector** comprising activities related to manufacturing processes, repair services, generation, transmission, etc., of electricity, gas and water supply and cold storage.
- ▶ The ASI extends to the entire country. The survey covers all factories registered under Section 2m (i) and 2m (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948.
- ▶ However Defence establishments, oil storage and distribution depots, restaurants, hotels, cafe and computer services and the technical training institutes are **excluded from the purview of the survey**.
- ▶ The electricity undertakings registered with the CEA are not being covered under ASI with effect from 1998-99. However, captive units not registered with CEA continued to be covered under ASI.

◉ Index of Industrial Production

- ▶ The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an abstract number or ratio which measures the growth of various sectors in the economy. In India, IIP is a representative figure which measures the general level of Industrial activity in the country.
- ▶ Being an abstract number, it does not show volume of activity and only shows the magnitude which represents the status of production in the industrial sector for a given period of time as compared to a reference period of time.
- ▶ Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released by CSO every month in the form of Quick Estimates with a time-lag of 6 weeks as per the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) norms of IMF. The base year of all-India IIP was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 and the new series was launched in 2017.

The Eight Core Industries comprise nearly 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). These are **Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilisers**.

◉ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)

- ▶ The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), in Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, **is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys, in diverse fields, on all India basis.**
- ▶ **Primary data is collected regularly through nationwide household surveys on various Socio-Economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)** under the Collection of Statistics Act and Enterprise surveys, as a follow up of the **Economic Census.**
- ▶ Besides these surveys, **NSSO collects data on rural and urban prices;** plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the state agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban areal units for drawing samples for Socio-Economic Surveys in urban areas.

◉ Price Data Collection

- ▶ **Consumer Price Index CPI (Urban):** Consumer Price Indices (CPI) for urban areas measure the changes over time in general level of retail prices of goods and services for the purpose of consumption relevant to the urban population of the country. The price collection of CPI (U) was initiated from 2008 by the Field Operations Division of NASSO on behalf of CSO, Price Statistics Division. The current base year for CPI (U) is 2012=100. Price Data Collection is done for 1,078 quotations per month from 310 towns across the country.
- ▶ **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):** On the request of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industries, NSSO is facilitating the Office of the Economic Adviser in price data collection for existing series as well as New Series of WPI. New series has base year - 2011-12.
- ▶ **Rural Retail Price Collection:** The data on rural retail prices are collected by Field Operations Divisions (FOD) regularly for compiling the consumer price index (CPI) for agricultural labourers/ rural labourers on behalf of the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment. At present, the Labour Bureau compiles and publishes the CPI for agricultural labourers/rural labourers.
- ▶ **Consumer Price:** Consumer Price Index in India is published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). Consumer Price Indices (CPI) measure changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that households acquire for consumption. CPI is a macroeconomic indicator of inflation and used as a tool by central banks for inflation targeting and monitoring price stability, and as deflators in the national accounts. CPI is also used for indexing dearness allowance to employees for the increase in prices.

◉ Twenty Point Programme

- ▶ The Twenty Point Programme (TPP) initiated since 1975 was restructured in 1982, 1986 and 2006. The thrust of the Programme restructured in 2006 is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and the underprivileged people all over the country.
- ▶ The programme covers various socioeconomic aspects like poverty, employment, education, housing, agriculture, drinking water, afforestation and environment protection, energy to rural areas, welfare of weaker sections of the society, etc.
- ▶ One of the 66 items viz., 'Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)' has since been subsumed into another item namely 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' with effect from 2008 and has been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act from December 2009.
- ▶ **Monitoring Mechanism:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors the programmes/schemes covered under TPP-2006 on the basis of performance reports received from state governments/UT administrations and ministries.

◉ Members of Parliament Local area Development Scheme

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was launched on 23rd December, 1993. Initially, Ministry of Rural Development was the Nodal Ministry for this scheme. In October, 1994 this scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The salient features of the MPLAD Scheme include:

- ▶ **MPLADS is a Central Plan Scheme fully funded by the Government** of India under which funds are released in the form of grants-in-aid directly to the district authorities.
- ▶ The funds released under the **Scheme are non-lapsable**, i.e. the entitlement of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility. At present, the annual entitlement per MP/Constituency is Rs. 5 crore.
- ▶ Under MPLADS, the role of **the Members of Parliament is limited to recommend works**. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the district authority to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended by Members of Parliament within the stipulated time period.
- ▶ The elected Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies. The elected members of the **Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected**. Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation, anywhere in the country.
- ▶ There is **no limit for works to be executed for the Government**. However, for the works meant for trust/society there is a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh for the lifetime of each Trust/Society. An MP can recommend funds only upto Rs. 100 lakh in all in a financial year, from MPLADS funds for works to Trusts/Societies.
- ▶ **MPLADS works can be implemented in areas affected by natural calamities** like floods, cyclone, hailstorm, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, landslides, tornado, earthquake, drought, tsunami, fire and biological, chemical, radiological hazards, etc.
- ▶ In order to accord special attention to the development of areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), 15 per cent of MPLADS funds are to be utilized for areas inhabited by SC population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by ST population.
- ▶ If an elected Member of Parliament finds the need, to contribute MPLADS funds, to a place outside that state/UT or outside the constituency within the State or both, the MP can recommend eligible works, under these Guidelines upto a maximum of Rs. 25 lakh in a financial year. Such a gesture on the part of an MP will promote national unity, harmony, and fraternity among the people, at the grass roots level.
- ▶ MPs may recommend their **MPLADS funds to aided educational Institutions which are receiving financial assistance from state government and are recognized by a State/UT/Central Board of Secondary Education** in the case of schools and by State/Central university in case of colleges and are not charging commercial fee from students. Such aided educational institutions are eligible for receiving MPLADS funds for all permissible items under the Guidelines with no ceiling.

7

Commerce

THE Department of Commerce comes under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The mandate of the Department of Commerce is **regulation, development and promotion of India's international trade and commerce through formulation of appropriate international trade and commercial policy** and implementation of the various provisions thereof. **The basic role of the Department is to accelerated growth of international trade.** The Department **formulates implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)** which provides the basic framework of policy and strategy to be followed for promoting exports and trade. Besides, the Department is also entrusted with responsibilities relating to multilateral and bilateral commercial relations, Special Economic Zones, state trading, export promotion and trade facilitation, and development and regulation of certain export oriented industries and commodities.

- ▶ INTERNATIONAL trade plays a catalytic role in economic transformation of a nation in myriad ways. Greater integration with the global economy ensures higher competitiveness, specialisation in focus sectors, overall improvement of standards, better value and access for consumers, transfer of technical know-how, increase in national income, rising stature at global forums, growth in GDP and rise in employment.
- ▶ India enjoys a strong competitive advantage in global markets across a range of sectors including agri-products, plantations, engineering, textiles, leather, services, pharmaceuticals, marine products, gems and jewellery, chemicals and plastics.

◉ India's Trade Scenario:

■ Exports

- India's merchandise exports recorded a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.09 per cent from April March 2009-10 to April-March 2018-19 (QE).
- **Merchandise exports reached a new peak of US\$ 331.02 billion during April-March 2018-19 (QE)** surpassing the earlier high of US\$ 314 achieved in 2013-14 registering a positive growth of 9.06 per cent over previous year.

■ Imports

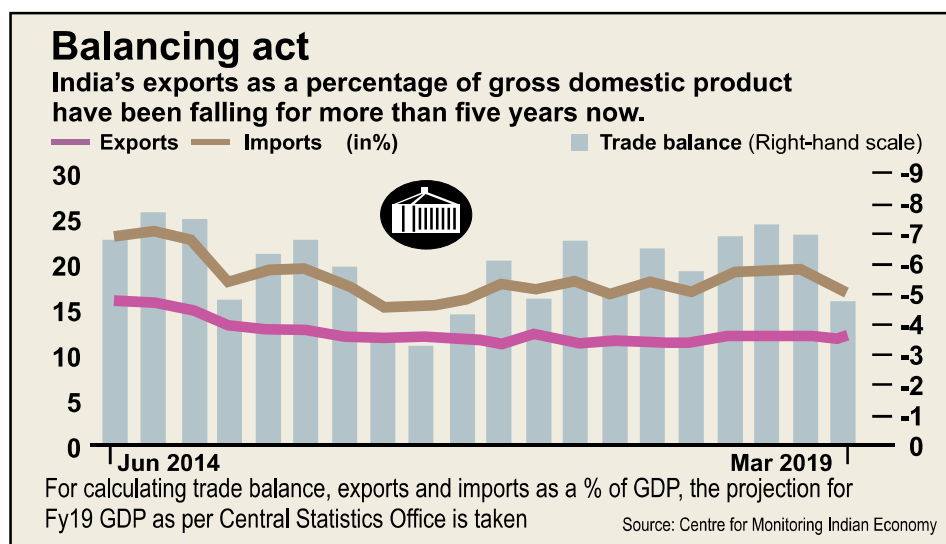
- Cumulative value of imports during April-March 2018-19 (QE) was US\$ 507.44 billion as against US\$ 465.58 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year registering a positive growth of 8.99 per cent in US\$ terms.



- Oil imports were valued at-US\$ 140.47 billion during April-March 2018-19 (QE) which was 29.27 per cent higher than oil import valued at US\$ 108.66 billion in the corresponding period of previous year.
- Non-oil imports were valued at US\$ 366.97 billion during April-March 2018- 19 (QE) which was 2.82 per cent higher than non-oil imports of US\$ 356.92 billion in previous year.

■ Trade Balance

- The Trade deficit in Apr-Mar 2018-19 (QE) was estimated at US\$ 176.42 billion which was higher than the deficit of US\$ 162.05 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.



◉ Global Perspective

- ▶ As per World Economic Outlook (WEO), April, 2019, global economy is projected to grow at 3.3 per cent and 3.69 per cent in 2019 and 2020, respectively.
- ▶ Growth across emerging market and developing economies is projected to stabilize slightly below 5 per cent, though with variations by region and country. Growth in emerging and developing Asia will dip from 6.4 per cent in 2018 to 6.3 in 2019, while the year 2020 is projected to witness a growth figure similar to the level of 2019.
- ▶ Risks to global growth tilt to the downside. An escalation of trade tensions between two global giants—USA and China may put pressure on global trade recovery.
- ▶ Financial markets have been driven by uncertainties surrounding US-China trade negotiations and Brexit.
- ▶ WEO, April, 2019, India has achieved a growth rate of 7.1 per cent in 2018, while China had a growth of 6.6 per cent.

The economic effects of COVID-19 around the world:

- ◉ In April, the IMF warned economies in Asia would see no growth this year, for the first time in 60 years, with the service sector particularly under pressure.
- ◉ Global economy could shrink by almost 1% in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic: United Nations
- ◉ India's recent run of economic growth is slow to just 1% this year, the lowest it has been for over 40 years according to research from Capital Economics.

◉ Global Trade Situation

- ▶ WTO economists expect merchandise trade volume growth to fall to 2.6 per cent in 2019-down from 3.0 per cent in 2018.

- ▶ As per the current rankings for the year 2018, India is the 19th largest exporter (with a share of 1.7 per cent) and 10th largest importer (with a share of 2.6 per cent) of merchandise trade in the world.
- ▶ China is the top ranked exporter and America is the first largest importer of merchandise trade in the world.
- ▶ In Commercial Services, India is the 8th largest exporter (with a share of 3.5 per cent) and 10th largest importer (with a share of 3.2 per cent). USA is the top exporter as well as the top importer of commercial services trade in the world.

◉ **Foreign Trade**

- ▶ The Five-year Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services.
- ▶ Through FTP the government has taken a major path breaking initiative that the department has taken to main stream states, union territories and various departments of Government of India in the process of international trade.
- ▶ The FTP introduces two new schemes, namely Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for export of specified goods to specified markets and Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) for increasing exports of notified services.

■ **Merchandise Exports**

- The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the FTP with the objective to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exporting goods/products which are produced/ manufactured in the country.

■ **Services Exports**

- Under the Service Exports from India Scheme/(SEIS) there are rewards on net foreign exchange earnings, to service providers of notified services who are providing service from India to the rest of the world, in the form of duty credit scrips which are transferable and can be used to pay certain central duties/taxes including customs duties.

■ **Duty Remission Schemes**

- Duty neutralization/remission schemes are based on the principle and the commitment of the government that goods and services are to be exported and not the taxes and levies. Its purpose is to allow duty free import/ procurement of inputs or to allow replenishment either for the inputs, used or the duty component on inputs used. Brief of these schemes are as follows:-

■ **Advance Authorization Scheme:**

- Advance Authorization Scheme allows duty free import of inputs, along with fuel, oil, catalyst, etc., required for manufacturing the export product. Inputs are allowed either as per Standard Input Output Norms (SION) or on adhoc norms basis under actual user condition.

■ **Schemes for Gems and Jewellery Sector**

- Gems and Jewellery exports constitute a major portion of our total merchandise exports. It is an employment oriented sector. Exports from this sector suffered significantly on account of the global economic slowdown. Duty free import/procurement of precious metal (gold/ silver / platinum) from the nominated agencies is allowed either in advance or as replenishment. Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme shall not be available for Gems and Jewellery Sector.

■ Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG)

- The objective of the EPCG Scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services to enhance India's export competitiveness. The Scheme allows import under of capital goods at zero customs duty subject to an export obligation equivalent to 6 times of duties, taxes.

◉ Directorate General of Foreign Trade

- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade. Right from its inception till 1991, when liberalization in the economic policies of the Government took place, this organization has been essentially involved in the regulation and promotion of foreign trade through regulation.

◉ Capacity Building

- Skilling new entrepreneurs for exports is an important priority. In the last two years, over 50,000 entrepreneurs have been trained under the **Niryat Bandhu programme** implemented by DGFT, thus complementing the Startup India and Skill India initiatives.

◉ Centre for Research in International Trade

- Given the growing complexity of the process of globalization and its spillover effects on domestic policymaking, there is a need to significantly deepen existing research capabilities and widen them to encompass new and specialized areas.
- In this context, a new institution, namely, the Centre for Research in International Trade (CRIT) has been set up. It is expected to fill the gap and will also help in forming enduring coalitions with a large number of developing countries which may have convergence of interests with India and could potentially become India's allies on various trade issues at the global level.

◉ Special Economic Zones

- India was one of the first in Asia to recognise the effectiveness of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) model in promoting exports, with Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla in 1965.
- To overcome the shortcomings on account of multiplicity of controls and clearances, absence of world-class infrastructure and an unstable fiscal regime and with a view to attract larger foreign investments in India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in April 2000.
- The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect in 2006, providing simplification of procedures and single window clearance on matters relating to central and state governments.
- The main objectives of the SEZ Act are: generation of additional economic activity; promotion of exports of goods and services; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; creation of employment opportunities; and development of infrastructure facilities.

◉ Government e- Market

- Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) created a dedicated e-market for different goods and services procured/sold by government/PSUs, a technology driven platform **to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various ministries and agencies of the government**. The portal was launched in 2016 and became fully functional by October, 2016.
- GeM covers entire procurement process chain, right from vendor registration, item selection by buyer, supply order generation, and receipt of goods/services by the consignees (s), to online payment to vendor.

◉ **Trade Facilitation**

- ▶ National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) was set up following ratification by India of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Four working groups have been set up to focus on (i) infrastructure, (ii) legal issues, (iii) outreach and (iv) time release study.

◉ **Anti Dumping**

- ▶ The role of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) under the Department is to provide the level playing field to the country's domestic industry from the foreign exporters so that they are able to compete effectively in the domestic market.
- ▶ This measure is taken under the WTO agreement and comes under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and Rules made there under.

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“Some Practice Improves Result”

8

Communications & Information Technology

Communications in the country is handled and Ministry of Communications while the Information Technology is handled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity). The Meity promotes e-governance and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT and ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in internet governance. Ministry of Communications looks after the Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications. Main activities and initiatives of these departments are given here.

◉ POSTS

- ▶ The **modern postal system**, the most preferred facilitator of communication, was established in India by **Lord Clive** in **1766** and it was further developed by Warren Hastings in 1774.
- ▶ For the first time, **the post offices were regulated through an Act of 1837** on a uniform basis to unite all the post office establishments throughout the then existing three Presidencies into one all-India service.
- ▶ Thereafter, the **Post Office Act of 1854** reformed the entire fabric of the postal system and the post offices of India were placed on the present administrative footing on 1st October 1854.
- ▶ This was the time when the first postage stamp valid across the country was issued at an affordable and uniform rate of postage, fixed by weight and not by distance.
- ▶ Even though the British established the post office for imperial interests, it along with the railways and telegraph, became one of the greatest engines of social development.
- ▶ The statute presently governing the **postal services in the country is the Indian Post Office Act, 1898**.
- ▶ Besides providing postal communication facilities, the post office network has also provided facilities for **remittance of funds, banking and insurance services** since the latter half of the 19th century.

■ Organization Overview

- The Department of Posts comes under the Ministry of Communications.
- The Postal Service Board, the apex management body of the department
- The Chairman of Postal Services Board is also the Secretary of the Department of Posts.

■ Financial Services

▶ Small Savings Schemes:

- Department of Posts is operating Small Savings Schemes on behalf of Ministry of Finance, which frames and modifies rules relating to these schemes and pays remuneration to the Department of Posts.

► **Post Office Savings Bank (POSB)**

Savings bank facility is provided through a network of 1.54 lakh post offices across the country. The post office savings bank operates savings accounts, recurring deposit (RD), time deposit (TD), monthly income scheme (MIS), public provident fund (PPF), national savings certificate (NSC), kisan vikas patra (KVP), senior citizens savings scheme (SCSS) and sukanya samriddhi account.

► **Mutual Funds:**

The post office is playing an important role in extending the reach of the capital market. Presently, Mutual Fund products of UTI only are being retailed through post offices.

► **International Money Transfer Service:**

The collaboration of Department of Posts, Government of India with Western Union Financial Services a state-of-the-art international money transfer service is available through the post offices in the country, enables instantaneous remittance of money from around 195 countries to India.

► **National Pension Scheme (NPS)**

- NPS for common citizens was introduced by government in 2009.
- India Post is a point of presence for the National Pension System.
- Subscribers (any Indian citizen) in the age group of 18 to 55 can join NPS and contribute till the age of 60. These pension contributions are invested in various schemes of different pension fund managers appointed by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

► **Social Security Scheme**

- Jan Suraksha Schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) were launched in 2015 in all Core Banking Solution (CBS) post offices for all post office savings account holders.
- Department of Posts has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Insurance Company (NIC) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for PMSBY and PMJJBY respectively.
- Atal Pension Yojna (APY) was launched in all CBS head post offices from 2015.

► **Core Banking Solution & installation of ATMs**

- The Core Banking Solution (CBS) is part of the India Post IT Modernization project that aims to bring in various IT solutions with the required infrastructure to the post offices.
- The project aims to implement Core Banking Solution in all the Departmental Post Offices for Small Savings Schemes. It brings in facilities of “any time any where banking”, ATM and Internet Banking facilities.

► **Sukanya Samriddhi Account**

- Sukanya Samriddhi Account, a new Small Savings Scheme for the welfare of girl child, was launched in 2015. Under the scheme, a legal/natural guardian can open only one account in the name of one girl child and maximum two accounts in the name of two different girl children up to 10 years from date of birth of the girl child.

► India Post Payments Bank

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was set up in 2016 with a mandate to build most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man by removing the barriers for the unbanked and promote the adoption of cashless transactions in a predominantly cash based economy. IPPB got incorporated as a Public Limited Company with 100 per cent GOI equity under Department of Posts.
- IPPB is offering a bouquet of payments and their salient features are: (i) deposits- savings accounts, current accounts; (ii) money transfer- simple and secure, instant, 24x7; (iii) direct benefit transfers-MGNREGA, scholarships, social welfare benefits and other government subsidies; (iv) third party products- loans, insurance, investments, post office savings scheme; (v) bill and utility payments-mobile and DTH recharge, electricity/ water/gas bills, donations and insurance premium; and (vi) enterprises and merchant payments- postal products, digital payment of e-commerce delivery (CoD), small merchants/kirana stores/unorganized retail, Offline payments, cash management services.
- Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) products primarily aim at savings whereas IPPB primarily focuses on encouraging digital payments and remittance.

■ New and Value Added Services

- **Speed Post:** Speed Post was started in 1986 for providing a time-bound and express delivery of letters and parcels weighing upto 35 kg between specified stations in India. It is the flagship product of Department of Posts and the market leader in the domestic express industry with monthly volumes of more than 3 crore articles.
- **Leveraging Post Office Network for Setting up Passport Seva Kendra:** In order to extend passport services on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage Department of Posts and Ministry of External Affairs have mutually agreed for leveraging the network of post office as Passport Seva Kendras for benefit of citizens.
- **Cash on Delivery:** Increasing trend for online shopping has tremendous business opportunities for payment services, order processing and fulfillment services, etc. In order to cater to these business opportunities and to provide a fast, safe and economical solution of collection of amount of goods at the time of its delivery and its remittance to sender.
- **Gangajal through Post Offices:** India Post has put in place arrangements for supply and distribution of 'Gangajal' sourced from Rishikesh and Gangotri, through post offices across the country from 2016.
- **Post Shoppe :** The 'Post Shoppe' is a convenient store format, located in the premises of important post offices, which essentially keeps wide range of collectable philatelic items such as stamps, first day covers, frames, albums and also 'My Stamp' corner where one can get stamps with own photograph.
- **Passenger Reservation System :** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India Post and Ministry of Railways to provide computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals in some post offices.
- **Sovereign Gold Bond :** Department is actively engaged in the premier scheme—Sale of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)' introduced in 2015-16 by Ministry of Finance, and operated through RBI. The objective of the scheme is to popularize 'Paper Gold' among masses and to reach out to the small investors at the grassroot level.
- **e-Post Office :** e-Post Office is an e-commerce portal of the Department of Posts which provides selected postal facility through the internet. This portal aims at providing a convenience to the public for availing select postal services from their home/office using their own computer and internet.
- **e-Post :** e-Post is an unregistered hybrid mail provided for both retail as well as corporate customers providing electronic transmission of messages which may include text messages, scanned images, pictures and their delivery in hard copies at the destination through postman/delivery staff.

- **e-Payment** : It is an option for businesses and organizations to collect their bills or other payments through post offices. e-Payment is a many to one solution which allows collection of money (telephone bills, electricity bills, examination fee, taxes university fee, school fee, etc.) on behalf of any organization electronically.
- **Universal Postal Union** : India is a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) since 1876. This organization of 192 member countries aims to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations among other countries.
- **Dedicated Road Transport Network** : Based on the need for providing safe, secure and faster transmission of parcels particularly e-commerce consignments, the Department has set up a dedicated road transport network for transmission of parcels.
- **Postman Mobile App** : An android based Mobile Application named Postman Mobile App (PMA) designed and developed in-house by the Department at the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology, (CEPT) Mysuru, has been launched across the country deploying more than 15000 smartphones. The mobile app is **being used by the delivery staff for delivering various accountable articles such as Speed Post, Express Parcel, Business Parcel and Regd.**
- **Philately**: It is the hobby of collecting stamps as well as the study of postal history and other related items. It is a mode of commemorating, celebrating and promoting national heritage, culture, events and personalities. Postage Stamps are pictorial ambassadors. They are a statement of sovereignty of a nation.
- **My Stamps** : My Stamps are personalized sheets of postage stamps of India Post. Personalization is achieved by printing a thumb nail photograph image of the customer and logos of institutions, or images of artwork, heritage buildings, famous tourist places, historical cities, wildlife, other animals and birds, etc., alongside the selected commemorative postage stamp.
- **Personalized My Stamp** : It is a personalized sheet of postage stamps. Alongside these personalized theme stamps, the customers may opt for printing of their own, parents, family, etc., pictures to be printed. Some of the themes of personalized My Stamps are Taj Mahal, Hawa Mahal, Mysore Palace, Indian Army, rose, happy anniversary, Vaishno Devi.
- **Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** : Twenty-five postal administrations across the world released stamps to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana** : A philately scholarship scheme called Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana was introduced in 2017-18 to promote philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and supplement the academic curriculum in addition to providing a hobby that can help them relax and de-stress. Under this scheme, 920 scholarships are awarded throughout the country to students from Classes VI, VII, VIII and IX every year.
- **Dhai Akhar Letter Writing Competition** : A nationwide letter writing competition—Dhai Akhar was introduced in 2017-18 to encourage and promote letter writing. Top three entries in each category (total 4 categories) are awarded at the national level. The theme for 2018-19 for this campaign was “Letter to my Motherland” inspired by the popular Tagore song “Amar Desher Mati...”. The theme for 2019-20 is “Dear Bapu, you are immortal...” inspired by Albert Einstein’s homage to Mahatma Gandhi “Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth”.

◉ Telecommunications

- The Indian Telecom Sector has grown exponentially and has become the second largest network in the world, next only to China. The Telecom Sector in India has witnessed all round growth over the last few years. India is currently the world’s second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of 1.18 billion. India’s mobile economy is growing rapidly and currently

constitutes more than 98 per cent of all telephone subscriptions. The mobile industry is expected to create a total economics value of ₹14 trillion (US\$217.37 billion) by 2020.

- ▶ **Department of Telecommunications:** Department of Telecommunication (DoT) is committed to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development. The Department is working towards the objective of maximizing public good by making available affordable, reliable and secure voice and data services.
- ▶ **Tele-density :** Tele-density denotes the number of telephones per 100 populations and its an important indicator of telecom penetration. Overall teledensity in the country was 90.10 per cent at the end of March 2019. The rural teledensity was 57.50 per cent while that in urban areas it was 159.66 per cent. Amongst the service areas, Himachal Pradesh (146.37 per cent) had the highest tele-density followed by Kerala (126.15 per cent), On the other hand, tele-density is comparatively low in service areas such as Bihar (59.95 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (69.63 per cent). Amongst the metros, Delhi tops in tele-density with 238.57 per cent, followed by Mumbai (165.62 per cent).
- ▶ **Internet and Broadband Penetration :** The government has placed considerable emphasis on growth of internet and broadband in the country as part its Digital India campaign. The number of Internet subscribers (both broadband and narrowband put together) which was 493.95 million at the end of March, 2018 increased to 636.73 million by the end of March 2019. The number of subscribers accessing internet via wireless phones, etc., was 615.05 million at the end of March 2019 while the number of wireline internet subscribers was 21.68 million. The number of Broadband subscribers was 561.36 million at the end of March 2019. There was a net increase of 132.78 million in the Internet subscribers during the period March, 2018 to March, 2019.
- ▶ **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited:** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), fully owned by Government of India, formed in October 2000, provides telecom services across the length and breadth of the country excluding Delhi and Mumbai. BSNL is providing all types of telecom services. Rural telephony is one of its focus areas.
- ▶ **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited :** Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), set up in 1986, is a Navratna PSU and provides telecommunication facilities in India's key metros - Delhi and Mumbai and nearby areas. MTNL is providing triple play services i.e., voice, high speed internet and IPTV on its broadband network.
- ▶ **Bharat Broadband Network Limited :** Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband networks Limited (BBNL) was incorporated in 2012 under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 for execution of the Bharat Net for connecting 2.50 lakh (approximately) Gram Panchayats (GPs).

◉ Vision of Digital India

- ▶ The Vision of Digital India aims **to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy**. This programme has been envisaged by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY). It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically.
- ▶ The source of funding for most of the e-governance projects at present is through budgetary provisions of respective ministries/ departments in the central or state governments.

◉ Scope of Digital India

- ▶ The overall scope of this programme is:
 - to prepare India for a knowledge future
 - on being transformative that is to realize

IT (Indian Talent) + IT (Information Technology) = IT (India Tomorrow);

- making technology central to enabling change; and

- Digital India aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely:
 - broadband highways;
 - universal access to mobile connectivity;
 - public internet access programme;
 - e-governance: reforming government through technology;
 - e-Kranti - electronic delivery of services;
 - information for all;
 - electronics manufacturing;
 - IT for Jobs; and
 - early harvest programmes.

◉ Information Technology

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** deals with policy matters relating to information technology, electronics, internet (other than licensing of ISPs) and cyber security.
- The **aim is to promote e-governance for empowering citizens, promoting the inclusive and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT and ITeS industries**, promoting digital transactions and digital payments, enhancing India's role in internet governance, adopting a multipronged approach that includes development of human resources, promoting R&D and innovation, enhancing efficiency through digital services and ensuring a secure cyber space. With the unveiling of the Digital India programme the role of MeitY has enhanced. The programme has three vision areas namely, digital infrastructure as a utility for every citizen, governance and services on demand and digital empowerment of citizens by bridging the digital divide in the country.
- Digital empowerment of citizens includes universal digital literacy, accessible digital resources universally, all documents/ certificates to be available on cloud, availability of digital resources/ services in Indian languages and portability of all entitlements through cloud.
- **MeitY functions around the ambit of two major Acts.**
 - **Information Technology Act, 2000:** The Information Technology Act, 2000 which provides legal recognition to the transaction carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as electronic commerce which involves the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information, to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the government agencies.
 - It gives provisions for the use of electronic records and digital signature with the provision of authentication and security. It also directs the establishment of Cyber Appellate Tribunal.
 - This Act was amended through the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 which substituted the word "digital signature" with "electronic signature" with major changes in various sections along with insertion of other sections.
 - **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 :** To ensure that various benefits and subsidies reach the targeted beneficiaries, the Government made all efforts to leverage the Aadhaar platform. The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 provides for good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for this is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India, to individuals residing in India through assigning of a unique identity number to such individuals. It covers everything from the enrollment for Aadhaar number, authentication to establishment of UIDAI which has now become a statutory organization.

- **Digital Identity: Aadhaar** provides **12 digit biometric** and demographic based identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable. Under the Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of Aadhaar life cycle, developing the policy, procedure and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and perform authentication and also required to ensure the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals. More than 116 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated. Aadhaar has been instrumental in the provision of goods and services and is also enhancing and enabling digital transaction and digital payment. Some of major initiatives are:

- **Aadhaar Enabled Payments :**

- **Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB):** A payment can be made to a person's bank account via his/her Aadhaar number, provided it is linked to his/her Aadhaar number. Government of India transfers benefits and subsidies directly to the beneficiaries' bank account through APB.
- **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS):** AEPS is the platform in which a person can do basic banking transactions including withdrawal, deposit cash, fund transfer, etc., from his/her bank account at Micro-ATMs using biometric authentication. Bank is chosen by resident as it is a resident present transaction;
- **Aadhaar Pay:** It is merchant version of AEPS. The Application works on a low cost android phone with single finger bio-metric device. It enables merchant to take cashless payment from his customers. It was launched in 2017;
- **Pay to Aadhaar:** It is a facility available on UPI platform integrated in BHIM app. It enables Person-to-Person (P2P) remittance using Aadhaar number of the recipient as financial address. The receiving Aadhaar number should be linked with his/her Aadhaar number. This was also launched in 2017.

- **Aadhaar Enabled Services:**

- **Targeted delivery of foodgrains under PDS:** Over 18.05 crore ration card holders receive ration post Aadhaar authentication. They are sure that nobody else can claim their rations, reducing pilferage and theft in the process. Aadhaar seeding for de-duplications and other DBT processes has removed over 2.33 crore fake ration cards;
- **PAHAL and Ujjwala Scheme:** Over 15.12 crore LPG beneficiaries received LPG subsidy in their bank accounts under the PAHAL scheme. Over 2.5 crore connections were issued to BPL women under Ujjwala Scheme;
- **Ease of opening of bank account using e-KYC:** Aadhaar has enabled this by becoming the single document which acts as KYC document for opening a bank account;
- **e-verification of income tax return:** Aadhaar has enabled income tax payer to e-verify their income tax return using Aadhaar OTP authentication, obviating the need for sending the ITR-5 in a physical form to Income Tax Authorities.

◉ e-Governance

- With the advent of Digital India as an apex programme various new policy initiatives have been taken up by MeitY such as eKranti, policy on adoption of open source software in e-governance systems, e-mail policy, policy on use of IT resources, policy on collaborative application development by opening the source code of government applications, application development and re-engineering guidelines for cloud ready applications and e-governance competency framework.
- Major schemes such as e-districts, Common Service Centres and State Wide Area Network (SWAN) have also been working in this direction.
- **Policy on Adoption of Open Source Software:** It encourages the formal adoption and use of Open Source Software (OSS) in government organisations. Accordingly government organisations,

while implementing e-governance applications and systems, are to ensure compliance of this policy and decide by comparing both OSS and Closed Source Software (CSS) options with respect to capability, strategic control, scalability, security, life-time costs and support requirements.

- **Policy on Collaborative Application Development by Opening the Source Code of Government Applications:** This policy aims to increase the pace of e- governance application development and rapid roll out/implementation by adopting an open-source code, for high quality e-governance applications. It also intends to encourage innovative e-governance applications and solutions through collaborative development.
- **Policy on use of IT Resources:** This policy governs the usage of IT resources from an end user's perspective. Its objective is to ensure proper access to and usage of government's IT resources and prevent their misuse.
- **e-mail Policy of Government:** This policy lays down the guidelines with respect to use of e-mail services of the government and employees of those state/UT governments that use the e-mail services of GOI and also those state/ UT governments that choose to adopt this policy in future. The objective is to ensure secure access and usage of Government of India e-mail services by its users.
- **Policy on Open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs):** The Policy on Open APIs for Government's approach on the use to Open APIs to promote software interoperability for all e-governance applications and systems and provide access to data and services for promoting participation of all stakeholders including citizens.
- **The e-Governance Competency Framework (e-GCF):** Its toolkit contains a set of end-user knowledge areas required for government employees. The objective of the framework is to strengthen the capacity building scheme to identify and define competencies, through a competency-based system which is required for different job roles under e-governance.
- **National Scholarship Portal** has been developed as a one-stop solution to implement end-to-end disbursement of the scholarship to the beneficiaries.
- In order to integrate the delivery of government services (across various departments), an initiative called **Mobile Seva** has been launched. A portal called '**Vikaspedia**' to provide information on health, education, agriculture, energy, social welfare and e-Governance has been developed in more than 15 languages with more languages are being added.
- **MyGov.in** is an innovative platform launched to ensure citizens' engagement in decision making by the Government so that the ultimate goal of 'Good Governance' for building India is achieved. This initiative is an opportunity for citizens and well-wishers from across the world to share their views on key issues directly with the Prime Minister of India.
- MeitY has developed **Rapid Assessment System (RAS)** for continuous feedback for e-services delivered by Government of India and state governments. This system has multiple channels for receiving feedback and is backed by analytics. These analytics will help integrated departments for continuous system improvement and better governance.
- **e-sampark** Database is developed to send messages and emails to public representatives and government employees. This database has 1.90 crore email addresses and over 82 crore mobile numbers. The count of mailers is over 301 crore for 563 campaigns.
- **e-Taal** is a web portal for dissemination of e-transactions statistics of national and state level e-governance projects including mission mode projects. It receives transaction statistics from web based applications periodically on near real time basis. e-Taal presents quick analysis of transaction counts in tabular and graphical form to give quick view of transactions done by various e- governance projects.
- **Aadhaar-Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBS):** In order to bring in efficiency in the Government, an Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System was implemented by MeitY.
- **e-Payment Framework:** All payments and receipts to be in electronic mode. The portal payonline.gov.in envisaged as common platform for making physical payments online.
- **e-Districts:** It is one of the Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under e-Kranti, with the MeitY, as the nodal Ministry, to be implemented by state government or their designated agencies. This MMP

aims at electronic delivery of identified high volume citizen centric services, at district and sub-district level, those are not part of any other MMP. It has been launched in 634 districts along with 1012 e-services.

- ▶ **Common Services Centre:** This scheme aims at providing ICT enabled front- end service delivery outlets, across rural India covering six lakh villages. These internet enabled centres allow doorstep access to citizens, private and social services for skill development, education, digital literacy, health and financial services. New services namely banking, insurance and pension under Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojna have made CSCs very vibrant. Digital Sakshartha Abhiyan (DISHA) for undertaking digital literacy has enabled active citizen participation through CSCs. Aadhaar enrolment/update has been enabled through CSCs. In all 3,00,774 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been registered across the country, among which, 1,96,922 are at Gram Panchayats level till August, 2017.
- ▶ **GI Cloud:** In order to utilize and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, the government has embarked upon an ambitious and important initiative - "**GI Cloud**" which has been coined as "**MeghRaj**". The focus of this initiative is to evolve a strategy and implement various components including governance mechanism to ensure proliferation of Cloud in government. Formulation of the Cloud Policy is one of the primary steps that will facilitate large scale adoption of cloud by government.
- ▶ **National Centre for Geo-Informatics (NCoG)** provides GIS based services to government ministries/departments. NCoG is currently involved in rolling out select GIS based decision support system for various organizations. Base map layers for administrative boundaries up to village level, major roads, rivers, rail on the scale of 1:10,000 across India have been completed. GIS based Decision Support System (DSS) platforms developed. So far, 21 applications across various domains are operational.

◉ Promotion of Digital Transactions

- ▶ Promotion of a digital payments ecosystem is a natural extension of the Digital India programme and has the potential to transform the economy by formalization of financial transactions.
- ▶ **Digital payments** allow for services to be delivered at a lower cost, afford greater scalability and enable small and micro enterprises to access formal financial services and benefits of e-commerce.
- ▶ A new educational channel '**DigiShala**' for creating awareness regarding various forms of electronic payment to citizens was launched in 2016. DigiShala is now also available on Dish TV in addition to DD Free Dish. The DigiShala is an education and non-commercial TV channel on DD Free Dish.
- ▶ The **BHIM App** was launched in **2016** and within a short span BHIM downloads have crossed 20 million with transactions worth around ₹ 3,000 crores. For promotion of BHIM app at merchant end, **Aadhaar Pay** under new name '**BHIM Aadhaar**' was also launched in 2017. A mission has been created under the name '**Digidhan Mission**' for creation of ecosystem for promotion of digital payments and transactions.
- ▶ **National Policy on Universal Electronic Accessibility (2013)** was formulated to break the barriers faced by differently abled persons by ensuring easy accessibility of electronics and ICT. Electronics and ICT can mitigate the barriers faced by differently abled persons as well as help them to participate independently in day-to-day life.

◉ e-Pramaan

- ▶ MeitY has conceptualized and is implementing the e-Pramaan framework for e-Authentication for public services.
- ▶ The objective is to electronically deliver the government services to its intended recipients in a secure manner, as well as to build citizens' trust in online environment, which is always prone to identity thefts and other associated risks.

- MeitY has made e-Pramaan available for public usage with the help of C-DAC, Mumbai. e-Pramaan is a centralized, standard based strong multi-factored authentication system which provides four factors for user authentication: password (text, image), one time password (SMS, email, mobile app), digital certificate (Indian CAs), and biometric (finger print, IRIS).

◉ **Online e-Sign (e-Hastakshar)**

- One of the initiatives taken under Digital India Programme is to provide non- repudiable authentication of applicant's identity through a facility called 'e- Sign'.
- This facility is an online digital signature service. e- Sign was formally launched in 2015.
- It is an online electronic signature service, which can be integrated with service delivery applications via an Application Programming Interface (API) to facilitate an e-Sign user to digitally sign a document.
- Using authentication of the Aadhaar holder through Aadhaar e-KYC service, online electronic signature service is facilitated.
- e-Sign service facilitates instant signing of documents online by citizens in a legally acceptable form.

◉ **e-Sangam**

- National Service Delivery Gateway (NSDG) It is a middleware infrastructure, being implemented by C-DAC Mumbai, acting as a standard based routing and message switch, which provides seamless interoperability and exchange of data across heterogeneous applications of geographically dispersed departments.
- e- Sangam also includes the National Services Directory.

◉ **National Knowledge Network**

- National Knowledge Network (NKN) was established in 2010. The objective of the NKN is to interconnect all institutions of higher learning and research with a high speed data communication network to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative research.
- Since its establishment, the NKN has developed progressively to ensure that Indian researchers excel and also lead international and global collaboration.
- NKN is the only network globally, that carries research and evaluation, Internet and e-Governance traffic as three independent verticals under one umbrella. NKN facilitates Digital India, as it is the backbone for all e-Governance initiatives in the country. In addition to educational Institutes, NKN connects all SDCs (State Data Centre), NDCs (National Data Centre), ministries and departments across the government.

◉ **UMANG**

- Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) has been developed and launched in 2017 as a single mobile platform to deliver major government services.
- UMANG's core platform is integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS), etc.
- Citizens can access pan India government services from the central government, state governments, local bodies and their agencies. It supports 12 Indian languages, in addition to English and has been hosted on cloud.
- UMANG aims to bring power to the finger tips of citizens.

◉ Digital Locker

- ▶ Targeted at the idea of paperless governance, Digital Locker is a platform for issuance and verification of documents and certificates in a digital way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents. Indian residents, who sign up for a DigiLocker account, get a dedicated cloud storage space.
- ▶ Organisations that are registered with Digital Locker can push electronic copies of documents and certificates (e.g. driving license, school certificates) directly into citizens' lockers.
- ▶ Citizens can also upload scanned copies of their legacy documents in their accounts. These legacy documents can be electronically signed using the eSign facility.

◉ PRAGATI

- ▶ PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) As a part of Digital India programme, e-Governance Reforming Government through Technology, was launched in 2015.
- ▶ This video conferencing facility brings the secretaries to government of India and the chief secretaries of the states on single platform on every fourth wednesday of the month, through which Prime Minister is able to discuss the issues in major projects and programmes with the concerned central and state officials directly with full information and latest visuals of the ground level situation.
- ▶ This enables faster implementation of central level schemes/projects, state level projects and resolution of grievances between state and central level departments.

◉ Direct Benefit Transfer

- ▶ The Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) programme envisages a switch from the present electronic transfer to bank accounts of the beneficiary to transfer of benefits directly to Aadhaar seeded bank accounts of the beneficiaries. The scheme is being headed by DBT Mission. Under the DBT Mission, DBT Cell is to be constituted in each ministry.

◉ e-Way Bill

- ▶ e-Way Bill Application, provides a self-service platform to tax payers and transporters to generate single e-Way Bill for movement of goods from one place to another, as per GST Rules. Following implementation of GST, a need was felt to further improve the trade facilitation as well as to strengthen the existing tax collection measures. In order to fulfill these objectives, the e-Way Bill system was rolled out all over the country.

◉ Cyber Security

- ▶ Millions of people in the country (both in rural and urban areas) rely on the services and information available in cyber space. As the quantity and value of electronic information has increased, so too have the business models and efforts of criminals and other adversaries who have embraced cyber space as a more convenient and profitable way of carrying out their activities anonymously. Hence, security of cyber space has become an important part of the national agenda.
- ▶ Considering its vital importance, a **National Cyber Security Policy, 2013** was put in place. It is aimed at building a secure and resilient cyber space for citizens, businesses and government, by way of actions to protect information and information infrastructure in cyber space, build capabilities to prevent and respond to cyber threats, reduce vulnerabilities and minimize damage from cyber incidents through a combination of institutional structures, people, processes, technology and cooperation.

- **National Cyber Co-ordination Centre (NCCC)** is being set-up with an aim to generate cyber security situational awareness to anticipate and prepare for cyber attacks. NCCC will aggregate cyber threat related information from various identified sources in the country for near real time threat assessment and situational awareness that will help in analysis and generation of timely alerts and periodic reports. This initiative is expected to help in securing the cyber space and strengthening the cyber security posture in the country by leveraging the expertise of people, deploying standard processes and sharing of resources.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra:** Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has launched a Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). This centre is providing detection of malicious programmes and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.

◉ **Unique Identification Authority of India**

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was established in 2009, as an attached office to the Planning Commission now an attached office of Ministry of Electronics and IT with a vision, "To empower residents of India with a unique identity and a digital platform to authenticate anytime, anywhere".
- A key objective of Aadhaar programme is to provide an identity infrastructure for delivery of various social welfare programmes and for effective targeting of welfare services.
- The potential of Aadhaar can be realized through its use of the infrastructure as an ID proof and as a unique key by various state departments, central ministries, PSUs, and private sector entities to provide service delivery to residents in an integrated fashion.

◉ **Cyber Appellate Tribunal**

- In accordance with the provision contained under Section 48(1) of the IT Act 2000, the Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal (CRAT) was established in 2006. As per the IT Act, any person aggrieved by an order made by the Controller of Certifying Authorities or by an Adjudicating Officer under the Act can appeal before the Cyber Appellate Tribunal (CAT).

◉ **National Informatics Centre**

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976, and has since emerged as a "prime builder" of e-government/e-governance applications up to the grassroot level as well as a promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development. NIC, through its ICT network, "NICNET", has institutional linkages with all the ministries/departments of the central government, 36 state governments/union territories, and about 650+ district administrations of India.
- NIC has been instrumental in steering e-government/e-governance applications in government ministries/departments at the centre, states, districts and blocks, facilitating improvement in government services, wider transparency, promoting decentralized planning and management.

◉ **Software Technology Parks**

- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) was set up in 1991 as an autonomous society under the MeitY. STPI's main objective has been the promotion of software exports from the country. It acts as single-window in providing services to the software exporters.
- STPI is responsible for implementation of the Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme and the Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP) scheme.

◉ **Media Lab Asia**

- Media Lab Asia has been promoted by this Ministry as a not-for-profit company.
- The objective of the company was set to bring the benefits of ICT to the common man.

- The functional activity includes application areas such as ICT for healthcare, education, livelihood and empowerment of disabled.

◉ **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team**

- Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is a **functional organisation of the Ministry**, which has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 **to serve as the national agency to perform the following functions in the area of cyber security: collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber security incidents; forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents;** emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents; coordination of cyber security incident response activities, issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and white papers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents, etc.

◉ **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing**

- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has **emerged as a premier R&D organization in IT&E (Information Technologies and Electronics) in the country working on strengthening national technological capabilities** in the context of global developments in the field and responding to change in the market in selected foundation areas.
- As an institution for high-end Research and Development (R&D), C-DAC has been at the forefront of the information technology revolution, constantly building capacities in emerging/enabling technologies and innovating and leveraging its expertise, caliber, skill sets to develop and deploy IT products and solutions for different sectors of the economy.



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9

Defence

THE Government of India is responsible for ensuring the defence of the country and every part thereof through the **Ministry of Defence (MoD) which provides the policy framework and where-withal to the Armed Forces to discharge their responsibilities towards this.**

- ▶ MoD was created after independence under a Cabinet Minister. Each Service was placed under its own Commander-in-Chief. In 1955, the Commanders-in-Chief were renamed as the Chief of the Army Staff, the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff.
- ▶ A Department of Defence Production was set up in 1962 to deal with research, development and production of defence equipment. A Department of Defence Supplies was created in 1965 for planning and execution of schemes for import substitution of defence requirements. These two departments were later merged to form the **Department of Defence Production and Supplies.**
- ▶ In 2004, the name of Department of Defence Production and Supplies was changed to Department of Defence Production. In 1980, the Department of Defence Research and Development was created while the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare was formed in 2004.
- ▶ A post of **Chief of Defence Staff** was created in 2019
- ▶ **India's Foreign Policy and Defence Strategy:** India continues to address the wide spectrum of conventional and non conventional security challenges by pursuing constructive engagement with partner countries at the bilateral, regional and global levels. Terrorism and radicalisation are the biggest threats to peace and security globally. India has reiterated, at a number of bilateral and multilateral platforms, its resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

◉ Regional Security Environment

- ▶ India's defence and security policy is a function of its principled commitment to regional and international peace and prosperity.
- ▶ The regional cooperation in the area of regional security has progressed significantly under Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
- ▶ The 4th BIMSTEC Summit, held in Kathmandu in 2018, was instrumental in giving regional cooperation a significant push. The **Kathmandu Declaration** provides vision and leaders' directions for intensifying regional cooperation in key areas of security and counter terrorism, disaster management, connectivity and trade, agriculture and poverty alleviation, S&T, culture, tourism and people-to-people contacts, among others.
- ▶ India has been contributing to the **regional maritime security** by launching **an Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram in 2018.** The IFC- IOR is a major initiative to put in place a mechanism for MDA and to ensure situational awareness of the maritime activities in the region.
- ▶ India's security concerns are closely linked with the neighbouring littoral nations in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) including Maldives. Engagement between the defence forces of both the nations have enhanced over the years. India continues to assist Maldives National Defence Forces in

their capability and capacity building. Bilateral exercises between the Army (**Ekuverin**), Navy (**Ekatha**) and Coast Guard (**Dosti**) of the two countries take place on an annual basis.

- ▶ Nepal: The 13th edition of India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise '**Surya Kiran**' was held in 2018.
- ▶ India-Sri Lanka relations have improved significantly especially in the field of defence and security matters. The armies of India and Sri Lanka held their sixth annual '**Mitra Shakti**' military exercise.
- ▶ The country's new Indian Ocean Policy was articulated by Prime Minister during his visit to Mauritius in March 2015. The policy, encapsulated in **SAGAR** (meaning ocean) which stands for "**Security and Growth for All in the Region**", includes deepening economic and security cooperation with our friends in the region, especially our maritime neighbours and island states and favours collective action and cooperation for peace and security in India's maritime region. In the Indian Ocean Region,
- ▶ Indo-US partnership is on a positive trajectory with India been designated 'Major Defence Partner' in **National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA-17)** and has been upgraded to **Strategic Authorisation Act-1** Status (STA-1) equating India at par with the closest allies of US.

◉ Ministry of Defence

- ▶ The principal task of the Ministry is to frame policy directions on defence and security related matters and communicate them for implementation to the services headquarters, inter-service organisations, production establishments and research and development organisations. It is required to ensure effective implementation of the government's policy directions and the execution of approved programmes within the allocated resources.

◉ Indian Army (IA)

- ▶ Indian Army is poised for major modernization in the next few years. With its extensive range of equipment spanning a vast technological spread, it is a key entity in facilitating the '**Make in India**' pursuit, a success.
- ▶ Technology, being a major driver in the evolution of the present character of conflict, shall shape the contours of future battles. Considering the dynamic and unpredictable nature of future warfare, it is prudent to enhance the lethality, survivability, mobility, situational awareness and sustainability of the Army. The Indian Army is pursuing technological infusion into war fighting through a well articulated long term perspective planning process.
- ▶ **Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:** Despite operational and internal security commitments, the Indian Army has been significantly contributing to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions and is the second largest troops contributor in various UN missions. Currently, four UN Peace Keeping missions' contingents of India are deployed around the world. Since 1950, Indian Army has participated in 51 UN missions out of the total of 71 UN missions, across the globe.
- ▶ **Operation Sadbhavna:** The Army undertakes a unique human initiative in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to address the aspirations of people affected by terrorism.

◉ Indian Navy (IN)

- ▶ The purpose of navy is to safeguard the nation's use of seas for its legitimate sovereign purpose, whilst concurrently guarding against inimical use of the sea by others.
- ▶ The main roles that Indian Navy undertakes are - military, diplomatic, constabulary and benign.
- ▶ **Military Role :** The primary military objective of the IN is to deter any military adventurism against the country, including intervention in India's affairs and subversive strategies against the national interests and the ability to inflict a crushing defeat on the adversary in the event of hostilities. The IN has also been designated as the agency responsible for overall **Maritime Security** including Coastal Security and Offshore Security.
- ▶ **Anti-Piracy Operations:** A large percentage of India's trade, including oil and fertilisers, pass through the Gulf of Aden (GoA). The safety and unhindered continuity of maritime trade, on this

route, is a primarily national concern as it directly impacts our economy. Piracy off the coast of Somalia had grown steadily over the years and had assumed alarming proportions in 2010 and 2011. There has been a noticeable decline in piracy since 2012.

- ▶ **Free Patrol:** In 2018, IN shifted from the 'Escort Cycle' concept, to a concept of 'Free Patrol'. The 'Free Patrol' in the GoA provided greater flexibility to the IN ship to respond to developing situations for anti-piracy mission.
- ▶ **Op Madad:** 'Op Madad' was conducted to provide search and rescue, and relief assistance in the flood affected areas of Kerala.
- ▶ **Cyclones Titli, Gaja, Phethai, Fani:** IN provided Humanitarian Assistance and disaster relief and SAR assistance including air dropping of food packets and of relief material at various locations, in coordination with the administrations of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

◉ Indian Air Force (IAF)

- ▶ The IAF has always encouraged development of indigenous defence production capability and capacities. Its quest for operating indigenously built platform and supporting self-reliance has resulted in significant progress on various systems in the IAF. The Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016 assigned highest preference to 'Make' and Buy (Indian- Indigenously Designed and Developed Manufacturer (IDDM)) categories. LCA Mk-1A, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), AWACS (India) and High Frequency Radio set are some of the cases being progressed through the IDDM route.
- ▶ **Make in India:** One of the main focus areas of the IAF is to support indigenization and manufacturing of defence equipment, thus reducing dependence on import of defence equipment. Light Combat Aircraft, Akash Missile, Advance Light Helicopters (ALH) have already been inducted, thus giving impetus to indigenisation. Further, IAF plans to induct more capable and potent LCA Mk- 1A in the future.
- ▶ IAF is also closely coordinating with DRDO for development of various types of state-of- art-weapons. Modernisation plan is being pursued to beef up the defence manufacturing base and the eco system. IAF has already identified series of defence equipment that can be manufactured under 'Make' category. MoD has been striving to include the private sector in production of defence equipment. Various projects under 'Strategic Partner' model will give impetus to 'Make in India' initiative. This will not only generate employment, enhance skill level but also assist in harnessing key technologies for growth of aerospace sector in the country.
- ▶ **Digital India Initiative:** IAF has established pan IAF captive 3 G WCDMA Mobile Network AFCEL. The network has been fully operational with voice call and data services. In- house initiatives have also seen development of the apps like: Instant Messaging App (AFCHAT); IAF Directory Search App; Conference Scheduler App; Caller- IDApp; Air Force Central Accounts Office (AFCAO) App and Website; Med Watch App.
- ▶ **Women Empowerment:** Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh created history in 2016 by becoming the first women pilots to be commissioned into the fighter stream. These women pilots, now Flying Officers, have been posted to MiG-2 Bison and Hawk units as Sqn Pilots on successful completion of their fighter flying training.

◉ Commissioned Ranks

- ▶ The following are the commissioned ranks in the three Services; each rank is shown opposite its equivalent in the other Service:

Army	Navy	Air Force
General	Admiral	Air Chief Marshal
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral	Air Marshal

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

◉ Indian Coast Guard

- ▶ Indian Coast Guard was constituted in 1977 with following charter of duties:
 - safety and protection of artificial islands, offshore terminals and installations;
 - protection to fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress;
 - preserve and protect maritime environment and to prevent and control marine pollution;
 - assisting Customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations;
 - safety of life and property at sea and collection of scientific data;
 - enforcing the provisions of various enactments in the maritime zones.
- ▶ The Indian Coast Guard has also been given many additional responsibilities. The major among them are: (a) coastal security in territorial waters; (b) enforcement, monitoring and surveillance of deep sea fishing; (c) search and rescue for merchant ships; (d) marine oil-spill response measures; (e) lead intelligence agency for coastal and sea borders, etc.

◉ Training Institutions

- ▶ **National Defence College:** The National Defence College is a premier training institution of the Ministry of Defence established as a centre of excellence on matters pertaining to National Security and Strategic Studies.
- ▶ **College of Defence Management:** The College of Defence Management (CDM) is the only tri-service training institution in the country which imparts defence management education to senior officers of the three services, para military forces, officers of the Ministry of Defence and international participants at the conceptual, directional and the functional levels.
- ▶ **National Defence Academy:** National Defence Academy (NDA) is a premier tri-service institution which trains cadets of all three services before inducting them into their respective pre-commissioning training academies. Intake to NDA is organised through UPSC examination which is conducted twice in a year in the month of April and September.
- ▶ **Indian Military Academy:** Founded in 1932, Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun aims at the fullest development of intellectual, moral and physical qualities of persons joining the Army as officers.
- ▶ **Officers Training Academy:** Established in 1963, the Officers Training School (OTS) was re-designated as Officers Training Academy (OTA) from 1988 on completion of 25 years of its

existence. Its main task, before 1965 was to train Gentlemen Cadets for grant of Emergency Commission.

◉ National Cadet Corps

- ▶ The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was established in 1948 as an Indian military cadet corps. It is a organization open to school and college students.
- ▶ The NCC strives to provide the youth of the country opportunities for all round development with a sense of commitment, dedication, self-discipline and moral values, so that they become responsible citizens and can take their place in all walks of life in the service of the nation.
- ▶ The **motto of NCC is 'Unity and Discipline'**.

◉ Sainik Schools

- ▶ The Sainik Schools were established as a joint venture of the central and state government. These are under the overall governance of Sainik Schools Society.
- ▶ At present, there are 26 Sainik Schools located in various parts of the country.
- ▶ The objectives of Sainik Schools include bringing quality public school education within the reach of the common man, all round development of a child's personality and to remove regional imbalance in the officer's cadre of the Armed Forces.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION

- ▶ **Department of Defence Production** was set up in **1962** with the objective of developing and promoting the industrial base for production of weapons, equipment, platforms and materials required by armed forces for defence of the country.
- ▶ Department has established wide range of production facilities for various defence equipment through the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
- ▶ **Ordnance Factories:** The Indian Ordnance Factories organisation - a family of 41 ordnance factories under the aegis of its corporate headquarters Ordnance Factory Board, Kolkata - possesses the unique distinction of over 200 year experience in defence production. The organisation is engaged in production, testing, logistics, research, development and marketing of a comprehensive product range in the area of land, sea and air systems.

◉ Defence Undertakings

- ▶ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), established in 1940, is a premier aeronautical Company of Asia. HAL, a **Navratna** DPSU with 20 production Divisions and 11 R&D centers spread across the country in nine geographical locations. HAL's expertise encompasses Design and Development, production, repair, overhaul and upgrade of Aircraft, Helicopters, Aero-engines, Accessories, Avionics and Systems.
- ▶ **Bharat Electronics Limited:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) a **Navaratna** PSU, was established in 1954. BEL has nine manufacturing units across India. The company has core competency in areas of Defence Communications, Radars & Missile Systems, Sonars & Fire Control Systems, Electronic Warfare and Avionics Systems, Network Centric Systems, Electro-Optics, Tank Electronics, Home Land Security etc.
- ▶ **BEML Limited:** Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), incorporated in 1964, is a Mini-Ratna (Category-I) Public Sector Undertaking, under the Ministry of Defence engaged in the design, development, manufacturing and after-sales - service of a wide range of products for core sectors of economy such as coal, mining, steel, cement, power, irrigation, construction, road building, Defence, Railway and Metro transportation system and Aerospace.
- ▶ **Bharat Dynamics Limited:** Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) a Mini Ratna Category-I Company was incorporated in 1970 under the Ministry of Defence. A pioneer in the manufacture of Anti-

Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM), today, BDL has evolved as a conglomerate manufacturing ATGMs of latest generations, Surface-to-Air weapon systems, strategic weapons, launchers, underwater weapons, decoys and test equipment.

- ▶ **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) is a leading Defence PSU established as public limited company in 1934. The Company was taken over by the Government of India in 1960 with the aim of building indigenous warships. MDL has built and delivered various types of warships like destroyers, frigates, missile corvettes, missile boats and submarines besides commercial vessels and rigs/platforms for ONGC.
- ▶ **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), a Mini Ratna Category-I Company was incorporated as a Defence PSU in 1960. Over the years, GRSE has established well proven capabilities for in-house ship design/ shipbuilding and has made significant contribution to the success of the indigenous warship construction programme. It has emerged as a leading shipyard, building a wide array of vessels, from the state-of-the-art fast attack crafts to world class stealth frigates. Apart from shipbuilding and ship repair, GRSE has also diversified into engineering business with product profile of diesel engines, various deck machinery and pre- fabricated steel bridges.
- ▶ **Goa Shipyard Limited:** Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) is a Mini Ratna Group - I status company and is capable of indigenously designing and building high technology and sophisticated ships to meet the crucial maritime security needs of the country.
- ▶ **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd:** Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) was set up originally in 1941 by Seth Walchand Herachand to promote indigenous shipbuilding industry. The shipyard was transferred to Ministry of Defence in 2010.
- ▶ **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd:** Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) was set up in the early 1970s' initially to manufacture critical materials required in the strategic sectors of India's defence industry.

◉ Research and Development

- ▶ **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is the research and development arm of the Ministry of Defence. **It was created in 1958 by merging the units of Defence Science Organisation**, which was set up in 1948 to advise and assist the Defence Services on scientific problems and to undertake research in areas related to defence, with the then existing Technical Development Establishments of the three Services. Subsequently, a separate Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) was formed in 1980 to improve administrative efficiency. Starting from a cluster of about 10 laboratories in 1958, DRDO today has 46 laboratories which are spread far and wide; from Tezpur in the east to Mumbai in the west, from Leh in the north to Kochi in the south.
- ▶ DRDO is headed by the Scientific Adviser to Defence Ministry who is also the Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development and Director General R&D. Based on the R&D work carried out by the 46 laboratories of DRDO, they are grouped into seven technology clusters namely, Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE), Aeronautical Systems (AERO), Missiles and Strategic Systems (MSS), Naval Systems and Materials (NS and M), Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS), Micro Electronic Devices and Computational Systems (MED and CoS) and Life Sciences (LS).

◉ Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen

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

◉ Kendriya Sainik Board

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

◉ **Defence Pensions**

- ▶ Pension to approximately 32 lakh Defence pensioners/family pensioners is disbursed through 21 public sector banks, 3 private sector banks, 308 treasuries, 64 Defence Pension Disbursing Offices (DPDOs), 1 post office, 5 Pay and Accounts Offices (PAOs) scattered all over India. For the Armed Forces Pensioners residing in Nepal, disbursement of pension is done through 3 Pension Payment Offices (PPOs).

10

Education

Education plays important role in Human resources development. It also plays a significant and remedial role in balancing the socio-economic fabric of the country. Citizens of India are most valuable resource. 1.35 billion-strong nation needs the nurture and care in the form of basic education to achieve a better quality of life. This can be achieved by building strong foundations in education.

- ▶ Good quality education is the **foundation of new discoveries, new knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship that trigger growth and prosperity** of the individual as well as that of a nation.
- ▶ For this, **we need to make our curriculum and pedagogy relevant to the needs of our society and economy and nurture qualities** of problem solving and creative thinking, learning-by-doing, greater engagement with the live context, and confident self-expression from a young age.

Currently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development works through two departments: Department of School Education and Literacy and Department of Higher Education.

◉ Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

- ▶ **Article 21-A** of the Constitution of India and its consequent legislation, **the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** became operative in the country in 2010.
- ▶ The RTE Act confers the right to elementary education on all children, in the age group of 6-14 years, on the basis of equality of opportunity in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.
- ▶ All States and UTs have notified their State RTE Rules. The centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports states and UTs in their efforts to implement the RTE Act.
- ▶ Its **interventions include, inter alia, opening of new schools, construction of schools and additional classrooms, constructing toilets and drinking water facilities, provisioning for teachers, in-service training for teachers** and academic resource support, free textbooks and uniforms, support for improving learning achievement levels, research, evaluation and monitoring.

■ Programme Interventions:

▶ Universal Access:

The **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** is being implemented since 2001 for universalization of elementary education. It achieved progress in universal access and equity.

- **New Schools:** Progress in achieving the goal of universal access under SSA has been consistent over the years. Over the years 2,04,740 primary schools have been sanctioned alongwith 1,59,415 upper primary schools have been sanctioned in a radius of 3 km.

- **Special Training for mainstreaming out-of-school children:** The RTE Act makes a specific provision for Special Training for age-appropriate admission for out-of-school children.
- **Residential facilities:** SSA has a provision for residential facilities in sparsely populated or hilly and densely forested areas with difficult geographical terrains and in densely populated urban areas.
- **Transportation or Escort facilities:** These facilities are available for children in remote habitations with sparse populations or in urban areas where availability of land is a problem or children belonging to extremely deprived groups or children with special needs.
- **Uniforms:** SSA provides two sets of uniform to all girls, SC, ST children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children.

► **Bridging Gender Gaps in Elementary Education:**

- **Girls Education:** RTE-SSA provides a clear thrust and special focus on education for girls and children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections.
- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV):** KGBV are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC, Muslim communities and BPL girls. **KGBVs are set up in educationally backward blocks where schools are at great distances** and are a challenge to their security of girls. KGBVs reach out to adolescent girls who are unable to go to regular schools to out of school girls in the 10+ age group who are unable to complete primary school and younger girls of migratory populations in difficult areas of scattered habitations that do not qualify for primary/upper primary schools. **KGBVs provide for a minimum reservation of 75% seats for girls from SC/ST/OBC and minorities and 25% to girls from families that live below the poverty line.**
- **Removal of Gender Bias:** Most of the states have incorporated the gender sensitization in their regular School Management Committee (SMC) training modules to deal with issues such as enrolment, retention and completion of education of girls.
- **Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education:** Department of School Education and Literacy has prepared a Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education in the country on its website. The tool, which has been **developed with the support of UNICEF**, will help identify low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalized groups, on specific gender related education indicators.
- **Separate Girls' Toilets:** Under SSA, the requirement of school infrastructure facilities including toilets and drinking water are worked out by the state based on need at school/village/block and district level. All new schools sanctioned under SSA are composite schools with facilities for boys and girls.

► **Inclusive Education**

- **SCs/STs and Muslims:** Enrolment of **SC children** has gone up from **19.06% in 2010-11 to 19.8% in 2015-16 at the elementary level** which is more than their share in the population at 16.60% (as per Census 2011). Enrolment of **ST children has marginally gone down** from **10.70% in 2010-11 to 10.35% in 2015-16 at the elementary level** which is more than their share of the population at 8.60% (as per census 2011). **Enrolment of Muslim children has grown up from 12.50% in 2010-11 to 13.8% in 2015-16 at the elementary level** which is slightly less than their share in population (14.2% as per Census 2011).
- **Children with Special Needs:** RTE-SSA seeks to ensure that every child with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category, and degree of disability, is provided a meaningful and quality education.
- **Textbooks for Children:** All children are provided free textbooks up to class VIII.

■ Sub-Programmes under SSA

- **The Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat (PBBB)**, a sub-programme of the SSA, in **classes I and II are focusing on foundational learning in early grades** with an emphasis on reading, writing, and comprehension and mathematics.
- **The Rashtriya Aavishkar Abhiyan (RAA)**, aims to motivate and engage children of the **age group 6-18 years, in science, mathematics, and technology** by observation, experimentation, inference drawing, and model building, through both inside and outside classroom activities.
- **Vidyanjali** was launched **to enhance community and private sector involvement in Government run elementary schools across the country**. The programme aims to strengthen the implementation of co-scholastic activities in government schools through the services of volunteers.
- **ShaGun portal** - an Initiative to monitor the implementation of SSA. It was developed by the MHRD. It aims to capture and showcase innovations and progress in the elementary education sector through continuous monitoring. ShaGun, which has been coined from the **words 'Shala' meaning schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning quality**, has been developed with a **twin-track approach**. It has an online monitoring module to measure state-level performance and progress against key educational indicators.

■ Teacher Training

- **Availability of Teachers:** After RTE it is mandatory that only those people may be appointed as teachers who can clear Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).
- **In-service Teacher Training:** To upgrade the skills of teachers, SSA provides for **annual in-service training up to 20 days for all teachers**. Support of **₹ 6,000 per teacher per year is provided for two years to untrained teachers, already employed for the NCTE recognized training programme**. Apart from this induction training for 30 days is given to freshly trained recruits.
- **Training of Headmasters:** To orient, the teachers in managerial skills the heads of the schools are provided **training for 10 days in academic financial and human resource management**.
- **Distance Education Programmes for Teachers:** Capacity building of institutions and personnel at the national, state, district, and sub-district levels is being facilitated with the assistance of IGNOU and other teacher education institutions in different states.

■ Academic Support System

- **Academic Support Structures:** Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) have been set up across the country as resource centers in each block and cluster, **to provide decentralized academic support, training, and supervision to teachers and schools**.
- **School and Teacher Grants:** SSA also provides annual teacher grants of ₹500 to all teachers for developing **contextual teaching aids**. DIETs and BRCs hold regular workshops and training programmes to develop subjects and topics **related to low-cost teaching aids**.
- **Computer-aided learning:** Under SSA, grant up to ₹ 50 lakh is available to each district for strengthening computer-aided learning in schools to support the enhancement of children's learning.
- **Learning Enhancement Programmes:** 2% of the total SSA outlay for each district has been made available for 'Learning Enhancement Programmes' that aims specifically at improving the quality of learning processes and learning outcomes.
- **Improving student learning outcomes:** The impact of various quality interventions of SSA are reflected in the enhancement of children's learning levels. **Improving student learning outcomes has been the key component of SSA.**

■ Infrastructure

- RTE-SSA provides flexibility to states in the execution of civil works. Neither designs nor unit costs are centrally prescribed. The 'civil works' under SSA are undertaken **to provide all-weather buildings as per the provision of the RTE Act**. RTE-SSA also supports repair of old school buildings, provision of school buildings in respect of building less, dilapidated schools and retrofitting of school buildings to make them hazard resistant.

■ School Management Committees and Community Participation

- SSA has always acknowledged the importance of 'community ownership' about the effective functioning of government schools. As per norms, **it has been made mandatory for the schools to constitute School Management Committees (SMC)** wherein the parents/guardians of students studying in the respective school are the members.

■ Monitoring Institutes

- Institutions, including university departments of education, social science, and institutes of national stature have been assigned the work of periodic monitoring of SSA implementation in states and UTs. These monitoring institutes are required to make field visits and report on the progress of SSA at the ground level **every six months. This cycle is repeated every two years.**

■ Admissions under Section 12(1) (c) of the RTE Act

- Section 12(1) (c) mandates **all private unaided schools and special category schools to reserve a minimum of 25% of seats for economically weaker sections**. Under the SSA, the Government of India will reimburse the state expenditure towards 25% admissions to private unaided schools, based on per child cost norms notified by the state government, subject to a maximum ceiling of 20% of the size of the SSA annual work plan and budget.

○ Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

It was launched in 2009 **to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality**. The scheme envisages enhancing the enrolment at the secondary stage by providing a secondary school with a reasonable distance of habitation, **to ensure GER of 100% and universal retention by 2020**. Some of the significant initiatives, under RMSA for improving quality of education are:-

- ▶ **Shaala Siddhi:** School Standards and Evaluation Framework and its web portal were launched in 2015. It is a comprehensive instrument for **school evaluation leading to school improvement**. **Developed by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)**, it aims to enable schools to evaluate their performance in a more focused and strategic manner and facilitate them to make professional judgments for improvement.
- ▶ **Shala Darpan:** It is to cover all the 1099 Kendriya Vidyalayas that was launched in June 2015. The objective of this project is to provide services based on school management systems to students, parents, and communities.
- ▶ **GIS Mapping:** To ensure universal access to schools including secondary schools within a reasonable distance of any habitation and without any discrimination, the geographic coordinates of the school along with the school information available in UDISE are being uploaded on the school GIS Web-enabled platform. All states have conducted GIS mapping and shared geographical coordinates of schools with the NIC except Jammu and Kashmir.
- ▶ **National Achievement Survey for Class X:** It was undertaken for the first time by MHRD. The survey investigates student achievement in five subjects: English, mathematics, social science, science, and modern Indian language.
- ▶ **Kala Utsav:** It is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to promote arts (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and crafts) in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at secondary stage in the country, and it is also a platform to bring arts to the centre stage in an inclusive environment.

- **Focus on Science and Maths: Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan launched in 2015:** Under this, training of 1.04 lakh science and maths teachers, math and science kit, excursion trip to science centres and museum for students, special teaching on science and maths, science exhibition at the district level, the teaching of Vedic maths, etc., were included under RMSA.
- **National Award For Teachers using ICT For Innovation In Education:** Under the ICT in schools, to promote computer-enabled learning and usage of ICT in teaching in government and government-aided secondary and higher secondary schools has provision for instituting a national award for innovative use of ICT to motivate the teachers and teacher educators for innovative use of ICT in teaching-learning.

◉ **Samagra Shiksha**

- **The Department of School Education & Literacy launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education- Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19.** It envisages 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- Preference is to be given to **Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), Special Focus Districts (SFDs), border areas, and the aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog.** Allocation for uniforms has been enhanced from ₹150/250 to 250/400 per child per annum.

◉ **National Achievement Survey (NAS)**

- It has assessed the learning levels of the students in classes 3, 5, 8, and 10. The Post NAS Interventions (2018-19) were initiated to reach out to all the districts in the different states. The learning gaps identified were used to provide feedback to the districts.

◉ **e-Pathshala**

- NCERT books are available free in the digital version on the e-Pathshala app.

◉ **Pariksha Pe Charcha**

- **Prime Minister's Interaction Programme with school and college students "Pariksha Pe Charcha"** was held in 2018. It was a 'Town Hall' event which was unique in itself and was planned for the first time wherein the Prime Minister was interacting Live with school and college students through web interaction across the country. Written questions were invited from the students for the programme on the MyGov platform.

◉ **Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education**

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** that was revised in 2014 to align it with **the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) into which the NVEQF has been assimilated.** The scheme has been subsumed under Integrated **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.**
- The revised scheme while introducing vocational education at the secondary level, **seeks to integrate vocational education with general education and provide horizontal and vertical mobility to the students.**

◉ **Construction and Running of Girls' Hostel**

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for girl students of secondary and higher secondary schools was launched in 2008-09 and is being implemented from 2009-10 replacing the earlier NGO driven scheme. The Scheme was subsumed under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).
- The main objective of the hostel component of RMSA is to improve access and to retain the girl child in secondary and higher secondary classes (IX-XII).

- ▶ The girl students in the age group of 14-18 years studying in classes IX- to XII belonging to SC, ST, OBC, minority community, and BPL families form the target group of the Scheme.

◉ Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)

- ▶ It was launched in 2009-10 **replacing the earlier scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC)**. It was subsumed under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.
- ▶ The scheme aims to enable all students with disabilities, after completing eight years of elementary schooling, to pursue further four years of secondary schooling (classes IX to XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment. The scheme covers all children passing out of elementary school and studying at the secondary stage in government, local body and government-aided schools, **with one or more disabilities as defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act, (1995), and the National Trust Act (1999)**.

◉ Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Teacher Education

▶ Strengthening Teacher Education

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme was initiated in 1987 according to the formulation of the **National Policy of Education, 1986**. The scheme was revised for the 12th Five Year Plan.
- It aims to establish DIETs in all districts created up to 2011, strengthen existing Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and upgrade existing government secondary teacher education institutions into CTEs; strengthen existing Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs); up-grade Department of Education in Universities as IASEs; and establish block institutes of teacher education (BITEs) in identified SC/ST/minority concentration districts.

▶ Quality in Teacher Education

- **Creation of Separate Cadre:** 17-states/ UTs have created separate cadre for teacher educators under the TE- Scheme. States have also been asked to strengthen the cadre of teacher educators in their respective states/UTs.
- **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Regulations, 2014- Norms and Standards:** The NCTE was established to achieve planned and coordinated development of the teacher education system throughout the country, the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system, and for matters connected therewith.
- **Re-organizing/Restructuring of SCERT and Cadre Restructuring for Teacher Educators:** Under the CSS-Teacher Education 09 states have re-organized/restructured their SCERT in 2016.

◉ New Activities/Initiatives under CSSTE Scheme

- ▶ **India Teacher Education Portal (Prashikshak):** It was launched by the **Department of School Education and Literacy** in 2016. This portal is helpful in monitoring of teachers' education Institutions and in providing comprehensive information to prospective students and teachers to select the right institute as per choice.

◉ Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas

- ▶ **Ministry of Human Resource Development** emphasizes providing equal opportunities to minorities as far as access to education is concerned. For this purpose, the government is implementing the scheme for providing quality education in Madarsas (SPQEM) for the children of minorities.
- ▶ The Scheme assists with the appointment of teachers for teaching science, mathematics, social studies, languages, computer application, and science. Madarsas which **have been in existence at least for three years and registered under central or state government Acts or Madarsas Board or with Waqf Boards or NIOS are eligible to apply for assistance under this programme**.
- ▶ Training is to be arranged in groups for Madarsa teachers appointed under the scheme by SCERTs/ DIETs/BRCs. Madarsas to whom expenditure on account of honorarium of the teachers is met by

the state government will **not be eligible for salary component**. Madarsas receiving financial assistance **from any other state/central scheme will not be eligible for that component under this scheme**.

◉ Infrastructure Development for Minority Institutes

- ▶ The Scheme facilitates the education of minorities by strengthening school infrastructure in minority institutions. It covers the entire country. It is to fund infrastructure development of private aided/ unaided minority elementary/ secondary/senior secondary schools to the extent of 75% and subject to a maximum of ₹ 50 lakhs per school. **Organizations that are recognized by central or state governments are eligible to apply, should have been functioning for at least the last 3 years, and have a substantial enrolment of children from minorities. The scheme is implemented through the state governments and all requests for financial assistance are entertained by the state government in the prescribed application form.**

◉ National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

- ▶ It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2008 to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue study at secondary and higher secondary stage up to class XII.
- ▶ There is a quota of scholarships for different states/UTs. Students whose parental income **from all sources is not more than ₹ 1,50,000/- are eligible to avail of the scholarships**. There is reservation as per the state government norms. The selection of students for the scholarships is made through an examination conducted by the state governments.

◉ National Scheme of Incentive to Girls

- ▶ The centrally sponsored National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE) was launched in 2008 **to establish an enabling environment to reduce the drop-outs and to promote the enrolment of girl children belonging mainly to SC/ST communities in secondary schools.**
- ▶ According to the scheme, a sum of ₹ 3,000/- is deposited in the name of the **unmarried eligible girls as a fixed deposit on enrolment in class IX, who are entitled to withdraw it along with interest thereon on passing class XI and attaining 18 years of age.**
- ▶ The scheme covers:
 - All girls belonging to SC/ST communities, who pass VIII
 - All girls who pass VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (irrespective of whether they belong to SC/ST) and enroll in class IX in a state government, government-aided and local body schools.

◉ Implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer

- ▶ Two scholarship schemes of the Department of School Education and Literacy, viz., **National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), and National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE)** are covered under it.
- ▶ A **National Scholarship Portal (NSP)** has been made operational for **online submission of proposals/ list of beneficiaries by the state governments for NMMSS and NSIGSE.**

◉ Adult Education

- ▶ At the time of independence, 86% of India's population was illiterate and as such the main focus of adult education had been on its very bottom tier i.e., imparting of 'Basic literacy'. For the accomplishment of this objective, a series of programmes were introduced since the First Plan period,

the most prominent, being the **National Literacy Mission (NLM)**, launched in 1988 for the adults in the age group of 15+.

- ▶ The programme of National Literacy Mission was revamped in 2009 in alignment with new paradigms of lifelong learning as **Saakshar Bharat**. The overall goal of adult education is to establish a fully literate society through improved quality and standard of adult education and literacy.
- ▶ **The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA)** is the operating and implementing organization at the national level for all the activities envisaged in **Adult Education and Skill Development**.

◉ National Award to Teachers

- ▶ Instituted in 1958, the National Award to Teachers (NAT) is given away **by the President of India on 5th September (Teacher's Day) every year** to give public recognition to meritorious teachers working in primary, middle and secondary schools.
- ▶ From the award year 2001, 'Special Awards' have been instituted for teachers promoting inclusive education in **schools and the education of children with disabilities in regular schools**.

◉ Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

- ▶ The Scheme of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVS) (Central Schools) was approved in 1962 to provide uninterrupted education to the wards of transferrable central government employees. Consequently, **Central School Organization was started as a unit of the Ministry of Education (now Ministry of Human Resource Development)**.
- ▶ **It was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act in 1965**. The primary aim of the Sangathan is to provide, establish, endow, maintain, control, and manage the Central Schools (Kendriya Vidyalayas) located all over India and abroad. **The Government of India wholly finances the Sangathan**.

◉ Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

- ▶ The National Policy on Education, 1986, envisaged setting up of residential Navodaya schools to provide **excellence coupled with equity and social justice**. Consequent to this, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti was **registered as a Society, under the Society Registration Act, of 1860**, to establish Navodaya Vidyalayas to provide good quality modern education.

◉ National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

- ▶ It provides academic and technical supports for qualitative improvement of school education. **The NCERT was established in 1961 as an apex national body to lead qualitative changes in school education**. NCERT has been playing an **advisory role guiding central and state governments** in formulating policies, acts, and government programmes. It has played a crucial role in the development of national policies on education (1968-1986) and national curriculum frameworks.

◉ National Bal Bhavan

- ▶ It was established in 1956, **is an autonomous institution funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development**. National Bal Bhavan aims at enhancing the creative potential of children by providing them various activities, opportunities, and common platforms to interact, experiment, create and perform according to their age, aptitude, and ability. It offers a barrier-free environment with immense possibilities of innovation without any stress or strain.

◉ Central Board of Secondary Education

- ▶ It is a **Board of Education for public and private schools, under the Union Government**. Central Board of Secondary Education has asked all schools affiliated to **follow only the NCERT curriculum**.

◉ National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

- It is "Open School" to cater to the needs of a heterogeneous group of learners up to pre-degree level. It was started as a project with **in-built flexibilities by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in 1979**. The **Ministry of Human Resource Development set up the National Open School (NOS) in 1989**. In July 2002, the Ministry amended the nomenclature of the organisation from the **National Open School to the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)**.
- The NIOS provides opportunities to interested learners by making available through **open and distance learning (ODL) mode**.

◉ Mid-Day Meal Scheme

- It covers children of classes' I-VIII studying in government, government-aided schools, and special training centres (STC) and madrasas/ maqtabas **supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**. It is the largest school feeding programme in the world. Apart from **promoting access and retention**, it has also contributed to social and gender equity. **It has helped in preventing classroom hunger, promoting school participation, and fostering social equality and enhancing gender equality.**
- **Norms for Mid-Day Meal Scheme**
 - **Calorific Value of Mid-Day Meals:** The cooked mid day meal consists of 100 grams of wheat/rice, 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables and 5 grams of oil/fat and **provides 450 calories of energy and 12 grams of protein at primary stage**. For upper primary stage children, it consists of 150 grams of wheat/rice 30 grams of pulses, 75 grams of vegetables and 7.5 gram of oil/fat and **provides 700 calories of energy and 20 grams of proteins**.
 - **Cooking cost under MDM Scheme:** The cooking cost covers the expenditure for pulses, vegetables, cooking oils, condiments, fuel, etc. The rate of cooking cost from 2016 is ₹ 4.13 per child per day for primary and ₹ 6.18 per child per day for upper primary. The cooking cost is shared between the centre and the states in the ratio of 60:40. for non-NER states and UTs with legislature, 100 per cent for remaining UTs and 90:10 for NER states and 3 Himalayan states viz., Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand
- **Tithi Bhojan**
 - It is a concept designed **to ensure greater public participation under the Mid-Day Meal Programme** being followed in **Gujarat**. To bring in greater community participation, local communities are encouraged to celebrate important family events viz., the birth of a child, success in exam, the inauguration of the new house, etc., by contributing to the mid-day meal served in the local schools.
 - It is voluntarily served by the community/family among school children in several forms. The concept has been adopted by different states with local nomenclatures like **'SampritiBhojan' in Assam, 'Dham' in Himachal Pradesh, 'SnehBhojan' in Maharashtra, 'ShalegagiNaavuNeevu' in Karnataka, 'Anna Dhanam' in Puducherry, 'PritiBhoj' in Punjab and 'UtsavBhoj' in Rajasthan**.
- **Implementation of Automated Monitoring System**
 - **The Department of School Education and Literacy** has put in place an automated system of data collection for real-time monitoring of MDMS. Such data is being collected from schools with no cost to school headmaster and teachers. Under the automated monitoring system, states/ UTs are setting up a suitable system of data collection (i.e. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)/ SMS/mobile application/web application) from schools daily and using it for purpose of monitoring and timely follow-up action.
- **Cent percent Aadhaar Enrolment of Children**
 - The Department issued notification for enrolment of cent percent students in all schools. The use of Aadhaar identity document for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies simplify the

government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency. **Enrolment of children under Aadhaar would enable the elimination of the proxy enrolment and provide the benefits of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to the deserving children in a seamless manner.**

► Mid-Day Meal Rules

- The Mid-Day Meal Rules, (MDM) were notified under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**. The salient features of Mid-Day Meal Rules include:
 - ◆ Strengthen quality by making testing of food samples mandatory;
 - ◆ The enhanced role of school management committees in the supervision of MDM in school;
 - ◆ Supply of food-grains at NFSA rates of ₹ 3 per kg for rice and ₹ 2 per kg for wheat instead of BPL rates of ₹ 5.65 and ₹4.15 per kg respectively;
 - ◆ Food security allowance to be paid by the state government, if MDM is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food-grains, cooking cost, fuel or absence of cook-cum-helper or any other reason.

◉ Social Audit

- Social audit means the process in which people collectively monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of a programme or scheme. The social audit was conducted by **Society for Social Audit Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT) in two districts viz., Khammam and Chittoor of undivided Andhra Pradesh** during 2012-13.

◉ National Institutional Ranking Framework

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for educational institutions was launched to meet a felt **need for a framework that would enable parents, students, teachers, educational institutions and other stakeholders to rank institutions based on a set of objective parameters and a transparent process**. Developed by a team of experts in education and heads of institutions, the portal and the framework is presently available for engineering and management institutions.

◉ Impacting Research Innovation and Technology

■ Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth

A credit framework **Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY)** is now in place which **allows vertical and lateral mobility within the vocational education system and between the current education systems**. The strength of this framework is the seamless integration of the pursuit of academic knowledge and practical vocational skills.

■ Education Sector Skill Council

It was constituted in 2014, **to consider job roles other than academic faculties and teacher qualifications**. The functions of the SSC include **setting up of Labour Market Information System (LMIS)** to assist the planning and delivery of training, identification of skill development needs and preparing a catalog of skill types, develop skill development plan and maintain skill inventory developing skill competency standards and qualifications.

■ Yukti - Yogya Kalakritiki Takneek

Yukti aims **at skill development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood**. It aims at introducing appropriate designs and technology for innovation and pedagogical methods for introducing skills for upgradation.

◉ **SAKSHAM - a Scholarship for Differently-Abled Children**

It aims at **providing encouragement and support to differently-abled children to pursue technical education**. Scholarships amounting to ₹ 5 crores per annum as tuition fees and incidentals are to be provided to needy and meritorious students for pursuing technical education at AICTE approved institution. This is to help them to achieve their college goals, despite learning issues, environmental challenges, or medical bills.

◉ **Ishan Uday-for Students of North East Region**

The UGC launched a special scholarship scheme for students of the northeast region, Ishan Uday from the academic session 2014-15. The Scheme envisages grant of 10,000 scholarships to students from the region whose parental income is below ₹ 4.5 lakh per annum and would be provided scholarship ranging from ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 5,000 per month for studying at the undergraduate level in colleges/universities.

◉ **Ishan Vikas - Academic Exposure for North Eastern Students**

The programme has been launched with a **plan to bring selected college and school students from the northeastern states into close contact with IITs, NITs, and IISERs during their vacation periods** for academic exposure.

◉ **Women Leader**

Women appointed as chairpersons, the board of governors of apex technical education institutes, and in National Institutes of Technology (NITs). For the first time in the history of IITs, two women scientists were nominated on the IIT council.

◉ **Pragati**

- ▶ **Pragati (scholarship for girl students) - is a scheme of AICTE aimed at assisting in the advancement of girls' participation in technical education.**
- ▶ This is an attempt to allow every young woman to further her education and prepare for a successful future. Salient features of the scheme include the number of scholarships per annum: ₹ 4,000 'One Girl' per family, where the family income is less than ₹ 6 lakh per annum. The candidates will be selected on merit at the qualifying examination to pursue education from amongst such candidates.

◉ **Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Single Girl Child**

The drop-out ratio at various levels of education for girls is much higher than that of boys. Keeping Swami Vivekananda's ideas of women education and to promote girls' education, UGC has introduced the Swami Vivekananda Scholarship **for Single Girl Child for research in social sciences to compensate direct costs of higher education especially for such girls who happen to be the only girl child in their family.**

◉ **Know Your College**

It is a portal developed for helping a prospective student make a valued judgment for selection of college providing the necessary information about the college. Students can lodge online grievances on the portal for redressal. This application allows a student either in the country or outside to submit an online grievance.

◉ Campus Connect

The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) Scheme aims to leverage the potential of ICT for teaching and learning processes. The Mission has two major components: (a) content generation, (b) providing connectivity along with provision for access devices to the institutions and learners.

◉ National e-Library

The National Digital Library of India is envisaged as a national knowledge as set which will provide ubiquitous digital knowledge source. It will support and enhance education, research, and innovation catering to the needs of all types of learner groups over the country.

◉ Swayam - Study Webs of Active -Learning for Young Aspiring Minds

Swayam is a **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) initiative on a national platform with a comprehensive academic structure**. The integrated platform will offer courses covering engineering, humanities, and social sciences, etc., to be used by learners at large.

◉ Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN)

It aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs, internationally to encourage their engagement with the institutes of higher education in India to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform, and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence.

◉ Research Parks

The objective of the Research Parks is **to create a knowledge and innovation ecosystem through collaboration between industry and academia**. It will enable, encourage, and develop cutting edge technology and innovation that exceeds the global standard.

◉ Growing Aptitude in Numerical Innovations & Training (GANIT)

Growing Aptitude in Numerical Innovations and Training (GANIT) week in schools **affiliated to CBSE was organized to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan** and to actively promote the interest of students in mathematics.

◉ Copyright

The acquisition of copyright is automatic and it does not require any formality. Copyright comes into existence as soon as a work is created and no formality is required to be completed for acquiring it. **The Copyright Office** was established in 1958. It functions under the **administrative control of the Department of Higher Education**. It is headed by the **Registrar of Copyright, who has quasi-judicial powers** in handling cases relating to copyright. The main function of the Copyright Office is to undertake registration of copyright. The Register of Copyrights provides information regarding works of copyright to the general public. In addition to registration, facilities like inspection of the Register and taking extracts thereof are also available in the Copyright Office.

11

Energy

Energy is a key driver of economic growth. Efficient, reliable and affordable energy is essential for the sustainable development and inclusive growth of the overall economy. Due to rapid economic expansion, India has become world's fastest growing energy market. **India surpassed Russia to become the 3rd largest energy consumer in the world after China and USA during 2015.**

◉ Power

- ▶ Power development in India commenced at the end of the nineteenth century with the **commissioning of electricity supply in Darjeeling** during 1897, followed by the commissioning of a hydropower station at **Sivasamudram in Karnataka during 1902.**
- ▶ In the pre-Independence era, the power supply was mainly in the private sector, that too restricted to the urban areas. With the formation of State Electricity Boards during Five-Year Plans, a significant step was taken in bringing about a systematic growth of power supply industry all over the country
- ▶ The **Ministry of Power** is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country. (*Website : www.powermin.nic.in*)

The Ministry is concerned with perspective planning, policy formulation, processing of projects for investment decisions, monitoring of the implementation of power projects, training and manpower development and the administration and enactment of legislation with regard to thermal and hydro power generation, transmission and distribution.

In all technical matters, the Ministry of Power is assisted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

The construction and operation of generation and transmission projects in the Central Sector are entrusted to Central Sector Corporations, viz.,

- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
- National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)
- North-Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)
- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL). : Responsible for all the existing and future transmission projects in the central sector and also for the formation of the National Power Grid.
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC): Responsible for the execution of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project in Himachal Pradesh and projects of Tehri Hydro Power Complex in Uttarakhand respectively.
- **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)**, the Bhakra-Beas Management Board (BBMB) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE): These statutory bodies are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- Programmes of rural electrification are provided financial assistance by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

- **The Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provide term-finance to projects in the power sector.
- The autonomous bodies (societies), namely Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and the National Power Training Institute (NPTI) are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power. A Power Trading Corporation has also been incorporated primarily to support the Mega Power Projects in private sector by acting as a single entity to enter into Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

Power Generation: The total electricity generation including generation from a renewable sources during 2018-19 was 1,376.096 BU as against 1,308.146 BU during the last year, **registering a growth of 5.2 per cent.**

- ▶ **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana:** Government of India launched a new scheme namely Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) with the following objectives
 - to separate agriculture and non-agriculture feeders for judicious rostering of supply to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural areas;
 - strengthening and augmentation of sub transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas;
 - metering in rural areas (feeders, distribution transformers and consumers).
- ▶ **SAUBHAGYA—Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana:** To achieve universal household electrification in the country by March, 2019. The scope of the Scheme includes: providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas.
- ▶ **Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS):** In order to provide impetus to strengthening of power distribution sector in urban area, Ministry of Power, launched IPDS in 2014 with following components:
 - strengthening of sub- transmission and distribution network in urban areas;
 - metering of distribution transformers/feeders/consumers in urban areas;
 - IT enablement of distribution sector and strengthening of distribution network.
- ▶ **UDAY—Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana:** UDAY Scheme was launched in 2015 for a **sustainable solution to the operational and financial inefficiencies of DISCOMs** across the country, through targeted interventions in the form of lower interest costs, reduction of cost of power, increased revenues and improved operational efficiencies. **UDAY is voluntary scheme for participation and 26 states and 1 union territory have joined the scheme.**
- ▶ **Development of National Grid:** National power grid in the country is being developed in a phased manner. All five regional grids, namely northern region, western region, eastern region, northeastern region and southern region have been inter-connected in synchronous mode and total transfer capacity of inter-regional links in June, 2017 is about 75,050 MW.
- ▶ **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:** In order to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households especially in rural areas, the Government had launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide deposit free LPG connections to 8 crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
 - **The primary objective is to provide access to clean cooking fuel LPG to BPL households thereby protecting their health by reducing the serious health hazards associated with use of conventional cooking fuels** such as firewood, coal, cowdung, etc., which causes severe indoor household air pollution. So far, more than 5.55 crore BPL families have been benefited by this Scheme.
- ▶ **PAHAL:** Government, as a measure of Good Governance introduced **well targeted systems of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers** through PAHAL. This initiative was aimed at rationalizing subsidies based on approach to cut subsidy leakages, but not subsidies per se. Applicable subsidy is directly transferred into the bank account of the beneficiaries. PAHAL has entered into **Guinness book of World Record being largest Direct Benefit Transfer scheme.**

◉ **Petroleum and Natural Gas**

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** (*Website* : www.powermin.nic.in) is concerned with exploration and production of oil and natural gas (including import of liquefied natural gas), refining, distribution and marketing, import, export and conservation of petroleum products.
- **Oil and gas accounted for around 35 per cent share in India's energy consumption.** In fact, India surpassed Japan to become 3rd largest oil consumer in the world after US and China during 2015.
- **Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas:** The crude oil production for 2017-18 was at 35.68 million metric tonnes (MMT) as against production of 36.01 MMT in 2016-17, showing a marginal decline of about 0.9 per cent, Natural gas production during 2017-18 at 32.649 billion cubic meters (BCM) registered 2.35 per cent increase over production of 31.8970 BCM in 2016-17. The projected crude oil production in 2018-19 is 37.01 MMT. Crude oil production during April-December 2018 was at 25.94 MMT.
- **Refining Capacity:** Indian refinery industry has done well in establishing itself as a major player globally. **India, which is second largest refiner in Asia after China**, is emerging as a refinery hub with refining capacity exceeding demand. The country's refinery capacity was also increased.
- **Import of Crude Oil :** Import of crude oil during 2017-18 was 220.43 MMT valued at ₹ 5,65,951 crore as against import of 213.93 MMT valued at ₹ 4,70,159 crore in 2016-17 which marked an increase of 3.04 per cent in quantity terms and 20.37 per cent in value terms as compared to the import of crude oil during 2016-17.
- **Make in India :** To roll out Make in India campaign in oil and gas sector, a policy to provide purchase preference in all public sector undertakings under the Ministry was approved. The policy aims to encourage participation of domestic and overseas players in the domestic oil and gas sector, create employment opportunities, help higher value addition in the products manufactured in the country and services rendered for the oil and gas sector and reduce dependence on imports.
- **SAHAJ:** Sahaj was a digital initiative launched by oil marketing companies for release of LPG connection with online payment and issuance of 'e-SV' under the Digital India initiative and the facility is now available on pan India basis.
- **Energy Security:** The Government has taken number of key policy initiatives in upstream hydrocarbon sector to augment domestic production of oil and natural gas in the country. With a view to increase domestic production of oil and gas, the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy was notified for monetization of discovered small fields of ONGC and OIL, which had not been put into production. Under the policy 30 contract areas were awarded for development through International Competitive Bidding (ICB).
- **Pricing of Petroleum Products:** The Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) or cost plus pricing for petroleum products which was introduced in 1976 was abolished from 2002, consequent to the de-regulation of the oil sector in India. The Government notified that pricing of all petroleum products except PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, would be market determined. In 2006, **based on the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee, the government changed the pricing mechanism for petrol and diesel from import parity to trade parity** (trade parity being the weighted average of import parity and export parity prices in the ratio of 80:20) while the pricing of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG continues on import parity basis.
- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited:** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is a mega Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) with '**Navratna**' status. It has two refineries; one in Mumbai (west coast) having a capacity of 6.5 MMTPA and the other in Visakhapatnam (east coast) with a capacity of 8.3 MMTPA. These refineries are producing a wide variety of petroleum products-fuels, lubricants and specialty products.
- **Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL):** The setting up of GAIL, formerly known as Gas Authority of India Limited in 1984 heralded a new era of natural gas in the country. Starting as a natural gas transmission company, it is today an integrated energy company in the natural gas value chain with global footprints. Having started as a gas transmission company it grew organically over the years by building a large network of natural gas trunk pipelines covering a length of

over 8,700 km. Further, to strengthen position as India's premier integrated gas company, GAIL has set up LNG import infrastructure and will be focusing on areas like city gas distribution, petrochemicals business, diversifying into high margin downstream areas in gas value chain and creating a portfolio of renewable business.

- ▶ **Indian Oil Corporation Limited:** Indian Oil Corporation (Indian Oil) is India's flagship national oil company with business interests encompassing the entire hydrocarbon value chain- from refining, pipeline transportation and marketing of petroleum products to exploration and production of crude oil and gas, marketing of natural gas, petrochemicals, renewable energy and now into nuclear energy. The Indian Oil Group of companies own and operate 10 of India's 22 refineries with a combined refining capacity of 213.2 million metric tonnes per annum.
- ▶ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited:** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an integrated oil company, in the downstream sector, engaged in refining of crude oil and marketing of petroleum products. It has also diversified into production and marketing of petrochemical feedstock. BPCL has refineries at Mumbai and Kochi with a combined refining capacity of 21.5 MMTA.
- ▶ **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC):** Its engaged in exploration and production of crude oil, natural gas and value added products was incorporated in 1993 under Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to government's decision to transform the statutory commission into a Public Limited Company, through an Act of Parliament [Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal, Act, 1993)].
- ▶ **ONGC Videsh Limited:** ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), is engaged in exploration and production of oil and gas outside India. OVL was incorporated as Hydrocarbons India Limited in 1965 to perform international exploration and production business. The company was rechristened as ONGC Videsh Limited from 1989. It has participated either directly or through its wholly owned subsidiaries/joint venture companies in 30 projects in 15 countries of which nine projects are operated by OVL, 7 are jointly operated and 14 managed through participating interest. Currently, OVL has oil and gas production from 10 projects in eight countries, namely, Russia (Sakhalin-1 and Imperial Energy), Syria (Al-Furat Petroleum Co.), Vietnam (Block 06.1), Colombia (MECL), Sudan (Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company), South Sudan (Greater Pioneer Operating Company and Sudd Petroleum Operating Company), Venezuela (San Cristobal) and Brazil (BC-10).
- ▶ **Bharat Petro Resources Ltd:** Bharat Petro Resources Limited (BPRL), formed in 2006, is a wholly owned subsidiary and Exploration and Production (E&P) arm of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). While BPCL is engaged in the midstream and downstream segment in India, BPRL carries out upstream activities both in India and overseas.
- ▶ **Oil India Limited:** Oil India Limited (OIL), a Government of India enterprise, is engaged in the business of exploration, production and transportation of crude oil and natural gas. In 1959, Oil India Private Limited was incorporated to expand and develop the newly discovered oil fields of Naharkatiya and Moran in Assam.

◉ Coal

The **Ministry of Coal (MoC)** (*Website* : www.coal.nic.in) has the overall responsibility of determining policies and strategies in respect of exploration and development of coal and lignite reserves, sanctioning of important projects of high value and for deciding all related issues.

- ▶ These key functions are exercised through its public sector undertakings, namely Coal India Limited (CIL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a joint sector undertaking of Government of Telangana and Government of India with equity capital in the ratio of 51:49.
- ▶ **Coal Reserves:** 319.020 billion tonnes of coal reserves have been estimated by the Geological Survey of India. The reserves have been found mainly in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.
- ▶ **Lignite Reserves:** The lignite reserves in the country have been estimated at around 45.66 billion

tonnes by the Geological Survey of India. The major deposits are located in Tamil Nadu, followed by Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal and union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry.

- ▶ **Coal Production:** The overall production of coal for 2018-19 was projected at 730 MT. During 2018-19 the actual production was 730.25 MT compared to 675.40 MT during corresponding period of 2017-18 showing a growth of 8.1 per cent.
- ▶ **Coal India Limited:** Coal India Limited (CIL) is a '**Maha Ratna**' company under the Ministry of Coal, with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal. CIL is the single largest coal producing company in the world. CIL operates through 82 mining areas spread over eight provincial states of India. It has 429 mines of which 237 are underground, 166 opencast and 26 mixed mines. CIL is the apex body in coal industry under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal. Coal India is a holding company with seven wholly owned coal producing subsidiary companies and one mine planning and consultancy company. It encompasses the whole gamut of identification of coal reserves, detailed exploration followed by design and implementation and optimising operations for coal extraction in its mines.
- ▶ **Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited:** Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) was registered as a company in November 1956. The mining operations in Mine-I were formally inaugurated in 1957. Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been conferred with '**Navratna**' status since 2011. Its registered office at Chennai and corporate office at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu is a pioneer among the public sector undertakings in the energy sector.

◉ **New and Renewable Energy**

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) (*Website : www.nrre.gov.in*) is the nodal Ministry at the federal level for all matters relating to new and renewable energy.

- ▶ The Ministry has been facilitating the implementation of broad spectrum programmes including harnessing renewable power, renewable energy to rural areas for lighting, cooking and motive power, use of renewable energy in urban, industrial and commercial applications and development of alternate fuels and applications.
- ▶ **Indian Scenario:** Over the years, renewable energy sector in the country has emerged as a significant player in the grid connected power generation capacity. It supports the government agenda of sustainable growth, while, emerging as an integral part of the solution to meet the nation's energy needs and an essential player for energy access. It has been realized that renewable energy has to play a much deeper role in achieving energy security in the years ahead and be an integral part of the energy planning process. Renewable energy sector landscape in India has, during the last few years, witnessed tremendous changes in the policy framework with accelerated and ambitious plans to increase the contribution of solar energy. Enlarging the scope of the National Solar Mission symbolizes both, and indeed encapsulates the vision and ambition for the future.
- ▶ **Drivers for Development:** At present around **69.5 per cent of India's power generation capacity is based on coal**. In addition, there is an increasing dependence on imported oil, which is leading to imports of around 33 per cent of India's total energy needs. Despite increase in installed capacity by more than 113 times, India is still not in a position to meet its peak electricity demand as well as energy requirement. India faces a challenge to ensure availability of reliable and modern forms of energy for all its citizens. Almost 85 per cent of rural households depend on solid fuel for their cooking needs and only 55 per cent of them have access to electricity. However, even with this low access, most rural households face issues with quality and consistency of energy supply.
- ▶ India has taken a voluntary commitment of reducing emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030. India is committed to achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF).

- **Renewable Energy Potential:** India has an estimated *renewable energy potential* of about **900 GW** from commercially exploitable sources viz.
 - Wind - 102 GW (at 80 metre mast height);
 - Small Hydro - 20 GW
 - Bioenergy - 25 GW
 - Solar Power- 750 GW solar power, assuming 3% wasteland is made available.
- The Ministry had taken up a new initiative in 2014 for implementation of wind resource assessment in uncovered / new areas with an aim to assess the realistic potential at 100 m level in 500 new stations across the country under the **National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)**. The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), formerly known as Centre for Wind Energy Technology, has developed the **Wind Atlas of India**. The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has developed **Biomass Atlas of India**.
- **Renewable Energy for Rural Applications:** The Ministry has been supporting programmes for the deployment of renewal energy systems and devices such as biogas plants, photovoltaic systems, biomass gasifiers, solar cookers and solar thermal systems, etc., for rural and semi-rural applications.
- **New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme:** The New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme (NNBOMP) is being implemented with the objective to provide clean cooking fuel and to meet lighting, thermal and small power needs of farmers/ dairy farmers/ users including individual households and to improve organic manure system based on bioslurry from biogas plants in rural and semi-urban areas by setting up of biogas plants.
- **National Solar Mission:** Launched in January 2010, the National Solar Mission (NSM) was the first mission to be operationalized under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Using a three-phase approach, the mission's objective is to establish India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for solar technology diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.
- **Solar/Green Buildings Programme:** The Ministry has been implementing a Scheme on Energy Efficient Solar Green Buildings since 2009, which aims to promote the widespread construction of energy efficient solar green buildings in the country through a combination of financial and promotional incentives. These are for capacity building, awareness, seminar and workshops and other promotional activities, etc.
- **Solar Cities Programme:** The "Development of Solar Cities" programme aims at minimum 10 per cent reduction in projected demand of conventional energy at the end of five years, which can be achieved through a combination of energy efficiency measures while enhancing supply from renewable energy sources.



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Test Timings:

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

26
JULY, 2020

TOTAL 65 TESTS

33 SUB SECTIONAL	6 SECTIONAL	7 CURRENT AFFAIRS
16 MOCK TESTS	3 CSAT	

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Environment

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the central government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies, programmes and related schemes. The Ministry is also the nodal agency for the:

- ▶ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- ▶ International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); and
- ▶ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The Ministry also coordinates with multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and regional bodies such as Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment.

◉ Botanical Survey of India (BSI)

- ▶ **It is the apex research organization** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India for **carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on wild plant resources of the country.**
- ▶ It was **established in 1890** with the basic objective to explore the plant resources of the country and to identify the plant's species with economic virtues.
- ▶ **Sir George King, the then Superintendent of the 'Royal Botanic Garden' Calcutta was appointed as the first ex-officio Honorary Director of the BSI.** After independence, the department was reorganized in 1954 by the Government of India as a part of the scientific development of the country.

◉ Zoological Survey of India

- ▶ It is a premier research institution under the Ministry has completed 100 years of services to the Nation, undertaking survey, exploration, and research leading to the advancement of our knowledge on the exceptionally rich faunal diversity of the country since its inception in 1916.
- ▶ Over the successive plan periods functions of ZSI have also expanded gradually encompassing areas like the **Environmental Impact Assessment about fauna**; a survey of conservation areas; a status survey of endangered species; computerization of digitization of data on faunal resources; **Environmental Information System (ENVIS) on faunal diversity**; identification and advisory services; **National Designated Repository** of type and voucher specimens; supporting the enforcement of **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**; establishment of marine aquaria and Museum for awareness on conservation, etc., and **acts as a custodian of the National Zoological Collections.**
- ▶ **Headquarters are at Kolkata** and 16 Regional centres are located in different parts of the country.

◉ Forest Survey of India

- It is a national level organization under the Ministry is engaged in the **assessment of the country's forest resources at a regular interval**. Established in 1981, the Forest Survey of India succeeded the **"Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources" (PISFR)**, a project initiated in **1965 by the Government of India with the sponsorship of FAO and UNDP**. The main objective of PISFR was to ascertain the **availability of raw material for the establishment of wood-based industries in selected areas of the country**.
- In its report in 1976, **the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) recommended the creation of a National Forest Survey Organization** for the collection of reliable data through countrywide comprehensive forest resources survey at regular intervals. Consequently, **PISFR was reorganized into FSI in June 1981**. After a critical review of activities, the mandate of FSI was refined in 1986.

◉ Biodiversity Conservation

- The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is one of the key agreements adopted during the **Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992**. The objectives of CBD are conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.
- India enacted the **Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002** to give effect to the provision of this Convention. According to **the ratification of the CBD by India in 1994**, several steps were initiated to meet the commitments under the Convention and to realize the opportunities offered by the Convention.
- India also prepared a **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) in 2008** and an **Addendum to NBAP in 2014 with 20 national targets on biodiversity**. The **Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing (ABS)** adopted under the aegis of CBD in 2010, is aimed at **fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources**.

◉ Biosphere Reserves

- The idea of 'Biosphere Reserves' was initiated by **UNESCO in 1973-74 under its Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme**. The MAB, **launched in 1970 by UNESCO**, is a broad-based ecological programme aimed to develop within the natural and social sciences a basis for the rational use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere and the improvement of the relationship between man and the environment, to predict the consequences of today's actions on tomorrow's world and thereby to increase man's ability to manage efficiently the natural resources of the biosphere.
- The **Indian National Man and Biosphere (MAB) Committee** identifies and recommends potential sites for designation as Biosphere Reserves, following UNESCO's guidelines and criteria. **There are 18 designated Biosphere Reserves (BRs)**. Out of 18 Biosphere Reserves, **10 Biosphere Reserves have been included in the world Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO**.

◉ Biodiversity Conservation Scheme Relating to Biosafety

- The scheme on Biodiversity Conservation was initiated **during 1991-92 during the 8th Plan period**, to ensure coordination among various agencies dealing with the issues relating to conservation of biodiversity, and to review, monitor and evolve adequate policy instruments for the same.
- The main objective is the **implementation of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, UNEP-GEF Supported Capacity-building Project on Biosafety (Phase-II) Project, and Strengthening of Biosafety Management System**.
- **Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CPB)**: It was negotiated under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and adopted in 2000. **India is a party to the Protocol**. The main objective of the Protocol is to **ensure safe transfer handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)** resulting from modern biotechnology that may have an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risk to human health.

◉ Forest Protection

- ▶ This **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of intensification of Forest Management Scheme** deals with forest fire management, to address the growing concern over adverse effects of the forest fire. With this, the present **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FPM)** was formulated.

◉ Wildlife Conservation

- ▶ There is a Wildlife Division of the Ministry that has two sub-divisions, namely, **Project Elephant Division and Wildlife Division**. Besides, there are **three autonomous bodies: Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for wildlife research and training. Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for conservation and zoo management and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- ▶ The NTCA has been constituted by converting the Project Tiger Directorate into an autonomous body for tiger conservation. The National Zoological Park in the Capital is also a part of the Wildlife Wing of the MoEF&CC.
- ▶ Wildlife Division of the Ministry provides technical and financial support to the state/UT governments for wildlife conservation under **the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats** and also through **Central Sector Scheme Strengthening of Wildlife Division and Consultancies for Special Tasks**, and through **grants in aid to the Central Zoo Authority and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun**.
- ▶ The **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats** scheme has the following three components; **support to Protected Areas** (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves, and community reserves); **protection of wildlife outside protected areas**; and **recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats**.

■ Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

- It is a **statutory multi-disciplinary body established under the Ministry**, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. The Bureau has its **headquarters in New Delhi and five regional offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, and Jabalpur**; three sub-regional offices at Guwahati, Amritsar, and Cochin; and five border units at Ramanathapuram, Gorakhpur, Motihari, Nathula, and Moreh.
- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was **constituted in 2007**.

■ Central Zoo Authority

- The Central Zoo Authority with its **headquarters in New Delhi was established in 1992 under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** to oversee the functioning of zoos in the country with the view to enhance their role in conservation.
- The main objective of the Central Zoo Authority is to enforce minimum standards and norms for upkeep and healthcare of animals in the Indian zoos and to control the mushrooming of ill-conceived, ill-planned zoos, to monitor and evaluate the existing zoos and to suggest ways and means for the improvement of zoos in the country so that they can be transferred into potent centres for ex-situ conservation of endangered wild fauna.

■ National Zoological Park

- It was **set up in 1959** under this Ministry. The main objective of the Park is to complement and strengthen the national efforts in conservation of the rich biodiversity of the country, particularly the wild fauna.

◉ Project Elephant

- It was launched by the Government of India in 1991-92 as a centrally sponsored scheme with the objectives: - to protect elephants, their habitat and corridors; to address issues of the man-animal conflict; and welfare of domesticated elephants.

◉ National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- **NTCA is a statutory body under this Ministry** constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation**. The NTCA has been fulfilling its mandate by retaining an oversight through advisories / normative guidelines, based on the appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives, and recommendations of specially constituted Committees.

■ Project Tiger

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** providing funding support to tiger range states, for **in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves. It was launched in 1973 for conserving the tiger**. These reserves are constituted on a **core /buffer strategy**. The **core areas have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary**, whereas the **buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land**, managed as a multiple-use area.
- **International Tiger's Day is held every year on 29th July** to raise public awareness and support regarding several issues related to tiger conservation. The idea behind such an event came up at the **St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010**. It was also decided that **29th July would be known as Global Tiger Day**. During the summit, a panel of experts declared a goal towards tiger conservation, which was to **double its population by 2022**.

◉ Animal Welfare

■ Animal Welfare General - Animal Board of India

General Animal Welfare covers the welfare of individual animals, mainly domesticated, as also wild animals in captivity, through the **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)**. **AWBI is a statutory body established with headquarters at Chennai.**

■ Free Mobile Animal Clinic

The Board is providing free, on the spot veterinary treatment to sick and injured animals belonging to poor people through its **Mobile Animal Clinic (MAC) programme** operating **Awareness Rallies Conducted During World Animal Day Week**: The Animal Welfare Board of India has organized rallies to create kindness and compassion with the co-ordination of **Schools in Chennai and Karuna International, Chennai under Humane Education programme.**

◉ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

It is a planning tool to integrate environmental concerns into the developmental process from the initial stage of planning. It was **first used in India as early as 1978** with river valley projects and was subsequently extended to large public sector projects requiring **Public Investment Board (PIB) clearance**. These practices were formally codified for the first time in the **EIA Notification, 1994**. The criterion of investment was the basis for the projects requiring environmental clearance in different sectors.

◉ Control of Pollution

■ Air Pollution

Air quality regulation and actions for abatement of air pollution are undertaken under various provisions of **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, (EPA) 1986** which prescribes the mechanism and authorities for handling the issue. The major impact is highlighted regarding the health of people.

► Measures to Combat Air Pollution

- ◆ National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging **12 pollutants have been notified under the EPA, 1986** along with 115 emission/effluent standards for 104 different sectors of industries, besides 32 general standards. The government is executing a nation-wide programme of ambient air quality monitoring known as the **National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)**.
- ◆ With reference to vehicular pollution, the steps taken include the **introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG, etc.)** ethanol blending, universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April 2020.
- ◆ **National Air Quality Index (AQI)** was launched in 2015 starting with 14 cities and then extended to 34. **A Graded Response Action Plan** for control of air pollution in Delhi and NCR region has been notified. **This plan specifies actions required for controlling particulate matter** (PM emissions from various sources) and prevent PM 10 and PM 2.5 levels to go beyond 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.
- ◆ **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has issued a comprehensive set of directions for the implementation of 42 measures to mitigate air pollution in major cities including Delhi and NCR.
- ◆ To involve people in the efforts, the Government launched a campaign called **'Harit Diwali and Swasth Diwali' in 2017** involving over 200 schools in Delhi and over two lakh schools in the country. **A mini-marathon for 'SwachhHawa for Swachh and Swasth Bharat'** was also organized in 2017.

■ Noise Pollution

As a follow-up of Section 5.2.8 (IV) of **National Environmental Policy (NEP)-2006**, ambient noise has been included as a regular parameter for monitoring in specified urban areas. **Protocol for National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme has been prepared and circulated to state pollution control boards.** Central Pollution Control Board in association with state pollution control boards established **Real-Time National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network in 7 metropolitan cities** and installed 70 noise monitoring systems in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Hyderabad.

■ Scheme of Common Effluent Treatment Plants

- The concept of the **Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)** arose **to make a co-operative movement for pollution control.** The main objective of the CETPs is **to reduce the treatment cost to be borne by an individual member unit to a minimum while protecting the environment to a maximum.** Wastewater treatment and water conservation are the prime objectives of the CETP. This concept was envisaged to treat the effluent emanating from the clusters of compatible small-scale industries.
- A centrally sponsored scheme has been undertaken by the Government for enabling small scale industries (SSI) to set up new and upgrade the existing common effluent treatment plants to cover all the states in the country.

■ Hazardous Substance Management

- The **Hazardous Substances Management Division (HSMD)** is the **nodal point** within the Ministry for the management of solid waste including hazardous substances and chemical emergencies. The main objective of the Division is to promote the safe management of solid wastes, management of hazardous substances and wastes including hazardous chemicals, to avoid damage to health and environment.
- Besides, the Division also administers the **Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991**, and rules framed thereunder. The activities of the Division are carried out under three main thrust areas viz., **hazardous waste management solid waste management and chemical safety**.

■ Chemical Safety

- To ensure chemical safety, the Ministry notified two sets of Rules under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** viz., (i) **The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC)**; and (ii) **The Chemical Accidents (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness, and Response) Rules (EPPR), 1996**. The main objectives of the MSIHC rules are to (a) prevent major accidents arising from industrial activities; and (b) limit the effects of such accidents.
- A set of rules entitled Chemicals Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response) Rules, 1996 was notified to provide **administrative structure at different levels such as national, state, district and local levels** for effective planning, preparedness and responses to chemicals accidents and also ensuring the availability of information to the public likely to be affected by an accident.

○ Hazardous Waste Management

- To address the issue of ensuring environmentally sound management of hazardous waste for the safety of health and environment during handling such waste **Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008** were notified under **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. The Rules lay down procedure towards this process by providing provisions for authorization of hazardous waste generating and units using hazardous waste. It also provides for the **establishment of Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for the disposal of hazardous wastes**. The rules have an important provision on the regulation of import/export of hazardous waste in pursuance to our **obligation under the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous waste and its disposal. India is a party to the Convention**.
- The major **salient features of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016** include the following:
 - ◆ The ambit of the Rules has been expanded by including 'Other-Waste';
 - ◆ Authorization and registration requirement is replaced with one permission i.e., authorization under the rules for all stakeholders handling the hazardous and other waste;
 - ◆ Waste management hierarchy in the sequence of priority as prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling, recovery, co-processing; and safe disposal being incorporated;
 - ◆ The process of import/export of waste under the rules has been streamlined by simplifying the procedure and by revising the list of waste regulated for import/export;
 - ◆ The separate schedule has been introduced which comprises waste such as metal scrap, paper waste and various categories of electrical and electronic equipment's for re-use purpose exempted from the need of obtaining Ministry's permission;
 - ◆ The list of waste prohibited for import has been revised by the inclusion of the following items: waste edible fats and oils of animals or vegetable origin, household waste, critical care medical equipment, solid plastic wastes, other chemical wastes especially in solvent form.

■ e-Waste Management

- The e-waste rules apply to e-waste generated from IT and telecommunication equipment and consumer electrical and electronics namely television sets (including LCD & LED), refrigerators, washing machines, and air-conditioners.
- **These rules empower the concerned state agencies** to control, supervise, and regulate relevant activities connected with e-waste management such as collection, segregation, dismantling, and recycling.
- Producers are required to set up collection systems and meet the cost involved in the environmentally sound management of e-waste generated from the 'end of life' of their products. Besides, threshold limits, which are accepted globally, have been prescribed for six hazardous substances used in the manufacture of electrical and electronics components. **Producers are expected to achieve a reduction in the use of the hazardous substances (RoHS) to the prescribed limit.**

○ Solid Waste Management

■ Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

- The Ministry revised the rules for the management of solid waste in the municipal areas after 16 years. The new rules are now applicable beyond municipal areas.
- The segregation of waste at source has been mandated. **Responsibilities of generators have been fixed for segregation of waste into three streams**, wet (biodegradable), dry (plastic, paper, metal, wood, etc.) and domestic hazardous wastes (diapers, napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc.).
- The Rules provide ways for the **integration of waste pickers/rag pickers**.
- The Rules mandate **local bodies to frame their bylaws to impose 'User Fee'**, to be paid by the generator to waste collector and for **'Spot Fine' for littering and non-segregation**.
- The concept of **partnership as envisaged under Swachh Bharat has been introduced** viz., bulk and institutional generators, market associations, event organizers and hotels, and restaurants have been directly made responsible for waste segregation and management in partnership with local bodies.

■ Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- To address the issue of scientific plastic waste management, new regulations namely, the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 were notified in 2011 which included plastic waste management. However, the implementation of these rules **was not so effective because their ambit was limited to notified municipal areas** whereas today, the plastic has reached our rural areas also. To address these issues and intending **to set up a self-sustainable waste management system**, the Ministry notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Rules provide for:
 - ◆ **Increase in a minimum thickness of plastic carry bags** from 40 to 50 microns
 - ◆ First-time cover and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 microns for plastic sheets **being used for packaging and wrapping commodities to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste**
 - ◆ **Revamped pricing mechanisms** for plastic carry bags by introducing plastic waste management fee to be paid by retailers/street vendors willing to provide carry bags as pre-registration charge
 - ◆ **Ways and means to promote the gainful utilization of plastic waste** such as energy recovery, road construction, etc.
 - ◆ **Introducing user charges and spot fines by the local authority.**

■ Construction & Demolition Waste Management, 2016

- The Ministry for the first time notified the separate set of rules for the management of construction and demolition waste in the country as Construction and Demolition Management Rules, 2016. **Before these Rules, this was regulated under the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2000, and was left at the desecration of the urban local bodies.**
- The new rules regulate waste generated from construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of any civil structure, and make a way forward to reuse, gainfully recycle such waste.
- Under the rules **every waste generator has been made responsible for the** collection, segregation of concrete, soil and others and storage of construction and demolition waste generated separately, deposit at collection centre so made by the local body or hand over it to the authorized processing facilities, ensure that there is no littering or deposition to prevent obstruction to the traffic or the public or drains.
- The service providers are required to prepare a comprehensive waste management plan cover ingsegregation, storage, collection, reuse, recycling, transportation, and disposal of construction and demolition waste generated within their jurisdiction. They are also responsible for the removal of all construction and demolition waste.

○ Fly Ash Utilization

- The fast-increasing demand of power coupled with **its dependence on coal for about 2/3rd of its energy requirement is leading to the generation of the large volume of fly ash.** To address the environmental problems of fly ash disposal, the Ministry issued the **notification on fly ash utilization in 1999 prescribing the targets for the fly ash utilization for coal/lignite power-based thermal power stations to achieve 100 percent utilization in a phased manner.** The notification was amended in 2003, 2009, and recently in 2016. The objectives of this notification are to protect the environment, conserve the topsoil, and prevent dumping of fly ash from thermal power stations on land and to promote utilization of ash in the manufacture of building materials and construction activity.

○ International Conventions

■ Basel Convention

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was **adopted in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland.**
- The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is **to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.**
- Its scope of application covers a **wide range of wastes defined as “hazardous wastes”** based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as ‘other wastes’ (household waste and incinerator ash).

■ Rotterdam Convention

- The **Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade** came into force in 2004. India acceded to the convention a year later. **The Designated National authorities (DNAs) for India are in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation.** The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are designated in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

■ Stockholm Convention

- The Stockholm Convention on **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs. The Convention came into force in 2004. **India ratified the Convention in 2006.**

- As per Article 7 of the Convention, Parties to the Convention were required to develop a **National Implementation Plan (NIP)** to demonstrate how their obligations to the Convention would be implemented and **NIP has been developed through Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change serves as the focal point for GEF and Stockholm Convention.** Designated national authorities are in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

■ Minamata Convention on Mercury

In February 2009, the **Governing Council of UNEP adopted Decision 25/5 on the development of a global legally binding instrument on mercury.** At the **Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in 2013 in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, the “Minamata Convention on Mercury”,** a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury, was formally adopted.

■ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

In 2006, over 190 countries including India acceded to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), **an international policy framework to foster sound management of chemicals.** Initial activities under SAICM included development or updating of national chemical profiles, strengthening of institutions, and mainstreaming sound management of chemicals in national strategies. Towards this end, **India initiated the preparation of the National Chemicals Management Profile** to assess India's infrastructure and capacity for the management of chemicals.

○ National River Conservation Plan

The river conservation programme was initiated with the launching of the **Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in 1985.** The Ganga Action Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under **National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in 1995.** The objective of NRCP is to improve the water quality of rivers, which are major water sources in the country, through the implementation of pollution abatement works in various towns along identified polluted stretches of rivers on cost-sharing basis between the central and state governments.

○ Conservation of Wetlands

To control degradation and conserve wetlands, the **National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP)** was initiated in 1987 and financial assistance is being provided to the state governments for implementing action plans for conservation and management of identified wetlands.

■ Ramsar Convention

As a commitment to conserving potential wetlands, **India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.** As per this convention, India is committed to international cooperation and to take national action for conservation and wise use of Wetlands. **At present, there are 26 Ramsar sites in India.**

■ Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules

To implement the objectives of the convention, a regulatory mechanism was put in place through the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December 2010. Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA) has been constituted under the Wetlands Rules, 2010. 25 wetlands spread over 14 states have already been notified under these Rules.

■ World Wetland Day

Each year, **World Wetland Day is celebrated on 2nd February** for increasing awareness and spreading the need for conservation and wise use of wetlands all over the world. The **World Wetland Day-2017 with the theme 'Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction'** was celebrated in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh at Bhoj Wetlands, Bhopal, one of the 26 Ramsar Sites that India has designated under the Ramsar Convention.

○ National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB)

To promote afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration, and eco-development activity in the country, the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) was **set up in 1992**. Special attention is also given by NAEB to **the regeneration of degraded forest areas and lands** adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries, and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, and the Western Ghats, etc.

○ National Afforestation Programme(NAP)Scheme

It is a major afforestation scheme of the NAEB in the Government of India. Launched in 2000-02, the scheme has acquired a pan India ambit. It is being implemented through a twin institutional set up of **Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level**. From 2010- 11, **State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) were constituted at the state level to smoothen the fund flow to the FDA's**. Under Entry Point Activities, community assets are created with 'care and share' concept.

○ Eco-Development Forces (EDF) Scheme

- ▶ It was established in the 1980s as a **scheme being implemented through the Ministry of Defence** for ecological restoration of terrains, rendered difficult either due to severe degradation or remote location or difficult law and order situation. It is based on **twin objectives of ecological regeneration in difficult areas, and the promotion of meaningful employment to ex-servicemen**.
- ▶ Under this scheme, the establishment and operational expenditure on the **Eco-Task Force (ETF) Battalions raised by Ministry of Defence are reimbursed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** while the inputs like a sapling, fencing, etc., and also the professional and managerial guidance is provided by the state forest departments.

○ National Mission for Green India (GIM)

- ▶ It is one of the eight missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change** that aims at protecting and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover to counter the perils of climate change. It envisages a holistic view of greening and **focuses on multiple ecosystem services along with carbon sequestration and emission reduction as co-benefit**.
- ▶ The Mission embarks on meeting the challenge of climate change adaptation and mitigation through sub-missions and a cross-cutting intervention: a) enhancing the quality of forest cover and improving ecosystem services; b) ecosystem restoration and increase in forest cover; c) agroforestry and social forestry; d) promoting alternative fuel energy.

■ Declaring Eco-Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats

- The **Western Ghats is a global biodiversity hotspot**. There is a need to conserve and protect the unique biodiversity of Western Ghats while allowing for sustainable and inclusive development of the region.
- The concept of **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)** provides a mechanism to conserve the biological diversity of an area while allowing for sustainable development to take place.

■ National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS)

- It is a part of an umbrella scheme of the erstwhile Planning Commission-Planning Committee-National Natural Resources Management System (PC-NNRMS) and is in operation since, 1985.
- The prime objective of PCNNRMS is the utilization of remote sensing technology for inventorization, assessment, and monitoring of the country's natural resources.

○ Forestry Research

■ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, (ICFRE), Dehradun

- It is an **apex body in the national forestry research system**, has been undertaking the **holistic development of forestry research, education, and extension covering all aspects of forestry**.
- The Council deals with **solution based forestry research** in tune with the emerging issues in the sector, including global concerns such as climate change, conservation of biological diversity, combating desertification and sustainable management and development of resources.

■ Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

- The Academy was constituted in 1987 by **upgrading and renaming the erstwhile Indian Forest College**, established in 1938. The Academy **imparts professional training to the Indian Forest Services (IFS) Probationers and has been accorded the status of "Staff College"** for imparting mid-career training for officers of the Indian Forest Service (IFS).
- The Academy also provides orientation courses to various other stakeholders like joint training for members of All India Services, Indian Revenue Services Probationers, members of higher judiciary, etc.

○ Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

It was established in **1986 in Dehradun as an autonomous institute of the Ministry**. The Institute has emerged as a premier training and research institution in the field of wildlife and protected area management in the south and South East Asia.

○ Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is one of the implementing partners in this project for enhancing the capacities of the project implementers and as a knowledge management centre on a landscape approach to biodiversity conservation.

○ National Green Corps (NGCs) Programme

NGCs were formulated in 2001-02. The phenomenal response that NGC received has made the network more than 1,00,000 Eco clubs across the country in 15 years, making **it one of the largest conservation networks**.

■ National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC)

It was launched in mid-1986 to create environmental awareness at the national level. In this campaign, nominal financial assistance is provided to NGOs, schools, colleges, universities, research

institutes, women and youth organisations, army units, government departments, etc., from all over the country for conducting awareness-raising and action-oriented activities. **The theme for 2016-17 was "Swachh Bharat Mission, Ganga Rejuvenation and River Cleaning".**

■ **National Nature Camping Programme**

It is an initiative of the Ministry in environmental education which is **aimed at creating greater awareness, understanding, and empathy of children with and for the environment.** Through this initiative, it is hoped that every child who goes through middle school (classes VI-VIII) to get at least one opportunity for a 2-3 day camping experience during these years.

■ **Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)**

It is a hand on international environmental science and education programme that brings students, teachers, and scientists together to study the global environment. **MoEF&CC and the US Government signed an agreement in 2000 to implement the Globe programme in India. Indian Environmental Society, Delhi is an implementing agency for Globe in India.**

○ **Centre of Excellence**

The Scheme-Centre of Excellence was **initiated in the Sixth Five Year Plan.** The objective of the scheme is to provide selective support to the universities, reputed institutions including NGOs, professional organizations, and other scientific and technological institutions to enable them to develop into advanced centres at the national level in that particular subject area to cater to the need of the Ministry.

○ **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**

- It was **set up in 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010**, for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The Tribunal shall **not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.**
- The Tribunal is mandated to endeavour **disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing.**
- **NGT has five places of sitting, i.e, the Principal Bench in Delhi and Zonal Benches in Pune, Kolkata, Bhopal, and Chennai.** Apart from this, the Tribunal holds three circuit Benches at Shimla, Shillong, and Jodhpur.

○ **Climate Change**

To create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country different studies under the **Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP) were initiated.** Many important bilateral and multilateral meetings and negotiations including Conference of Parties (CoP-22) were held.

■ **National and State Action Plans on Climate Change (NAPCC)**

It is being implemented through the nodal ministries in specific sectors/ areas. Eight national missions in the area of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, sustainable habitat, water, Himalayan eco-system, Green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change form the core of NAPCC.

■ National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)

- It is a central sector scheme under implementation in the **12th Five Year Plan with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as National Implementing Entity (NIE)**.
- The overall aim of the fund is to support concrete adaptation activities which are not covered under on-going activities through the schemes of state and central government, that reduce the adverse impact of climate change facing communities, sectors, and states.

■ Climate Change Action Programme

- It has been implemented since January 2014, to create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country, putting in place an appropriate institutional framework for scientific and policy initiatives and implementation of climate change-related actions in the context of sustainable development. **The NCAP is a major multi-institutional and multi-agency study.**
- In this initiative, MoEF&CC collaborates with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Space Research Organization, the Ministry of Science and Technology and other associated agencies to **enhance understanding of the role of black carbon in climate change** through monitoring and assessment of the impacts of Black Carbon using modeling techniques.

■ Paris Agreement

India ratified the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC in 2016. The action plan for implementation of the Paris Agreement and its components is being developed.

○ Ozone Cell

■ Ozone Layer Protection

- The ozone layer absorbs all the harmful UV-B radiations emanating from the sun. It protects plant and animal life from UV-B radiation. The UV-B radiation has the potential to cause skin cancer, eye cataract, suppress body's immune system, decrease crop yield, etc., which led **to the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1985 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987.**
- The mandate of the **Montreal Protocol is to phase out the production and consumption of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs)**. India is a party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and it is all amendments/adjustments.
- The MoEF&CC has set up the **Ozone Cell as a National Ozone Unit (NOU)** to render necessary services **for effective and timely implementation of the protocol and its ODS phase-out programme in India.**

■ Vienna Convention

- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is the international treaties specific for the protection of the Stratospheric Ozone (Ozone layer).
- The Montreal Protocol has been recognized as the most successful international environmental treaty in history. It has been **universally ratified and all the 197 UN member countries of the world are the parties to the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol.**
- In the 29 years of operation of the Montreal Protocol, extraordinary international cooperation under this agreement has led to phase-out of production and consumption of several major ODSs such as CFCs, CTC, and halons globally from 2010.

◉ **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

- The concern for arresting and reversing land degradation and desertification gets reflected in many of the national policies (e.g., National Water Policy 2012; National Forest Policy 1988; National Agricultural Policy 2000; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, National Environmental Policy, 2006; National Policy for Farmers, 2007; National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)-2007 which have enabling provisions for addressing these problems.
- It is also implicit in the goals of **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**, Sustainable Agriculture, **Sustainable Land Management (SLM)**, and the overarching goal of Sustainable development which the country has been pursuing.
- India became a signatory to the UNCCD in 1994. MoEF&CC is the nodal Ministry in the government of India for the UNCCD, and the Desertification cell is the nodal point within MoEF&CC to co-ordinate all issues about the convention.

◉ **International Cooperation and Sustainable Development**

International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (IC&SD) Division of the Ministry coordinates matters related to international environmental cooperation and sustainable development **including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

■ **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

- **India is a member of UNEP and provides an annual financial contribution** of USD 100,000 **to the UNEP Environment Fund**. Three of the thirty-three members on UNEP's International Resource Panel (IRP) are currently from India.
- **The Ministry is a member of the IRP Steering Committee**. IRP supports **UNEP's Resource Efficiency/Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) sub-programme** and is carrying out assessments of the world's most critical resource issues intending to develop practical solutions for government policymakers, industry, and society.

■ **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

- **India is a founder member of GEF**. Set up in 1991, GEF is the designated multilateral funding mechanism of 183 countries to provide incremental finance for addressing global environmental benefits which are also identified national priorities.
- The GEF mandate is decided as per the guidance provided by the Conference of the parties of the multilateral environmental conventions namely Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Stockholm Convention on PoPs and Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- The **GEF grants are available under five focal areas namely, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals, and waste**.

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Finance

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for **administration of finances of the government**. It is concerned with **all economic and financial matters** affecting the country as a whole including **mobilization of resources** for development and other purposes.

- ▶ It **regulates expenditure of the government** including transfer of resources to the states. It is an important ministry within the government concerned with the economy of the country, **serving as the Indian treasury department**.
- ▶ In particular, it **concerns itself with taxation, financial legislation, financial institutions, capital markets, centre and state finances, and the Union Budget**.
- ▶ The Ministry is also the cadre controlling authority of the Indian Revenue Service, Indian Economic Service, Indian Cost Accounts Service and Indian Civil Accounts Service.

◉ Department of Economic Affairs

- The Department of Economic Affairs is the **nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor country's economic policies and programmes** having a bearing on domestic and international aspects of economic management.
- A principal responsibility of this Department is the **preparation and presentation of the Union Budget (including Railway Budget) to the Parliament** and budget for the state governments under President's Rule and union territory administrations.

◉ Balance of Payments

- ▶ India's balance of payments (BoP) situation which has been benign and comfortable since 2013-14, to 2016-17, registered an increase in Current Account Deficit (CAD) during 2018-19 (April-March) and stood at US\$ 57.3 billion (2.1 per cent of GDP) as compared to US\$ 48.7 billion in (1.8 per cent of GDP) in 2017-18 (April-March).

◉ Public Debt and Other Liabilities

- ▶ The Public Debt of India is **classified into three categories** of Union Government liabilities into **internal debt, external debt and other liabilities**. Internal debt for Government of India largely consists of fixed tenure and fixed rate government papers (dated securities and treasury bills) which are issued through auctions.
- ▶ These include **market loans (dated securities), treasury bills** (91, 182 and 364 days) and 14 day treasury bills (issued to state governments only), cash management bills, special securities issued to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), compensation and other bonds, non-negotiable and non-interest bearing rupee securities issued to international financial institutions and securities issued under market stabilization scheme with a view to reduce dependency on physical gold and reduce imports.

- ▶ **External debt represents loans received from foreign governments and multilateral institutions.** The Union Government does not borrow directly from international capital markets. Its foreign currency borrowing takes place from multilateral agencies and bilateral sources, and is a part of official development assistance (ODA). At present, the Government of India does not borrow in the international capital markets.
- ▶ **“Other” liabilities, not a part of public debt, includes other interest bearing obligations of the government, such as post office saving deposits, deposits under small savings schemes,** loans raised through post office cash certificates, provident funds and certain other deposits.
- ▶ The Reserve Bank manages the public debt of the Central and the state governments and also acts as a banker to them under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Section 20 and 21). It also undertakes similar functions for the state governments by agreement with the Government of the respective state (under Section 21 A).

◉ **Social Sector Programmes**

- ▶ The flagship programmes continued to receive high priority, viz., Sarva Siksha Abhiyan; Mid-Day Meal Scheme; National Health Mission; Integrated Child Development Services; Swachh Bharat Abhiyan; Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 100 Smart Cities, etc.

◉ **Direct Benefit Transfer**

- ▶ Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is a major reform initiative launched by Government of India in 2013 to provide an overarching vision and direction to enable direct cash transfer of benefits under various government schemes and programmes to individuals.

◉ **Schemes for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

- ▶ From 2005-06, a separate Statement on the schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) was introduced in the Budget document.
- ▶ From the financial year 2011-12 this statement is focused only on Plan schemes under ‘Scheduled Castes Sub Plan’ and ‘Tribal Sub Plan’ exclusively for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes welfare schemes respectively.

◉ **Economic Growth**

- ▶ As per the provisional estimates (PE) of national income released by Central Statistics Office in May 2019, the growth of GDP at constant (2011-12) market prices for the year 2018-19 is estimated at 6.8 per cent, which is lower as compared to the growth of 7.2 per cent in 2017-18.
- ▶ The growth of gross value added (GVA) at constant (2011-12) basic prices is estimated at 6.6 per cent in 2018-19 (PE). The growth in GVA was 6.9 per cent in 2017-18.
- ▶ At the sectoral level, GVA in agriculture and allied sector, industry sector and services sector have been estimated to grow by 2.9 per cent, 6.9 per cent, and 7.5 per cent respectively in 2018-19. The estimated growth of GDP at constant prices for quarters of 2018-19 was 8.0 per cent, 7.0 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 5.8 per cent respectively.

◉ **Prices**

- ▶ Consumer Price Index (Combined) (CPI-C) inflation (Base 2012=100) for 2017-18 declined to 3.6 per cent from 4.5 per cent in 2016-17, 4.9 per cent in 2015-16 and 5.9 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 3.4 per cent in 2018-19 and stood at 2.9 per cent in March 2019.
- ▶ Inflation measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) stood at 3.0 per cent in 2017-18 as compared to 1.7 per cent in 2016-17, (-)3.7 per cent in 2015-16 and 1.2 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 4.3 per cent in 2018-19 and stood at 3.1 per cent in March 2019.

◉ Foreign Exchange Reserves

- ▶ India's foreign exchange reserves stood at **US\$ 427.8 billion as on 28th June, 2019**, showing an increase of US\$ 14.9 billion over the level of US\$ 412.9 billion end-March 2019.

◉ Exchange Rate of Rupee

- ▶ On year-on-year basis, the rupee depreciated by 7.8 per cent from ₹ 64.46 per US dollar in 2017-18 to ₹ 69.93 per US dollar in 2018-19. In the month of March 2019, rupee appreciated against US dollar.

◉ External Debt

- ▶ India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 543.02 billion at end-March 2019 recording an increase of US\$ 13.7 billion over the level at end-March 2018.

◉ Banking Sector

- ▶ The performance of the banking sector (domestic operations), Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in particular, improved in 2018-19.
- ▶ **The Gross Non-Performing Advances (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) decreased from 11.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018**, as also, their Restructured Standard Advances (RSA) ratio declined from 0.7 to 0.4 per cent.
- ▶ The Stressed Advances (SA) ratio decreased from 12.1 to 10.5 per cent during the same period. GNPA ratio of PSBs decreased from 15.5 to 13.9 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018.

◉ Changes in Banking Regulations

- ▶ In order to enhance the credit discipline among larger borrowers, the guidelines on loan system for delivery of bank credit were issued on December 5, 2018.

◉ One-time Restructuring of Loans to MSMEs

- ▶ The scheme was made available to MSMEs qualifying certain objective criteria.

◉ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- ▶ **A Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee was set up in 2014** for providing an entrepreneur friendly legal bankruptcy framework for meeting global standards for improving the ease of doing business with necessary judicial capacity.
- ▶ Accordingly, **the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)** became operational in 2016. The Code **aims to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit, and balance the interests of all the stakeholders** by consolidating and amending the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner and for maximization of value of the assets of such persons and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- ▶ It proposes a framework to ensure: early detection of stress in a business; initiation of the insolvency resolution process by debtor, financial creditor or operational creditor; liquidation of unviable businesses; and avoiding destruction of value of failed business. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is taking further necessary steps for implementation of the Code.

◉ Financial Stability and Development Council

- ▶ With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up as the apex level forum in 2010.

- ▶ The Council, *inter-alia*, monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues, including issues relating to financial literacy and financial inclusion.

◉ **Financial Stability Board**

Financial Stability Board (FSB) was established in 2009 under the aegis of G20 by bringing together the national authorities, standard setting bodies and international financial institutions for addressing vulnerabilities and developing and implementing strong regulatory, supervisory and other policies in the interest of financial stability. India is an active member of the FSB having three seats in its Plenary.

◉ **Infrastructure Financing**

- ▶ Given the enormity of the investment requirements and the limited availability of public resources for investment in physical infrastructure, it is imperative to explore avenues for increasing investment in infrastructure through various sources. In view of this, government launched the following to mobilize the long term investment in infrastructure in the country:
 - **Bank Financing:** Banks continue to be major source of financing infrastructure. RBI has been modifying guidelines for advances to infrastructure including **5/25 scheme**, take out financing.
 - **Institutional Finance:** The Government has also set up India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) with the specific mandate to play a catalytic role in the Infrastructure sector by providing long-term debt for financing term debt, refinance to banks and financial institutions for loans granted by them, with tenure exceeding 10 years or any other mode approved by the government.
 - **Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs):** Government of India has conceptualized Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs) to accelerate and enhance the flow of long term debt into infrastructure projects to help in the migration of project loans for operating assets from banks to the fixed income markets.
 - **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)/Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs):** These are trust based structures that maximize returns through efficient tax pass-through and improved governance structures. Guidelines/Regulations for InvIT and REIT were notified by SEBI in 2014.

◉ **Public Private Partnerships**

- ▶ Given the enormity of the investment requirements and the limited availability of public resources for investment in physical infrastructure, the projected infrastructure investments made it imperative to explore avenues for increasing investments in infrastructure through a combination of public investment and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- ▶ PPPs bridge the deficit in financing of infrastructure projects, and also bring in cost effective new technology for operation and maintenance of created asset, thus, extracting long term value for proposition.
- ▶ India systematically rolled out a PPP programme for the delivery of high-priority public utilities and infrastructure and, over the last decade or so, developed what is perhaps one of the largest Programme in the world.

◉ **G-20**

- ▶ The G20 was formed in 1999, as a forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, in recognition of the fact that there was a major shift in the global economic weight from the advanced economies to emerging market economies.

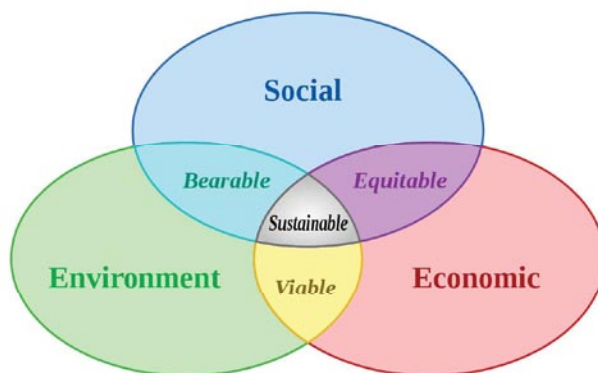
BRICS

- ▶ The BRICS nations or Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa form the five key pillars of south-south cooperation and are the representative voice of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries in the global forums such as the G20.
- ▶ The New Development Bank, established by these nations in 2015, marked its first imprints in India by signing a loan agreement for financing of the major district road project in Madhya Pradesh in March 2017.

United Nations Development Programme

- ▶ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the largest channel for development cooperation in the UN. The overall mission of the UNDP is to assist the programme countries through capacity development in Sustainable human Development (SHD) with priority on poverty alleviation, gender equity, women empowerment and environmental protection.
- ▶ All assistance provided by the UNDP is grant assistance. The UNDP derives its funds from voluntary contributions from various donor countries. India's annual contribution to the UNDP has been to the extent of US\$ 4.5 million, which is one of the largest from developing countries.

Sustainable Development



- It is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services based upon which the economy and society depend.
- The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- While the modern concept of sustainable development is derived mostly from the 1987 **Brundtland Report**, it is also rooted in earlier ideas about sustainable forest management and twentieth-century environmental concerns.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

- ▶ SAARC, in existence since 1985 (founded in Dhaka), is a regional organisation that aims to promote economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific cooperation in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- ▶ Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It has crafted several regional conventions, agreements and institutions for dealing with issues that affect the citizens of the region.
- ▶ It is a consensus-based forum for the exchange of ideas, development of regional programmes and projects.

- ▶ The Framework for Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC countries was formulated with the intention to provide a line of funding for short term foreign exchange requirements or to meet balance of payments crises till longer term arrangements are made or the issue is resolved in the short-term itself.

◉ **SAARC Development Fund (SDF)**

- ▶ SDF was established in 2008 by the SAARC countries to improve the livelihood of the people and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.
- ▶ The Fund is implementing many SAARC projects and programmes. Project funding in SDF is to be taken up under three windows (Social, Economic and Infrastructure). Of the three windows of SDF, economic and infrastructure windows are being operationalized.

◉ **International Monetary Fund**

- ▶ **India is a founder member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** which was established to promote a cooperative and stable global monetary framework.
- ▶ At present, 188 nations are members of the IMF. Since the IMF was established, its purposes have remained unchanged but its operations - which involve surveillance, financial assistance and technical assistance - have developed to meet the changing needs of its member countries in an evolving world economy.
- ▶ The Board of Governors of the IMF consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor from each member country. For India, the Finance Minister is the exofficio Governor on the Board of Governors of the IMF. There are three other countries in India's constituency at the IMF, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

◉ **World Bank**

- ▶ India has been borrowing from the World Bank through International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) for various development projects in the areas of poverty reduction, infrastructure, rural development, etc.
- ▶ IDA funds were one of the most concessional external loans for Government of India and were used largely in social sector projects that contribute to the achievement of millennium development goals.

◉ **International Finance Corporation**

International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, focuses exclusively on investing in the private sector in developing countries. Established in 1956, IFC has 184 members. India is founding member of IFC

◉ **New Development Bank**

- ▶ The New Development Bank (NDB) has been instituted with a vision to support and foster infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives in emerging economies.
- ▶ The founding members of the NDB - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) - brought in capital of USD 1 billion as initial contribution.

◉ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**

- ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) set up in 2016 to foster sustainable economic development, create productive assets and improve infrastructure in Asia through financing of infrastructure projects. India is one of the founding Members and the second largest shareholder.

- ▶ India along with 20 other countries signed the Inter- Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing the AIIB in **Beijing**.

◉ **International Fund for Agricultural Development**

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was set up in 1977 as the 13th specialized agency of the UN. It is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

◉ **Global Environment Facility**

- ▶ The Global Environment Facility (GEF) operates as a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits.
- ▶ GEF provides grants to eligible countries in its focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, chemicals and waste.

◉ **Asian Development Bank**

- ▶ India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which was established in 1966. ADB has 67 members (including 48 regional and 19 non-regional members), with its headquarters at Manila, Philippines. India is holding 6.331 per cent of shares, totaling 6,72,030 shares in ADB as on 31st December, 2016, with 5.363 per cent voting rights.
- ▶ The Bank is engaged in promoting economic and social progress of its developing member countries (DMCs) in the Asia Pacific Region.

◉ **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was created with the aim to attract equity investments from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both Greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects.

Greenfield and Brownfield projects

◉ **Green field**

- ▶ Building new production facilities in a foreign country.
- ▶ It refers to investment in a manufacturing, office, or other physical company-related structure or group of structures in an area where no previous facilities exist.

◉ **Brownfield**

- ▶ Used for purchasing or leasing existing production facilities to launch a new production activity.

◉ **International Investment Treaties and Framework**

- ▶ India initiated the exercise to negotiate and enter into Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)/ Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) with other countries as a part of the comprehensive economic reforms programme which was initiated in 1991.
- ▶ A BIT is essentially an international treaty which increases the comfort level and boosts the confidence of the investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination in all matters while providing for an independent forum for dispute settlement through arbitration. In turn, BITs are expected to project India as an attractive foreign direct investment (FDI) destination as well as protect outbound Indian FDI abroad.

- ▶ The new Indian Model BIT of 2015 aims to provide appropriate protection to foreign investors in India and Indian investors in the foreign country, in the light of relevant international precedents and practices.

◉ **Department of Expenditure**

- ▶ The Department of Expenditure is the nodal Department for overseeing the public financial management system in the central government and matters connected with state finances.
- ▶ It is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Central Pay Commission, monitoring of audit comments/ observations, preparation of central government accounts.
- ▶ It further assists central ministries/ departments in controlling the costs and prices of public services, reviewing system and procedure to optimize outputs and outcomes of public expenditure.

◉ **Controller General of Accounts**

- ▶ The Controller General of Accounts (CGA), in the Department of Expenditure, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.
- ▶ The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for the Union Government.

◉ **Department of Revenue**

- ▶ The Department of Revenue exercises control in respect of revenue matters relating to Direct and Indirect Union taxes through two statutory boards namely, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
- ▶ The Department is also entrusted with the administration and enforcement of regulatory measures provided in the enactments concerning Central Sales tax, Stamp duties and other relevant fiscal statutes. Control over production and disposal of opium and its products is vested in this Department.
Website : www.dor.gov.in

◉ **Goods and Services Tax Legislative Development**

- ▶ The proposal to introduce a national level Goods and Services Tax (GST) was first mooted in 2006-07. The Goods and services Tax Council was constituted in 2016.
- ▶ GST was implemented in the country in July, 2017. Subsuming of various central indirect taxes and levies such as central excise duty, additional excise duties, excise duty levied under the medicinal and toilet preparations (excise duties) Act, 1955, Service Tax,
- ▶ Additional Customs Duty commonly known as countervailing duty, special additional duty of customs, and central surcharges and cesses so far as they relate to the supply of goods and services.
- ▶ Coverage of all goods and services, except alcoholic liquor for human consumption, for the levy of goods and services tax. In case of petroleum and petroleum products, it has been provided that these goods shall not be subject to the levy till a date notified on the recommendation of the GST Council.
- ▶ Compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax for a period which may extend to five years.

◉ **Indian Stamp Act**

- ▶ The Indian Stamp Act, 1899 is a fiscal statute laying down the law relating to tax levied in the form of stamps on instruments recording transactions.

◉ Central Board of Direct Taxes *Direct Taxes*

- ▶ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), created by the Central Boards of Revenue Act 1963, is the apex body entrusted with the responsibility of administering direct tax laws in India. It is the cadre controlling authority for the Income Tax Department (ITD).

◉ E-Governance Initiatives

- ▶ **Permanent Account Number (PAN):** PAN is a 10 digit alpha-numeric number allotted by the Income Tax Department to taxpayers and to the persons who apply for it under the Income Tax Act, 1961. PAN enables the department to link all transactions of the “person” with the department. The transactions linked through PAN include tax payments, TDS/TCS credits, returns of income/wealth, specified transactions, correspondence, and so on. PAN, thus, acts as an identifier for the “person” with the Income tax department.

TAX DEDUCTED AT SOURCE (TDS)

- ◉ The concept of TDS was introduced with an aim to collect tax from the very source of income. As per this concept, a person (deductor) who is liable to make payment of specified nature to any other person (deductee) shall deduct tax at source and remit the same into the account of the Central Government.
 - ◉ The deductee from whose income tax has been deducted at source would be entitled to get credit of the amount so deducted on the basis of Form 26AS or TDS certificate issued by the deductor.
- ▶ **Common Business Identification Number (CBIN or BIN):** PAN has now taken on the role of “identifier” beyond the Income tax department as it is now required for various activities like opening of bank account, opening of demat accounts, obtaining registration for Service Tax, Sales Tax / VAT, Excise registration etc. PAN is leveraged to become Common Business Identification Number (CBIN) or simply Business Identification Number (BIN) for providing registration to a number of government departments and services.
 - ▶ **One Person One PAN:** The Income Tax Act permits one person to have only one PAN. To avoid issuance of duplicate PAN, the data is checked for duplication by using the software having phonetic matching algorithm.

◉ New Initiatives

- ▶ **Integration with e-Biz portal of DIPP**
 - e-Biz programme is a mission mode project of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry to facilitate the investors by providing Single Window clearance like licensing, environment and land clearances, approvals from various ministries and departments for start-up businesses.
- ▶ **Integration with MCA Portal**
 - PAN and TAN processes have been integrated with the process of registration of new companies using a Common Application Form SPICe (INC 32) at MCA portal.
- ▶ **Paperless Application using DSC and eSignature**
 - An online paperless procedure for application of PAN using Digital Signature Certificate and Aadhaar based eSignature has been launched at websites of both service providers M/s NSDL and M/s UTIITSL.
 - In this procedure a person having **Digital Signature Certificate** or **eSignature** can apply for PAN through online form 49A and upload digitally signed application with scanned copies of Proof of Identity, Proof of Date of Birth, Proof of Address, Photograph and Signature without any need for sending physical documents by post.

Digital signature

- A digital signature is a mathematical scheme for verifying the authenticity of digital messages or documents. A valid digital signature, where the prerequisites are satisfied, gives a recipient very strong reason to believe that the message was created by a known sender (authentication), and that the message was not altered in transit.

► **Paperless Application using Aadhaar based eKYC**

- Another paperless procedure for allotment of PAN using Aadhaar data and photograph of applicant has been launched. The process is termed as eKYC process where demographic details and photograph of the applicant are populated directly from Aadhaar database by applicant through an authentication process.

► **PAN Card**

- All new applicants and card reprint requests are now being provided option of receiving digitally signed ePAN card on the lines of eAadhaar letter through email. The initiative has reduced the time of transmission of PAN card through post.

► **Electronic filing of Income Tax Return-**

- Filing of Income tax returns was introduced for the first time in 2006-07 for corporates. This facility is free of cost to taxpayers.

► **IT enablement of Business Processes**

- Income Tax Business Application (ITBA) was conceptualized with development of new application for computerization of all internal processes of Income Tax Department.

► **Unification of Grievance Redressal Systems- e-Nivaran**

- e-Nivaran aims to fast track taxpayer's grievance redressal, ensuring early resolution by integrating all the online and physical grievances received by the department and keeping track of it until it reaches its logical conclusion.

• **Major Citizen Friendly Initiatives**

- **Aayakar Sewa Kendra (ASK)** is the single window system for implementation of Citizen's Charter of the Income Tax Department and a mechanism for achieving excellence in public service delivery.
- **Aayakar Setu:** It would facilitate the online payment of the taxes, calculation of taxes, removal of grievances through login to the e-Nivaran module, information about the TPS hierarchy, ASK IT module, Tax Gyaan, TDS/TRACES and other features.
- **TDS SMS alert Scheme:** CBDT has put in place a mechanism for real-time communication to taxpayers (deductees) about information of TDS deduction/deposit by their respective employers or deductors.
- **Publicity Campaigns:** Several publicity campaigns were carried out which included campaigns for awareness of due dates of payment of advance tax, filing of returns, filing of TDS statements and issuance of TDS certificates, filing of annual information return, services of TRPs, vigilance awareness week, income declaration scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, demonetization and publication of names of chronic defaulters.
- **Social Media:** The Department has stepped into publicity campaigns through social media channels since 2015 as per the approved Social Media policy.

• **Central Board of Excise and Customs**

- The main objectives of CBEC are to collect indirect tax revenues, improve tax payer services, to improve compliance for fair trade and enforcement of border controls and promote efficiency and

transparency and develop human resources for such purposes. The CBEC consists of a Chairman and 6 members.

- ▶ **SWIFT:** In 2016, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) launched single window interface for facilitating trade (SWIFT) at all customs EDI locations with six major participating government agencies (PGAs), as a single point interface for clearance of imported goods. **SWIFT** enables importers to file common electronic 'Integrated Declaration' which compiles the information requirements of customs, FSSAI, plant quarantine, animal quarantine, drug controller, wild life control bureau and textile committee and replaces nine separate forms earlier required by these agencies.
- ▶ **Enterprise Data Warehouse:** CBEC is one of the first government departments to have implemented an Enterprise Data Warehouse, a central repository of clean and consistent, near real time data pertaining to Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax.
- ▶ **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND):** FIU-IND was established by the Government of India in 2004 for coordinating and strengthening collection and sharing of financial intelligence through an effective national, regional and global network to combat money laundering, related crimes and terrorist financing.

◉ Department of Financial Services

- ▶ The Department of Financial Services (DFS) is mainly responsible for policy issues relating to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions including their functioning, appointment of Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officers (MD & CEOs), Executive Directors (EDs), Chairman cum Managing Directors (CMDs), legislative matters, and international banking relations.
- ▶ It also covers pension reforms and industrial finance and micro, small and medium enterprise. It started the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory body which also works under this Department.

◉ Banking

- ▶ Banking industry is crucial to the economy of any nation as it channelizes savings and investments to provide capital for economic growth.
- ▶ Public sector Banks (PSBs) and PSB sponsored Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have dominant market presence and constitute 78 percent of the bank network of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). In rural locations, this share is even higher at 87 per cent.
- ▶ PSBs play an important role in fuelling investment needed for the country's economic development, with a share of over 70 per cent of SCBs' deposits and 66 per cent of outstanding credit.
- ▶ In rural and semi-urban (RUSU) locations, their share is even higher at 88 per cent of saving account deposits and 81 per cent of outstanding credit.
- ▶ PSBs and RRBs play a critical role in priority sector lending and account for 74 per cent of outstanding credit to small and marginal farmers, 65 per cent of outstanding credit to Micro and Small Enterprises and 95 per cent of education loans.

◉ Reserve Bank of India

- ▶ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Following India's independence on 15 August 1947, the RBI was nationalised on 1 January 1949.
- ▶ The RBI plays an important part in the Development Strategy of the country. It is a member bank of the Asian Clearing Union.
- ▶ The central bank executes many functions such as overseeing monetary policy, issuing currency, managing foreign exchange, working as a bank for government and as a banker of scheduled commercial banks. It also works for overall economic growth of the country.

- ▶ The primary objective of RBI is to undertake consolidated supervision of the financial sector comprising commercial banks, financial institutions and non-banking finance companies. Payment and settlement systems play an important role in improving overall economic efficiency.

◉ **Regional Rural Banks**

- ▶ The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 to create an alternative channel to the cooperative credit structure and to ensure sufficient institutional credit for the rural and agriculture sector.
- ▶ RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned state government and sponsor banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively.

◉ **Agriculture Credit**

- ▶ In order to boost the agriculture sector with the help of effective and hassle free agriculture credit, the government has been fixing annual targets for ground level agriculture credit by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks.

◉ **Kisan Credit Card**

- ▶ The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998-99, as an innovative credit delivery system aiming at adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible, convenient and cost effective manner.
- ▶ The scheme is being implemented by all cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector commercial banks throughout the country. KCC is one of the most effective tools for delivering agriculture credit.
- ▶ NABARD monitors the scheme in respect of cooperative banks and RRBs and RBI in respect of commercial banks. A new scheme for KCC has been circulated by RBI and NABARD which provides for KCC as an ATM card which can be used at ATM/Point of Sale (POS) terminal.

◉ **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund**

- ▶ The Central Government established a fund to be operationalised by NABARD namely, the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), which was set-up within NABARD during 1995-96 by way of deposits from Scheduled Commercial Banks operating within the country from the shortfall in their agricultural/priority sector/weaker sections lending.

◉ **Insurance**

- ▶ Insurance, being an integral part of the financial sector, plays a significant role in India's economy. Apart from protection against mortality, property and casualty risks and providing a safety net for individuals and enterprises in urban and rural areas, this sector encourages savings and provides long-term funds for infrastructure development and other long gestation projects of the country.
- ▶ The development of the insurance sector is necessary to support its continued economic transformation. The public sector insurance companies operating in the sector are:
- ▶ 1. Life Insurance Corporation; 2 National Insurance Company Limited; 3. Oriental Insurance Company Limited; 4. United India Insurance Company Limited; 5. New India Assurance Company Limited; 6. General Insurance Corporation of India Limited and 7 Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited.

◉ **Life Insurance Corporation of India**

- ▶ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was established by an Act of Parliament called the Life Insurance Corporation of India Act, 1956.

◉ **Reforms in the Insurance Sector**

- ▶ The insurance sector was opened for private participation with the enactment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is functioning from its head office in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ▶ The core functions of the authority include: (i) licencing of insurers and insurance intermediaries; (ii) financial and regulatory supervision; (iii) regulation of premium rates; and (iv) protection of the interests of the policyholders

◉ **Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana**

- ▶ Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition, as also to provide social security in old age. The Scheme is being implemented through LIC of India.

◉ **Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana**

- ▶ For the benefit of the weaker sections of the society, Government of India floated a highly subsidized insurance scheme, viz., Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) which is administered through Life Insurance Corporation of India.
- ▶ Under this social security scheme below poverty line (BPL) and marginally above poverty line citizens are covered under 48 identified occupations.

◉ **Social Security Schemes**

■ **Atal Pension Yojana**

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in May, 2015, to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.
- The APY is focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). Any Indian citizen between 18-40 years of age can join through their savings bank account/post office savings account.
- **Revisions in APY:** In the event of pre-mature death of the subscriber, government has decided to give an option to the spouse of the subscriber to continue contributing to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period i.e., till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years. The earlier provision was to hand over lump sum amount to spouse on the premature death (death before 60 years of age) of the subscriber. The spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the same pension amount as that of the subscriber until the death of the spouse. After the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till 60 years of the subscriber.

■ **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana**

- Government announced three ambitious social security schemes pertaining to the insurance and pension sectors, namely Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha BimaYojana (PMSBY) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to move towards creating a universal social security system, targeted especially for the poor and the under-privileged.
- PMJJBY is a one year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage of two lakhs rupees for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years (life cover up to 55 years of age) having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto debit.

■ Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a one year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death/disability due to an accident and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 70 years having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.

■ Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

- With a view to increasing banking penetration and promoting financial inclusion and with the main objective of covering all households with at least one bank account per household across the country, a National Mission on financial inclusion named as (PMJDY) was announced in 2014.
- Objectives of PMJDY include: (i) universal access to banking facilities for all households across the country through a bank branch or a fixed point business correspondent (BC) within a reasonable distance. (ii) to cover all households with atleast one basic bank account with RuPay Debit card having inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹ 1 lakh.

○ Pension Reforms

■ National Pension System

- With a view to providing adequate retirement income, the **National Pension System (NPS)** was introduced. It has been made mandatory for all new recruits to the Government (except armed forces) with effect from January 1, 2004 and has also been rolled out for all citizens with effect from May 1, 2009 on a voluntary basis.
- The NPS provides various investment options and choices to individuals to switch over from one option to another or from one fund manager to another, subject to certain regulatory restrictions.

■ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

(PFRDA), set-up as a regulatory body for the pension sector, is engaged in consolidating the initiatives taken so far regarding the full NPS architecture and expanding the reach of NPS distribution network.

■ Swavalamban Scheme

To encourage the workers in the unorganized sector to save voluntarily for their old age, an initiative called Swavalamban Scheme was launched in 2010. It is a co-contributory pension scheme whereby the central government contributes a sum of ₹ 1,000 per annum in each NPS account opened having a saving of ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 12,000 per annum.

■ Rural Housing Fund

The Rural Housing Fund was set up in 2008-09 to enable primary lending institutions to access funds for extending housing finance to targeted groups in rural areas at competitive rates.

■ Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched in 2015, to enable income generating small business enterprises to have access to loans. Accordingly, lending institutions would finance micro entrepreneurs up to ₹ 10 lakh.

■ **Disinvestment Policy**

The policy on disinvestment has evolved considerably. The salient features of the Policy include: (a) public sector undertakings are the wealth of the Nation and to ensure this wealth rests in the hands of the people, promote public ownership of CPSEs; (b) while pursuing disinvestment through minority stake sale in listed CPSEs, the Government will retain majority shareholding, i.e. at least 51 per cent of the shareholding and management control of the Public Sector Undertakings; and (c) strategic disinvestment by way of sale of substantial portion of Government shareholding in identified CPSEs upto 50 per cent or more, alongwith transfer of management control.

■ **National Investment Fund**

Government constituted the National Investment Fund (NIF) in 2005 into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized.

■ **Demonetisation of Banknotes**

- The Government demonetised 500 and 1,000 banknotes on November 8, 2016. All 500 and 1000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi series ceased to be legal tenders in India from November 9, 2016. New 500 and 2000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi New Series in exchange for the old banknotes were announced. However, the banknote denominations of 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 of the Mahatma Gandhi series remained legal tender and were unaffected by the policy.
- The government said that the demonetisation move was an effort to stop counterfeiting of the current banknotes allegedly used for funding terrorism, as well as a crackdown on black money in the country.



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Corporate Affairs

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) is **primarily concerned with administration of the Companies Act 2013, the Companies Act 1956, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008** and other allied Acts and rules and regulations framed there-under mainly **for regulating the functioning of the corporate sector**. The Ministry is also responsible for administering the Competition Act, 2002 to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers through the commission set up under the Act. Besides, it exercises supervision over the three professional bodies, namely, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) which are constituted under three separate Acts of the Parliament for proper and orderly growth of the professions concerned.

◉ Ease of Doing Business

- ▶ The Ministry has prescribed a Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Companies (SPICe) along with **e-MOA (Electronic-Memorandum of Association) and e-AoA (Electronic-Articles of Association)** which eliminates the requirement of physically signing the Memorandum of Association (MoA) and Articles of Association (AoA) by the applicant and helps entrepreneurs to start business in India, without much hassles.

◉ The Companies Act, 2013

- ▶ The Companies Act, 2013 seeks to bring corporate governance and regulatory practices in India at par with global best practices.
- ▶ The corporate sector has been given more flexibility in regulating its own affairs, subject to full disclosure and accountability of its actions, while minimising Government interference.
- ▶ The Act provides more opportunities for new entrepreneurs and enables wide application of information technology in the conduct of affairs by corporates.

■ Key Features of the Companies Act, 2013

- **Business Friendly Corporate Regulations/Pro-Business Initiatives:** Provision of self-regulation with disclosures/transparency instead of 'Government approval based regime'.
- **Good Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Concept of Independent Directors (IDs) included as a statutory requirement. Woman Director for prescribed class of companies. Mandatory provision for constitution of CSR Committee and formulation of CSR Policy, with mandatory disclosure, for prescribed class of companies.
- **Enhancing Accountability of Management.**
- **Strengthened Enforcement:** The Central Government to have powers to order investigation, suo-motu, in public interest.
- **Audit Accountability:** Recognition of accounting and auditing standards. Stricter disqualification norms for auditors.

- **Investor Protection:** Stringent norms for acceptance of deposits from the public. Strengthened role of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). No time bar on claims of dividends from IEPF. Class Action Suits recognized. Enhanced powers to tribunal for protection of minority rights.

◉ **Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015**

- ▶ The Companies Act, 2013 was amended through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015 to facilitate business and address certain immediate concerns raised by stakeholders. These amendments along with the relevant rules have been notified and they provide exemptions under various provisions of the Act to (i) private companies, (ii) government companies, (iii) Section 8 companies and (iv) Nidhis.

Memorandum of Association	Articles of Association
Charter of Company	Regulations for internal management
Defines the scope of the activities	Rules for carrying out the objects of company
Supreme document	Subordinate to the memorandum.
Must for every company	Company limited by shares need not have it (Table 'A' applies)
Strict restrictions, alteration only with sanction of central govt/tribunal.	Can be altered by special resolution.
It define the relationship between the company & the outsiders	It define the relationship between company & its staff and between members & members interests

◉ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC, 2016)**

- ▶ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) became functional from May, 2016. Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 were amended wherein Ministry of Corporate Affairs was entrusted with the responsibility to administer the Code.
- ▶ The Code has been framed with the **objective to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner.**

■ **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board**

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) was established in 2016. The IBBI has **the mandate for regulation of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities** besides exercising other powers and functions as envisaged under the Code.

◉ **National Company Law and Appellate Tribunal**

- ▶ The constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was done in 2016. These bodies have been constituted for faster resolution of corporate disputes and reducing the multiplicity of agencies thereby promoting 'ease of doing businesses in the country.

- ▶ With the constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Company Law Board (CLB) stands dissolved and cases pending with CLB were transferred to NCLT.

◉ **Corporate Social Responsibility**

- ▶ In India, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for companies has been mandated through legislation through Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. Section 135, Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 came into force from April, 2014.

◉ **Limited Liability Partnerships(LLP)**

- ▶ In India, about **95 per cent** of industrial units are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). As per the survey conducted by MSME, over **90 per cent of these are registered as proprietorships, about 2 to 3 per cent as partnerships and less than 2 per cent as companies.**
- ▶ MSME sector is at a comparative disadvantage vis-à-vis corporate bodies in accessing loan/credit facilities from banks and other financial institutions.
- ▶ A need was felt for a new corporate form that would provide an alternative to the traditional partnership with unlimited personal liability on the one hand, and the statute-based governance structure of the limited liability company on the other.
- ▶ **LLP is a form of business entity, which allows individual partners to be protected from the joint and several liabilities of partners in a partnership firm.**
- ▶ **The liability of partners incurred in the normal course of business does not extend to the personal assets of the partners.**
- ▶ It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.
- ▶ An LLP would be able to fulfil the compliance norms with much greater ease, coupled with limitation of liability. The corporate structure of LLP and the statutory disclosure requirements are expected to enable higher access to credit in the market.

Private Company

- ◉ A private company is the one which has a minimum paid up share capital of Rs. 100000 or such higher capital as prescribed by the Companies Act. Its Article of association mentions that the company:
 - ◉ Restricts the right to transfer its shares
 - ◉ Limits the number of its members from 2 to 50
 - ◉ Cannot go for invitation from public to subscription to any of its shares
 - ◉ Cannot accept deposits from persons other than its members, directors and relatives.

Public Company

- ◉ A public company means a company which is not a private company and has minimum of 7 shareholders / subscribers. It has to have a minimum paid-up share capital of Rs. 5 Lakh.

◉ **MCA21— e-Governance Project**

- ▶ The Ministry operated an end-to-end e-governance project called MCA21 for end to end service delivery comprising Company and Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registration, incorporation, registry and other compliance related services.
- ▶ The project was started in March, 2006 on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model with the vision was “to introduce a service-oriented approach in the design and delivery of Government services”.

- With the help of e-services, the MCA21 System provides to the stakeholders a convenient, easy to use and secure access and delivers all MCA services with improved speed and certainty. It has brought about transparency, speed and efficiency in the functioning of the Ministry.

◉ **Investor Education and Protection Fund**

- The Companies Act provides for establishment of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) for promoting Investor Awareness and protecting their interests. The amount of dividend, matured deposits, matured debentures, application money, etc., which remained unpaid/unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they first become due for payment, are transferred to IEPF.

◉ **Serious Fraud Investigation Office**

- The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was set up in 2003. The Companies Act, 2013, *inter alia*, has accorded statutory status to SFIO and its functions and powers have been enhanced substantially with number of enabling provisions in the Act and it was established under Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The main function of SFIO is to investigate corporate frauds of serious and complex nature. It takes up investigation of frauds characterized by complexity, and having inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary ramifications, substantial involvement of public interest to be judged by size of either monetary appropriation or the number of persons affected and the possibility of investigations leading to, or contributing towards a clear improvement in systems, laws or procedures.

◉ **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs**

- The Ministry set up the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a society registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 to serve as a 'Holistic Think- Tank', and a 'Capacity Building, Service Delivery Institution' to help corporate growth, reforms through synergised knowledge management, partnerships and problem solving in a one-stop-shop mode.

◉ **Competition Commission of India**

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established in 2003 under the Competition Act, 2002, with the objective of eliminating practices having an adverse effect on competition, promoting and sustaining competition, protecting the interest of consumers and ensuring freedom of trade in India.
- The Competition Act, 2002 was amended twice (Amendment) Act, 2007 and the Government (Amendment) Act, 2009. The provisions of the Competition (Amendment), 2002 relating to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position were brought into force in 2009 and those relating to combinations from 2011.

15

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution is a ministry with two departments - **the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Department of Consumer Affairs. Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)** has been entrusted with the following work: internal trade; the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, etc.; Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980; regulation of packaged commodities; training in legal metrology; consumer cooperatives, etc.

- ▶ The Department of Food and Public Distribution, in the Ministry, is **responsible for the management of the food economy of the nation**. It undertakes various activities, such as procurement of food items, storage, movement, and delivery to the distributing agencies.
- ▶ The primary policy objective of the Department is **to ensure food security for the country through timely and efficient procurement and distribution of food grains**.

◉ Consumer Affairs

- ▶ **The mandate of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is consumer advocacy**. India was a pioneer in consumer advocacy with the **Consumer Protection Act (CPA)**, a path-breaking legislation at the time, **enacted in 1986**, and the establishment of a separate government department dedicated to consumer affairs as early as in 1997.

◉ Consumer Awareness

- ▶ The DCA has been conducting a countrywide multimedia awareness campaign since 2005 on various issues related to consumer rights and responsibilities across diverse subjects. **"Jago Grahak Jago"** has today become a household axiom.
- ▶ The consumer awareness campaign is implemented through the **Directorate of Audio and Visual Publicity (DAVP)**, the **Doordarshan Network (DD)**, and the **All India Radio (AIR)** of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

◉ Consumer Welfare Fund

- ▶ **The Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 was amended in 1991** to enable the Central government to create a Consumer Welfare Fund into **which unclaimed central excise revenues not refundable to the manufacturers would be credited annually**.
- ▶ **The Consumer Welfare Fund was created in 1992** to provide financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of the consumer, create consumer awareness and strengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country, particularly in rural areas.
- ▶ **The Department of Consumer Affairs operates the fund, set up by the Department of Revenue under the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944**. Under its Rules, since revised in 2014, any agencies/ organizations engaged in consumer welfare activities for **at least five years and registered under the Companies Act, Societies Registration Act, Cooperative Societies Act or any other law for the time being in force are eligible for financial assistance from the Fund**.

◉ Consumer Protection Act, 1986

- This Act provided the legislative framework to better protect the interests of the **consumer by creating a formal but quasi-judicial dispute resolution mechanism exclusively for consumers**. This progressive legislation established the **three-tier quasi-judicial consumer dispute redress machinery at the national, state, and district levels** aimed at providing simple, speedy, and affordable redress to consumers.

◉ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- A new **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act 2016 came into force from 2017**. The Act establishes the BIS as the **National Standards Body of India**.
- It has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under **compulsory certification regime** any goods or article of any scheduled industry, process, system or service which it considers necessary in the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, the safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security.
- **Enabling provisions have been made for making hallmarking** of the precious metal articles mandatory. The new Act also allows **multiple types of simplified conformity assessment schemes**.
- The **Act enables the Central government to appoint any authority/agency**, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity. The Bureau of Indian Standards was set up as a **statutory organization taking over the assets and liabilities of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) that came into existence in 1947**.
- **The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi**.

◉ National Consumer Helpline (NCH)

- It is a project that operates under **the Centre for Consumer Studies at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)**. It was set up in 2004 and has customized software that is server-based for receiving calls and answering through one PRI line.
- It is the core of **the consumer grievance redressal mechanism**. It has partnered with 373 companies that respond online to resolve complaints. This is called a **convergence mechanism**. It also pursues the complaints with the convergence companies, takes feedback from the complainants, does research and analysis of the complaint.

◉ Consumer Grievance Redress

Under the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986**, a **three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism** has been set up in the country to adjudicate complaints filed before them and to provide speedy redress to consumers.

- **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission)** at the apex level with territorial jurisdiction over the whole country and pecuniary jurisdiction to consider consumer disputes/complaints involving claims above ₹1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over state/commissions.
- **State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (State Commissions)** with territorial jurisdiction over the state/ UT concerned and financial jurisdiction to entertain consumer complaints involving claims above ₹ 20.00 lakh and up to ₹ 1.00 crore and with appellate jurisdiction over the district for a.
- **District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora (District Forum)** with territorial jurisdiction over the district and pecuniary jurisdiction up to ₹ 20.00 lakh.

◉ National Test House (NTH)

- **It is a premier test and quality evaluation laboratory** for industrial, engineering and consumer products under the administrative control of the Government of India since the year 1912.

- It was established originally by the **Indian Railway Board as a captive test and quality evaluation laboratory at Alipore, Kolkata** to examining the quality of the various products meant to be used by the Indian Railways.
- **The first regional laboratory was set up by NTH in Mumbai in 1963** and subsequently at Chennai (1975), Ghaziabad (1977), Jaipur (1994) and Guwahati (1996).
- To be precise, the NTH issues test certificates in scientific and engineering fields to certify conformity to national/international specifications or customer standard specifications.

◉ Price Monitoring

- The **DCA operates a Price Monitoring Cell (PMC)** tasked with monitoring prices of select essential commodities. The monitoring is done in respect of **both retail and wholesale prices daily**.

◉ Food and Public Distribution

- The primary objective of the Department of Food & Public Distribution is to ensure food security for the country through **efficient procurement** at Minimum Support Price (MSP), **storage and distribution** of food grains; **ensuring the availability** of food-grains sugar and edible oils through appropriate policy instruments; including **maintenance of buffer stocks** of food-grains; making food-grains **accessible at reasonable prices**, especially to the weaker and vulnerable sections of society under a **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.

◉ Procurement of Food-grains

- **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, with the help of state government agencies, procures wheat, paddy and coarse grains in various states to provide price support to the farmers. Before each Rabi/Kharif crop season, the central government announces the **Minimum Support Prices (MSP), based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, which takes into consideration the cost of various agricultural inputs and the reasonable margin for the farmers for their produce.
- State governments are encouraged to adopt a **decentralized procurement (DCP) system of procurement** to maximize procurement, reduce transportation, and increase the reach of MSP operations. Procured quantities above state's requirements are taken in the Central Pool for distribution elsewhere.

■ Stock in Central Pool

Food-grain Stocking Norms (Buffer Norms) were laid down to meet the prescribed minimum stocking norms for food security, to ensure monthly releases of food-grains for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), to meet emergencies arising out of unexpected crop failure, natural disasters, festivals, etc., and to use the food-grain stock in the Central Pool for market intervention to augment supply to help moderate the open market prices.

◉ National Food Security

- To strengthen the commitment to the food security of the people, the Government of India enacted the **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)**, which came into force from 2013. The Act aims to **provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach**, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live with dignity. The Act marks a **paradigm shift in approach to food security— from welfare to rights-based one**.
- The Act provides for **coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized food-grains under Targeted Public Distribution System**, thus covering about two-thirds of the population. This coverage for receiving highly subsidized food-grains is under two categories—households covered under the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and

the remaining households as priority households.

- **AAY was launched in 2000 to provide focus on food security to the poorest of the poor** and covers 2.5 crore households. Such households are entitled under the Act to receive 35 kg. of food-grains per household per month, at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice. Priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg. of foodgrains per person per month at the above mentioned highly subsidized prices.
- **NFSA is now being implemented in all the states/UTs covering about 80.55 crore beneficiaries, against intended coverage of 81.34 crore people.** In Chandigarh, Puducherry and urban areas of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the Act is being implemented in the cash transfer mode under which food subsidy is being transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries who then have a choice to buy foodgrains from open market.

■ **End-to-End Computerization**

- Department of Food and Public Distribution is implementing this scheme of TPDS Operations on cost-sharing basis with states/UTs. Its key activities include (a) **digitization of beneficiary database** to enable correct identification of beneficiaries; removal of bogus cards and better targeting of food subsidies; (b) **online allocation of food-grains to bring transparency** in the allocation of food-grains, upto the fair price shops level; and (c) **grievance redressal mechanism and transparency portal** to introduce transparency and public accountability in the implementation of TPDS through transparency portals, online grievance registration, and toll-free helpline numbers.

■ **Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS)**

- A new **central sector scheme– ‘Integrated Management of PDS’ (IM- PDS)** is to be implemented during FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 for **establishing Public Distribution System Network (PDSN)** to inter alia implement national level de-duplication of beneficiaries and portability. The Scheme will strengthen better targeting of food subsidy and help the beneficiaries to lift food-grains from the FPSs of their choice.

○ **Other Welfare Schemes**

■ **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

It is implemented by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**. The Scheme covers students of primary and upper primary classes in the government schools/schools aided by the government and the schools run by local bodies. Food-grains are supplied free of cost at 100 grams for primary stage and at 150 grams for upper primary stage per child per school day where cooked/processed hot meal is being served or 3 kgs per student per month where raw food-grains are distributed.

■ **Wheat Based Nutrition Programme**

This Scheme is **implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development**. The food-grains allotted under it are utilized by the states/UTs under the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme for providing nutritious/energy food to children in the age group of 0-6 years and expectant/lactating women**.

■ **Scheme for Adolescent Girls**

- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development administers the scheme at the central level. However, food-grains for the Scheme are allotted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution at BPL rates** to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The SABLA scheme was launched in 2010 by merging two schemes namely, **Nutrition Programme and Adolescent Girls (NPAG) and Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) into a single scheme**. The Scheme aims at **empowering adolescent girls of 11-18 years by the improvement of their nutritional**

and health status and upgrading various skills useful to them. It also aims at equipping the girls on family welfare, health hygiene, etc., and guiding them on existing public services. The requirement of food-grains for nutrition is at 100 grams of grains per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year.

■ Supply of Foodgrains to Welfare Institutions

To meet the requirement of welfare institutions viz., charitable institutions such as beggar homes, nariniketans, and other similar welfare institutions **not covered under TPDS or any other welfare schemes**, an additional allocation of food-grains (rice and wheat) not exceeding 5% of the BPL allocation is made to states/UTs at BPL prices.

■ Supply of Foodgrains for SC/ST/OBC Hostels

This Scheme was introduced in 1994. The residents of the hostels having **2/3rd resident students belonging to SC/ST/OBC are eligible to get 15 kg food-grains per resident per month**. Allocations of food-grains under it are made by the **Department of Food and Public Distribution** based on the requests received from the state/UT governments.

■ Annapurna Scheme

This Scheme is implemented by **the Ministry of Rural Development**. Indigent **senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)**, are provided 10 kgs. of food-grains per person per month free of cost under it. Food-grains are provided by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the scheme at BPL prices.

■ Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic)

In addition to maintaining buffer stocks and for meeting the requirement of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), **the FCI sells excess stocks of wheat and rice from the Central Pool at pre-determined prices in the open market from time to time** under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) through e-tender to enhance the supply especially during the lean season, especially in the deficit regions.

◉ Storage of Foodgrains

■ Capacity of FCI and State Agencies

FCI has its grid of covered godowns in all states to safely stock the central pool food-grains. Besides, it hires capacity from **Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)** and state agencies like state warehousing corporations as well as private parties.

■ Augmentation of Storage Capacity

- To cope with increasing production and procurement of foodgrains, the Department is implementing a **private entrepreneurs guarantee (PEG) scheme** for augmenting the covered storage capacity in the country. Under the PEG scheme, which was launched in 2008, **godowns are constructed in PPP mode and the land and construction cost is borne by the selected partners**. Locations for construction of godown are identified by the FCI based on recommendations of state-level committees to cover the gaps in storage.
- A central sector scheme for construction of godowns with a focus on augmenting storage capacity is being implemented in the North-Eastern state. Under it, funds are also provided for the construction of storage godowns to improve the supply chain logistics of PDS.

■ Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority

For the growth and development of warehousing sector, to bring reforms in the agricultural marketing and to increase credit flow in the farm sector, the government introduced a negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country by enacting the **Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 which is in place since 2010**. The government constituted the **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in 2010 for the implementation of the provisions of the Act**. The Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) issued against stocks of farm produces deposited by the farmers in warehouses would help the farmers in seeking a loan from banks. Warehouses need to be registered with the WDRA for issuing NWRs.

■ Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)

It is a **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) set up 1957** under this Department to provide scientific storage facilities for agricultural produces, implements, and other notified commodities. **CWC also has a 100 percent owned subsidiary company namely, Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC) for the development of Railside Warehouse Complexes (RWCs).**

○ Post-Harvest Management of Foodgrains

■ Quality Standard for Foodgrains

The government exercises due to control over the quality of food-grains procured for the central pool. The Quality Control Cells of the Ministry at New Delhi and the field offices at 10 states monitor the quality of food-grains procured, stored, and issue for distribution by FCI and state governments and their agencies.

■ Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI)

IGMRI, Hapur, and its field stations at Ludhiana (Punjab) and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) are engaged in the **training and applied Research and Development (R&D) work relating to grain storage management**.

■ Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL)

CGAL located in New Delhi assists the Department in monitoring the quality of food-grains at the time of procurement, storage, and distribution by analyzing samples collected by quality control officers.

○ Export and Import of Food-grains

■ Export Policy of Rice and Wheat

- The Government has **allowed free export of non-basmati rice by private parties from privately-held stocks from 2011**. **State Trading Enterprises (STEs)** including M/s NCCF and NAFED are also **permitted to export privately held stocks on non-basmati rice**.
- The export of wheat was also allowed from the same year. Export of non-basmati rice and wheat **is permitted through Custom EDI ports**. Export is also **permitted through the non-EDI Land Custom Stations (LCS) on Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal Border subject to registration of quantity with DGFT**. Export of rice of seed quality and other [rice in the husk (paddy or rough) other than seed quality] is permitted under the licence.

■ Sugar

► Sugar Production

- The sugar industry is an important **agro-based industry** that impacts the rural livelihood of about 50 million sugarcane farmers and their families and around 5 lakh workers directly employed in sugar mills. **India is the second-largest producer of sugar in the world after Brazil and is also the largest consumer.**
- Two standalone refineries have also been established in the country in the **coastal belt of Gujarat and West Bengal** which produce refined sugar mainly from imported raw sugar as also from indigenously produced raw sugar.

► Review of Distribution of Sugar to Antyodaya Anna Yojana Families

The Sugar Subsidy Scheme has been reviewed and it has been decided that it is imperative to give access to consumption of sugar as a source of energy in the diet, for the poorest of the poor section of the society i.e., AAY families. Accordingly, the government has decided that the existing system of sugar distribution through PDS may be continued as per the following:- (i) the existing scheme of supply of subsidized sugar through PDS may be continued for **restricted coverage of AAY families only**. They will be provided 1 kg of sugar per family per month; (ii) the current level of subsidy at ₹18.50 per kg provided by the central government to states/UTs may be continued for the AAY population. The revised scheme was implemented in 2017.

► Ethanol Blending Petrol Programme

Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from a by-product of the sugar industry, namely molasses. The **Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme (EBP)** seeks to achieve a blending of Ethanol with motor spirit to reduce pollution, conserve foreign exchange and increase value addition in the sugar industry enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers. The government has also notified new **National Policy on Bio-Fuels, 2018** under which sugarcane juice has been allowed for the production of ethanol.

► Sugar Development Fund

Under the **Sugar Cess Act, 1982**, a cess was collected as excise duty on all sugar produced and sold by any factory within the country which has now been abolished through **Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 2017**. The cess so collected provided funds for **Sugar Development Fund (SDF)** through the budgetary process.

◉ Edible Oils

The Department of Food and Public Distribution deals with issues related to edible oils and fats. The Directorate of Sugar and Vegetable Oils is staffed with qualified technical people who assist the Ministry in the coordinated management of Vegetable Oils Policy, particularly relating to production/ availability and monitoring of prices.

◉ SAARC Food Bank

In pursuance of the decision taken in the **14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi in 2007**, the Heads of States of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries signed the agreement to establish the **SAARC Food Bank**. As per this agreement, **SAARC Food Bank is to have a reserve of food-grains to be maintained by each member states consisting of either wheat or rice, or a combination of both as an assessed share of the country.**

◉ Food and Agricultural Organisation and Committee on World Food Security

- ▶ **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)** is one of the largest specialized agencies in the UN System founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standard of living by improving agricultural productivity and living conditions of the rural population.
- ▶ The **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production, physical and economic access to food.
- ▶ **India is a member of both FAO and CFS.** Committee on World Food Security (CFS) monitors the progress of implementation of the WFS Plan of Action.

◉ International Grains Council (IGC)

- ▶ **India is a member of the IGC**, an inter governmental forum of **exporting and importing countries for cooperation in wheat and coarse grain matters** which was previously known as International Wheat Council upto 1995. It administers the **Grains Trade Convention, 1995**. The **IGC Secretariat, based in London since 1949**, also services the **Food Aid Committee**, established under the **Food Aid Convention**. International Grains Agreement comprises the **Grains Trade Convention (GTC) and Food Aid Convention (FAC)**. India is a signatory to the International Grains Agreement (IGA), 1995, and its Grain Trade Convention (GTC), 1995 which is effective from 1995. IGC has two types of members—importing and exporting members.
- ▶ India has been included in the category of exporting member in July 2003 and represented in the meetings/sessions of the Council held from time to time.

◉ Food Processing Industries

- ▶ The Ministry of Food Processing Industries was set up in July 1988 to give an impetus to the development of the food processing sector in the country. Later this Ministry was made a Department and brought under the Ministry of Agriculture. It was again made a ministry in 2001 and named the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The Ministry is concerned with the formulation and implementation of the policies for the food processing industries within the overall national priorities and objectives.
- ▶ **India ranks number one in the world** in the production of milk, ghee, ginger, bananas, guavas, papayas, and mangoes. Further, **India ranks second in the world in the production** of rice, wheat, and several other vegetables and fruits.
- ▶ The food processing industry is one of the major employment intensive segments constituting **12.77% of employment generated in all registered factory sectors in 2014-15**.
- ▶ **Cent percent FDI is permitted under the automatic route in food processing industries-manufacturing sector.** FDI is allowed through the approval route for trading, including through e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India.
- ▶ The food processing sector has been identified as one of the **priority sectors under 'Make in India'**.
- ▶ According to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) data for 2014-15, the total number of persons engaged in registered food processing sector was 17.73 lakhs.
- ▶ Cent per cent FDI is permitted under the automatic route in food processing industries- manufacturing sector.

◉ Food Parks and Cold Chain

- ▶ **A dedicated investors' portal called 'Nivesh Bandhu'** was launched in 2017 to aid and assist potential investors in the food processing sector in taking an informed decisions. This portal is a 'one-stop information source' on central and state government policies, incentives offered, AgriResources, and infrastructure facilities across the country.

- ▶ An investor-friendly Mobile APP- 'NiveshBandhu' was developed and launched to enable the investor to have access to relevant information very conveniently and from any destination from their mobile proving to be game-changers for the investors in making informed investment decisions.

◉ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- ▶ **PMKSY is a comprehensive package resulting in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.** Not only has it provided a big boost to the growth of the food processing sector in the country but also helps in providing better returns to farmers and is a big step towards doubling farmers' income, creating huge employment opportunities. Especially in rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the level of processing, and enhancing the export of processed foods.
- ▶ The following schemes are implemented under PM Kisan Sampada Yojana: (i) mega food parks (ii) integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure (iii) creation/expansion of food processing and preservation capacities (unit scheme) (iv) infrastructure for agro-processing clusters (v) creation of backward and forward linkages (vi) food safety and quality assurance infrastructure (vii) human resources and institutions.

◉ Mega Food Parks Scheme

- ▶ It is being implemented since 2008, **aims to create a modern food processing infrastructure for the processing units based on a cluster approach and a hub and spoke model in a demand-driven manner.** The scheme intends to facilitate the establishment of an integrated value chain, with **food processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages.** The central processing centre is networked with the primary processing centres and collection centres located at the farm gate in production areas. The Scheme envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural processing zone containing state-of-the-art processing facilities with support infrastructure and a well-established supply chain.

◉ Scheme of Operation Greens

- ▶ **MoFPI launched a new central sector scheme "Operation Greens—A scheme for integrated development of Tomato, Onion, and Potato".** Major objectives of Scheme include: (i) enhancing value realization of tomato, onion, and potato (TOP) farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen TOP production clusters and their FPOs, and linking/ connecting them with the market.; (ii) price stabilization for producers and consumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters and introduction of dual-use varieties through convergence with the scheme implemented by Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and state governments.; (iii) increase in food processing capacities and value addition in the value chain by creating firm linkages with production clusters, etc.

◉ National Mission on Food Processing

- ▶ The Ministry launched a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme—National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)** during the 12th Plan in 2012. Five ongoing central sector schemes of the 11th Plan and four new schemes were merged in the Mission.
- ▶ The CSS-NMFP was implemented through states/UTs. However, the CSS-NMFP was de-linked from the central support in 2015 according to the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. Consequently, all nine schemes of the Mission stand discontinued.
- ▶ Government of India approved a new central sector scheme - **Kisan Sampada Yojana - (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)** in 2017 with an outlay of ₹ 6,000 crores for the period 2016- 20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. It is a comprehensive package that will result in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

◉ **National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management (NIFTEM)**

- The Ministry established the **NIFTEM at Kundli, in Haryana in May 2012**. NIFTEM has been declared a **Deemed University under the de novo category**. Under the Scheme, funds are to be provided to the Institute for the creation of academic and administrative infrastructure. Funds will also be provided to promote research activities, expand **Village Adoption Programme (VAP)**, and skill development in the food processing sector.

◉ **Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT)**

- The Ministry upgraded IIFPT, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu to a national level institute in 2008. Under the scheme, funds are to be **provided to the Institute for the creation of infrastructure facilities including the purchase of additional land for expanding campus and creation of academic and administrative infrastructure**. To enable the Institute to expand its activities, the North East States will include Sikkim and difficult areas.

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by: Dr. Piyush Choubey

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15
JUNE

**PUB. ADMN.
FOUNDATION**

by: Ashutosh Pandey

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29
JUNE

**HISTORY
FOUNDATION**

By: Piyush Kumar

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29
JUNE

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2 AUGUST
2020

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8 AUGUST
2020

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