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An Institute for Civil Services

IAS PRELIMS

Target PT 2019

CURRENT AFFAIRS

YEARLY COMPILATION

PIB

SCHEMES

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Education Schemes & Initiatives

1 | Integrated School Education Scheme (Samagra Shiksha Scheme)

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

Ministry:

- Ministry of Human Resource Development

Target Group:

- School Children especially less than 14 year old

Vision:

- The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from nursery to senior secondary stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal for Education. The main emphasis of the Integrated Scheme is on improving quality of school education by focussing on the two T's - Teacher and Technology.

The objectives of the Scheme, across all levels of schooling, are:

- Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students;
- Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education;
- Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education;
- Ensuring minimum standards in schooling provisions;
- Promoting vocationalization of education;
- Support States in implementation **of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009;** and
- Strengthening and up-gradation of State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)/State Institutes of Education and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) as nodal agencies for teacher training.

2 | Revitalization Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)

Target Group:

- All centrally-funded institutes categorized into 3 groups.

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Objective/Aim:

⊙ This scheme aims to *provide loan facility(at low interest)* to all *centrally-funded institutes (CFIs)*, including central universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs, from a Rs 1,00,000 crore corpus provided under newly restructured *Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA)* over the next four years to expand and build new infrastructure and research facilities.

Salient features:

⊙ It aims to expand loan facility to all institutions, *especially to the institutions set up after 2014*, Central Universities which have very little internal resources, and the school education/health education infrastructure **like AllMSs, Kendriya Vidyalayas**.

⊙ **Equity Share**: In order to mobilise funds Rs. 1 lakh crore corpus **under RISE, HEFA** will need equity of Rs 10,000 crore, of which Rs 8,500 crore will be provided government and remaining by Canara Bank, which partnered with government to set up HEFA, and other corporations.

⊙ **Target:** All infrastructure and research projects sanctioned by HEFA are to be completed by December 2022.

Significance:

⊙ **Government spends less than 3% of GDP in education sector** which is very less as compared to other emerging economies of the world. RISE scheme and setting up of a corpus fund like HEFA will lead to boost in education infrastructure.

⊙ India is way behind in innovation and research although it is the **third largest publisher of research articles** and scientific journals of the world but quality of research is not good as par the world standard.

⊙ **RISE scheme will help eminent educational institutions** of the country to build better infrastructure which will help in strengthening research ecosystem.

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3 Startup Academic Alliance Program

⊙ The Startup Academia Alliance programme is a mentorship program between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.

⊙ By creating a bridge between academia and industry, the alliance strives to create lasting connections between the stakeholders of the startup ecosystem and implement the third pillar on which the *Startup India Action Plan* is based - *Industry Academia Partnerships and Incubation.*

⊙ This scheme aims to bring together a group of academic scholars who have significant experience in related fields to interact with new entrepreneurs.

⊙ The *first phase of Startup Academia Alliance* was kick started through partnering with Regional Centre for Biotechnology, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water, and TERI School of Advanced Studies.

⊙ Renowned scholars from these institutes, in fields such as renewable energy, biotechnology, healthcare and life sciences were taken on board to provide mentorship and guidance to startups working in relevant arenas.

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4 IMPRESS (Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences)

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

Ministry:

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

Objective/Aim:

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

Salient features:

◉ To identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.

◉ To **focus research on (11) broad thematic areas such as:** State and Democracy, Urban transformation, Media, Culture and Society, Employment, etc.

◉ To ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode.

◉ The **sub- theme areas** will be decided on the **basis of Expert Groups'** advice before notifying the scheme and calling for applications.

Significance:

◉ IMPRESS scheme aims to provide vital inputs **in policy-formulation, implementation and evaluation.**

◉ This will help **to identify vulnerable groups** from society on the basis of socio-economic status and will help to eradicate their problem by policy formulation.

◉ This scheme will help to explore diverse Indian society in a better way and researchers will provide a **tailor-made solutions** for specific problems faced by people belonging to different region, religion, caste and creed.

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5 | SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration

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

Ministry:

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

Objective/Aim:

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

Salient features:

◉ Visits and long-term stay of top international faculty/researchers in Indian institutions to pursue teaching and research

◉ Visits by Indian students for training and experimentation in premier laboratories worldwide

◉ Joint development of niche courses, world-class books and monographs, translatable patents, demonstrable technologies or action oriented research outcomes and products

◉ Consolidation of Bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships through **Indo-X Workshops in India**

◉ Publication, Dissemination and Visibility through a high profile annual international conference in India

◉ It aims to *stop brain drain* and provide facility so research fellows can do research in India which is of international level.

◉ to implement the SPARC program.

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6 Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE)

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

Ministry:

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

Objective/Aim:

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

Salient features:

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

7 Leap and Arpit Initiatives

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

Objective:

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

8 Institutes of Eminence Scheme

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

Institutions of Eminence scheme*:*

- The institutes of eminence scheme *under the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry* aims to project Indian institutes to global recognition.
- The selected institutes will enjoy *complete academic and administrative autonomy*.
- *The **government will run 10 of these** and they will receive special funding.*
- *The selection shall be made* through challenge method mode by the Empowered Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.

- **Eligibility:** Only higher education institutions currently placed in the top 500 of global rankings or top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are eligible to apply for the eminence tag.

- *The private Institutions of Eminence can also come up as greenfield ventures* provided the sponsoring organisation submits a convincing perspective plan for 15 years.

9 | Jigyasa

Objective:

- For better student- scientist connection

Department/Ministry:

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

Salient features:

- The main focus of the programme is to connect school students and scientists as well as to extend student's classroom learning to a very well-planned research laboratory based learning.

- The programme has been inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a new India and "Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)" of scientific community and institutions.

- The JIGYASA programme is expected to inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness and scientific temper on the minds of children and school teachers.

- "JIGYASA" programme would be one of the major initiatives of the CSIR at the national level during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year.

10 | Maitreyi Yatra

Ministry:

- Ministry of Human Resource development.

Objective:

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

Salient features:

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

11 | Shaala Sarathi

- It is a portal launched by the **Ministry of HRD**.

- It is a State-NGO-CSR Portal to aid the collaboration among the stakeholders in sharing innovative practices in various schools.

- Shaala Siddhi is a comprehensive school evaluation system focused on well-defined quality based parameters that facilitates Schools to make professional judgments for improvement.

Social Security, Poverty Elimination, Employment Generation & Skill Development

1   Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

Ministry/Authority:

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Objective:

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

Salient features:

- The devices will be distributed in camp mode and will be implemented by **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO),** a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- This is a **Central Sector Scheme**, fully funded by the Central Government.

- The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "**Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".**

2   Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

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

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

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

- Scheme provides an assured return of **8% p.a**. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) **for 10 years**.

- The scheme is **exempted from Service Tax/ GST**.

- On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, Purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.

- **On death** of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the **Purchase Price shall be paid to the beneficiary.**

3 — Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA)

Ministry
- State government of Odisha

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

Salient features:
- Directly attack poverty by **providing financial assistance to the vulnerable agriculture households, landless labourers as well as marginal cultivators of the state.**
- At the heart of a progressive scheme like KALIA lies the motivation to empower the farmers of the state with finance options that will enable the growth and development of agriculture in Odisha.
- Enhancement of the accessibility to suitable financial services will further ensure agricultural productivity and increase income among farmers, particularly the small and marginal land holders.

4 — Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana

Ministry:
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

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

Salient Features:
- **Employment through Skill Training and Placement**
- **Social Mobilization and Institution Development** - It will be done through formation of **Self-Help Groups (SHG**) for training members and hand holding
- **Subsidy to urban poor** - An **interest subsidy of 5%-7%** for setting up individual micro-enterprises with a loan of up to 2 lakh and for group enterprises with a loan limit of up to Rs. 10 lakhs.
- **Shelters for urban homeless** - **Cost of construction of shelters for urban homeless is fully funded** under the Scheme.

5 — Udyam Abhilasha

Ministry:
- Ministry of Finance

Objective:
- The objectives of the missionary campaign includes :-
  - To inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise,

➤ To impart trainings through digital medium across the country,

➤ To create business opportunities for CSC VLEs,

➤ To focus on women aspirants in these aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship and

➤ To assist participants to become bankable and avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise.

Salient Features:

◉ **SIDBI** has partnered with **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited**, a Special Purpose Vehicle, (CSC SPV) set up by the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India for implementing the campaign through their CSCs.

◉ SIDBI is also taking-up with stakeholders including Banks, NABARD, NBFCs, SFBs, District Industries Centres, State Govt. etc. to be a part of this campaign and ensure multi-fold impact.

◉ Further, CSC Village Level entrepreneurs (VLEs) would play role of catalyst for these aspiring entrepreneurs.

6 | Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme

Objective:

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

Salient features:

◉ To be launched on the lines of the **DDU-GKY** to generate livelihood through self-employment.

◉ Loans will be made available through Self Help Groups for starting the enterprise.

7 | Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

Ministry:

◉ **The Ministry of MSME**

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

◉ Scheme will create sustainable estimated employment opportunities for **15 lakh persons** in **three financial years**.

◉ **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** is the **nodal implementation agency** at the national level. At the State/district level, State offices of KVIC, Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industry Centres (DIC) are the implementing agencies. Applications are invited and processed on-line on PMEGP e-portal. Targets are fixed taking into account:

➤ Extent of backwardness of State;

➤ Extent of unemployment;

➤ Extent of fulfillment of previous year targets;

➤ Population of State/Union Territory; and

➤ Availability of traditional skills and raw material.

8   National Council for Vocational Education and Training, NCVET

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

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

Benefits:

- This institutional reform will lead to improvement in quality and market relevance of skill development programs lending credibility to vocational education and training **encouraging greater private investment** and **employer participation** in the skills space. This in turn will help achieve the twin objectives of **enhancing aspirational value of vocational education and of increasing skilled manpower** furthering the Prime Minister's agenda of making India the skill capital of the world.

- Being a regulator of India's skill ecosystem, NCVET will have a positive impact on each individual who is a part of vocational education and training in the country.

- The idea of skill-based education will be seen in a more inspirational manner which would further encourage students to apply for skill-based educational courses.

9   YUKTI

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

10   TREAD

- The Government of India has launched a scheme titled "Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development" (TREAD)

Ministry:

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

Objective:

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

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Health & Food Security Schemes & Initiatives

1 | Ayushman Bharat

Ministry:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective:

- Setting up of health and wellness centers all over India to provide extensive primary medical services to the poor, vulnerable families.

- Granting health insurance coverage to **about 40 percent of the population** deprived of basic healthcare services.

Salient Features:

- Deemed the **world's largest Government-funded health care programme**. It is expected to have a far-reaching impact on country's healthcare and insurance landscape.

- Ayushman Bharat will subsume the existing **Rashtriya Sawasthya Bima Yojna**, launched in 2008 and the Senior Citizens Health Insurance Scheme.

- It will provide a benefit cover of **Rs 5 lakh/year/family.**

- Ayushman Bharat will take care of **secondary care and tertiary care** procedures and also cover **pre and post-hospitalisation expenses**.

- Cashless benefits will be allowed from **any public or private empanelled hospitals**. Such empanelled hospitals will have 'Ayushman Mitra' to assist patients.

- Benefits can be availed from **any place in India and no hospital can refuse treatment under this scheme.**

- If implemented properly, the scheme will bring the nation closer to the Sustainable Development Goal of Universal Health Coverage.

2 | National Health Mission

Objectives:

- Reduce MMR to 1/1000 live births

- Reduce IMR to 25/1000 live births

- Reduce TFR to 2.1

- Prevention and reduction of anaemia in women aged 15–49 years

- Prevent and reduce mortality & morbidity from communicable, non- communicable; injuries and emerging diseases

- Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure
- Reduce annual incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis by half
- Reduce prevalence of Leprosy to <1/10000 population and incidence to zero in all districts
- Annual Malaria Incidence to be <1/1000
- Less than 1 per cent microfilaria prevalence in all districts
- Kala-azar Elimination by 2015, <1 case per 10000 population in all blocks

Salient features:

➤ The Mission has two sub missions such as **National Rural Health Mission** and **National Urban Health Mission.**

➤ **Public health being a state subject**, the aim is to support States/UTs through NHM, for strengthening their health care delivery systems.

3 Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

Integrated Health Information Platform:

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

Key features of Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP):

- **Real time data** reporting (along through mobile application); **accessible at all levels** (from villages, states and central level)
- Advanced data modelling & analytical tools
- GIS enabled Graphical representation of data into integrated dashboard
- Role & hierarchy-based feedback & alert mechanisms
- Geo-tagging of reporting health facilities
- Scope for data integration with other health programs

4 Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)

Ministry:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective:

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

Salient features:

- It is a **direct benefit transfer (DBT**) scheme for nutritional support to **Tuberculosis (TB) patients** rolled out in April 2018 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The scheme is a **centrally sponsored** scheme under **National Health Mission (NHM)**. Financial norms of NHM in terms of cost sharing are applicable to the scheme.
- The scheme is **not related to Poshan Mission** which is an initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

4 National Health Resource Repository (NHRR) Project

Ministry/Authority:

◉ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

◉ It is country's first ever healthcare establishment census to collect data of all public and private healthcare establishments.

◉ NHRR will be the ultimate platform for comprehensive information of **both, private and public healthcare establishments including Railways, ESIC, defence and petroleum healthcare establishments.**

◉ The project would create a reliable, unified registry of Country's healthcare resources showing the distribution pattern of health facilities and services between cities and rural areas.

◉ It would generate real-world intelligence to identify gaps in health and service ratios and ensure judicious health resource allocation and management.

◉ It will provide comprehensive data on all health resources including **private doctors, health facilities, chemists, and diagnostics labs.**

◉ Establishing a National Health Resource Repository for **evidence-based decision making**, in line with digital India mission.

5 National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme

Ministry/Authority:

◉ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

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

◉ It aims to treat **minimum of 3 lakh hepatitis C** cases over a period of three years for eliminating deadly condition by 2030.

◉ The programme is part of National Health Mission. Under it, **expensive antiviral for hepatitis B and C infections will be made available free of cost at all government hospitals.**

◉ Under it, expensive antiviral for **hepatitis B and C** infections will be **made available free of cost** at all government hospitals.

◉ It will set up and upgrade facilities for diagnosis and treatment primarily of hepatitis B and C.

◉ These designated treatment centres will provide free anti-viral to hepatitis C patients.

6   Mission Madhumeha

Ministry/Authority:

- National Treatment Protocol

Objective:

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

7   Nationals Medical Devices Promotion Council

Ministry:

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Proposed Structure:

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

Objectives:

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

8   Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IIM-PDS)

Ministry:

- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

- The new scheme will bring more transparency and efficiency in distribution of food grains as it will improve the mechanism to identify fake/duplicate ration cards and provide the option to PDS beneficiaries to lift their entitled food grains from the Fair Price Shops of their choice at the national level.

- Presently, **Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi has started portability at the State level,** whereas, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana have also started portability in the few FPS areas within the State.

- All the beneficiaries can purchase wheat and rice at subsidized rates from any Public Distribution System shop. Accordingly, this scheme will **bring transparency and efficiency in distribution of food grains.**

- Government will identify fake / duplicate ration cards under IM-PDS and enable PDS beneficiaries to purchase food grains from any shop of their choice across the nation.

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9   Project Dhoop

Ministry:

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective:

- **To address rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiencies (VDD),** particularly amongst the young people.

- The project aims to encourage schools to **shift their morning assembly to around noon-time, mainly between 11 am to 1 pm** to ensure maximum absorption of Vitamin D in students through natural sunlight.

Salient Features:

- It has been launched by FSSAI along with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) as well as North MCD Schools.

- The concept of noon school assembly under it is an innovative and effective concept to ensure that school students get adequate Vitamin D through sunlight, while also opting to choose food products like milk and edible oils that are fortified with Vitamins A and D.

- The launch of project comes in backdrop of rising incidence of Vitamin D deficiency in country as the studies have found that over 90% of boys and girls in various Indian cities are deficient in Vitamin D despite most part of India receiving abundant sunshine all the year through.

- Many factors can contribute to Vitamin D deficiency such as overuse of sun screen, wearing clothes that cover most of the skin, working inside all day in air-conditioned atmosphere among others

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Agriculture, Farmer Welfare & Rural Development

1   Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM AASHA)

Ministry:

◉ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

◉ Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives of the Government and in keeping with Government's commitment and dedication for **Annadata.**

◉ It will help to protect farmers' income which is expected to go long way towards the welfare of farmers.

◉ Government has already increased **the MSP of Kharif crops** by following the principle of **1.5 times the cost of production**. It is expected that the increase in MSP will be translated to farmer's income by way of robust procurement mechanism in coordination with the State Governments.

◉ This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.

2   Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan

Ministry:

◉ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

◉ It has been launched from 1ˢᵗ June 2018 till 31st July 2018 during which various activities to **promote best practices** and enhance agriculture income will be undertaken in accordance with an action plan formulated by including various departments of the Ministry such as Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Animal Husbandry Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F) etc.

- It will be undertaken in 25 villages with more than 1000 population each in Aspirational District as identified **in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development in accordance with the guidelines of NITI Aayog.**
- The overall coordination and **implementation will be done by Krishi Vigyan Kendra**.
- Demonstration programmes apart from these activities are also carried out on Micro Irrigation and Integrated Cropping Practice in order to familiarize the farmers with the latest techniques and how it can be implemented at the grass root level.

3 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

Ministry:
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)

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

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

4 Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)

Ministry:
- Minister of State for Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers

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

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

5   Rythu Bandhu (Friend of farmers) scheme

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

Objective:

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

Ministry:

- Government of Telangana

Salient Features:

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

- It is first of its kind **investment support scheme** for farmers to be launched by any state in India.

- Under this scheme, farmers will directly get **financial support twice every year** to maximise agricultural production and productivity.

- They will get investment support of Rs **8,000 per acre every year (Rs. 4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season)** as crop investment support.

- The government will issue **cheques rather than make direct benefit transfer (DBT)** because banks might use the DBT money to adjust against farmers' previous dues.

6   Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)

Ministry:

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objective:

- The dedicated MIF will supplement efforts of **Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)** Component of PMKSY in an effective and timely manner. It will help to bring about 10 lakh ha of land under irrigation through innovative composite, community and cluster based micro irrigation projects with additional investment in MIF.

- The MIF will facilitate states to mobilise resources for their initiatives, including additional (top up subsidy) in implementation of PMKSY-PDMC to achieve annual target of about 2 Million ha per year **during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission** under PDMC component of PMKSY as recommended by Group of Secretaries.

Salient Features:

- The government estimates the area that can come under micro irrigation at **69.5 million hectares**, compared with the **current coverage of only about 10 million hectares**.

- The states can access this fund for incentivizing micro-irrigation, innovative integrated projects, including projects in the **Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.**

- The funds can be accessed by State Level Agencies/ Farmers Producers Organization (FPO)/ Cooperatives with state government guarantee or any equivalent collateral.

- The fund may be accessed by the Farmers Co-operatives for innovative cluster based community irrigation projects.

- Under the programme, **NABARD will extend loans to state governments during this period.** The loans can be **paid back in 7 years**, including a **grace period of two years**.

7 Operation Greens

- In the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19, a new Scheme "**Operation Greens**" was announced on the line of "**Operation Flood",** with an outlay of Rs.500 crore to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs #), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
- Accordingly, the Ministry has formulated a scheme for integrated development of **Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP)** value chain.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of food processing industries (MoFPI)

Objective:

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

Salient features:

- The scheme has two-pronged strategy of **Price stabilisation measures (for short term) and Integrated value chain development projects (for long term).**
- Short term Price Stabilisation Measures
  - ► NAFED will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilisation measures. MoFPI will provide 50% of the subsidy on the following two components:
  - ► Transportation of Tomato Onion Potato(TOP) Crops from production to storage;
  - ► Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for TOP Crops;
- Long Term Integrated value chain development projects
  - ► Capacity Building of FPOs & their consortium
  - ► Quality production
  - ► Post-harvest processing facilities
  - ► Agri-Logistics
  - ► Marketing / Consumption Points
  - ► Creation and Management of e-platform for demand and supply management of TOP Crops.

8 Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

Ministry:

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objectives:

- Creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in marine and inland fisheries sectors.
- To augment fish production to achieve its target of 15 million tonne by 2020 set under the

Blue Revolution; and to achieve a sustainable **growth of 8% -9%** thereafter to reach the fish production to the level of about **20 MMT by 2022-23.**

- To attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- Adoption of new technologies.

Salient Features:

- FIDF would provide concessional finance to State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc., for taking up of the identified investment activities of fisheries development.
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and all scheduled Banks will be the nodal loaning entities**.
- The creation of the special fund will enable the creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in marine and inland fisheries sectors.
- It will also attract private investment in the creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- Further, it will encourage the adoption of new technologies in the fisheries sector.
-

9 Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise

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

Ministry:

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

- It envisages 2% less than applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal.
- **All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible to avail of the scheme**.
- Under it more incentives will be provided for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST members.
- The **NCDChas the unique distinction of being the sole statutory organisation functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector**.
- It supports cooperatives in diverse fields apart from agriculture and allied sectors.

10 Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project

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

Objective:

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

11 Pashudhan Sanjivani

Ministry:

◉ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objective:

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

12 E-Pashudhan Haat Portal

Ministry:

◉ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objective:

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

13 Yuva Sahakar Scheme

◉ To cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth, for attracting them to cooperative business ventures.

Ministry:

◉ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Salient features:

◉ It encourages cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.

◉ National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has created a dedicated fund with liberal features enabling youth to avail the scheme. It would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.

◉ The scheme envisages **2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan** for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible.

14 Sahakar-22

Ministry:

◉ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Objective:

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

15   The Gobardhan Yojana

Ministry:

- Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Objective:

- The scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and **generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.**

- The scheme also aims at creating **new rural livelihood opportunities** and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.

Salient Features:

- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) comprises two main components for creating clean villages – creating open defecation free (ODF) villages and managing solid and liquid waste in villages.

- The GOBAR-DHAN scheme, with its focus on keeping villages clean, increasing the income of rural households, and generation of energy from cattle waste, is an important element of this ODF-plus strategy.

- The scheme focuses on managing and **converting cattle dung and solid waste from farms and fields to useful compost, biogas and bio-CNG**. It will also help in keeping villages clean and generate energy while increasing income of farmers and cattle herders.

16   Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Ministry:

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

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

- Priority will be given to subjects of national importance that affects the excluded groups the most, e.g. poverty, primary health services, nutrition, immunization, sanitation, education, water conservation, digital transactions etc.

- As Panchayats have representation of Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and women, and are institutions closest to the grass¬roots, strengthening Panchayats will promote equity and inclusiveness, along with Social Justice and economic development of the community.

17   Swajal Pilot Project

Ministry:

- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

Objective:

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

Salient Features:

◉ Besides ensuring the availability of clean drinking water to every household round the year, the project would also generate employment.

◉ **Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.**

◉ Under the scheme, **90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government** and the **remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community**.

◉ The Operations and management of the project will be taken care by the local villagers.

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5

Finance & Banking Schemes & Initiatives

1 India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- Prime Minister in September2018, launched the Payments Bank of Indian postal department that will take banking to the doorstep of every citizen through a huge **network of post offices, postmen and 'Grameen Dak Sewaks'**.

Objective/Aim

- They can accept deposits of **up to Rs 1 lakh** (which may be raised later by RBI), offer remittance services, mobile payments/ transfers/ purchases and other banking services (ATM/ debit cards, net banking and third-party funds transfers.)

- It will offer products and services through **counter services, micro ATMs, mobile banking app, messages and interactive voice response**.

- IPPB will offer its services using QR cards. Unlike ATMs and Point of Sales (POS) machines, the postmen will scan the fingerprint, QR card and make the payment. So, the need to remember PIN and other credentials is not required.

- IPPB has been integrated with **Post Office Savings Bank** (POSB).

- IPPB aims to promote digital payments mainly in the **rural and remote areas** of the country. It will be helpful to rural masses and urban migrants.

Salient Features

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will be like any other bank, but at a smaller scale without involving any credits risk.

- IPPB will carry out most banking operations like accepting deposits but **can't advance loans or issue credit cards.**

2 Comprehensive Plan Project Sashakt

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

Recommendations of the Committee

- The 'Sashakt' Report highlights **nine guiding principles** aimed at the operational turnaround of the banking sector in a manner that will create jobs and enhance the value of public sector banks.

- Resolution of bad assets below Rs 50 crore within 90 days: Banks will be required to create a **'Focused Vertical'** for bad assets below Rs 50 crore and set up a Steering Committee for resolution of such bad assets within 90 days.

- Resolution of consortium loans between Rs 50-500 crore within 180 days: It suggested the

Bank Led Resolution Approach (BLRA) for loans between Rs 50 and Rs 500 crore. It suggested constitution of an Independent Screening Committee to examine resolution of such loans within 180 days and if there is no resolution in 180 days, then these bad assets will be moved to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

- Resolution of loans above Rs 500 crore: The loans above Rs 500 crore will be dealt via **AMC/AIF-led resolution process**. The panel proposed creation of a national Asset Management Company (AMC) to take over such Non-Performing Assets from banks.

- Recommendations included creating platforms where banks can trade in bunched loan assets.

Salient Features

Creation of National Asset Management Company (AMC)

- The committee suggested **setting up of an AMC** with an equity contribution from banks, foreign funds and infrastructure funds such as the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF).

- The AMC could be set up under an existing Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) like Arcil Ltd which is already promoted by banks.

- The National AMC will **determine the price of individual accounts** after due diligence and once the asset is sold, turnaround specialists would be appointed. The asset would be sold down to strategic buyers over a period of time.

- The plan to set up a national ARC or AMC over and above existing private ARCs come amid the mounting bad loans in the system leading to bleeding balance sheets of banks.

3 Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched it **for redressal of complaints against NBFCs** registered with RBI under section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934.

Objective/Aim

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

Target Group

- The offices of NBFC Ombudsmen will function at four metro centres —**Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi.**

- They will handle complaints of customers in respective zones.

- To begin with, the scheme will **cover all deposit-taking NBFCs.**

Salient Features

- Under this scheme, any customer or person can file compliant with ombudsman on various grounds.

- **Only written complaints or those in electronic format** will be accepted.

- The complaint may be with respect to non-payment or inordinate delay in payment of interest, non-repayment of deposits, lack of transparency in loan agreement, non-compliance with RBI directives on fair practices code for NBFCs, levying of charges without sufficient notice to customers and failure or delay in returning securities documents despite repayment of dues among others.

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6

Industry, Trade & Commerce Schemes & Initiatives

1   Solar Charkha Mission

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

Ministry

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

Objective/Aim

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

Salient features:

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

2   PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of Generators

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

Ministry

- Ministry of Power

Objective/Aim

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

Salient Features

- The PRAAPTI app will also **allow users to know the details related to payments** made by Discoms to power generators and when they were made.

- The PRAAPTI portal will also help DISCOMs and GENCOs to **reconcile their outstanding payments.**

- It will facilitate relative assessment of various State DISCOMs on ease of making payments to various generators and will also help make transactions in power Sector more transparent.

3 Defence Offset Fund (DOF)

Ministry

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

Objective/Aim

- It will be set up to fund **promising defence start-ups**.

- It will be modeled on the successful **Electronics Development Fund** (EDF).

- In this fund, the 30 per cent contribution would come from a foreign vendor in discharge of an offset obligation and rest would be raised from market.

Salient Features

- It is a "**Fund of Funds**" contributing 15 per cent of the value of professionally managed "Daughter Funds", required to raise the remaining 85 per cent from the market.

- The funds choose and fund start-ups for developing technologies in electronics, Nano-electronics and information technology.

- The Meity nominated **Canara Bank Venture Capital** to select the Daughter Funds. These must be private- or government-run funds following SEBI rules.

4 Draft Indian National Strategy for Standards (INSS)

- The Draft is proposed to provide level playing field to domestic industry and adopt best global practices.

Ministry

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Objective/Aim

- Positioning standards as key driver of all economic activities relating to goods and services

- Create integrated infrastructure, roadmaps and institutions for their effective management

- Enhance competitiveness of Indian goods and services in domestic and international markets.

- Develop comprehensive ecosystem for standards development taking into account diversity of interests and expertise available.

- Provide level playing field to domestic industry and adopt best practices in standardisation, conformity assessment and technical regulations.

Salient Features

- Rapid growth of Indian economy, its size and emerging relevance in global trade has made it essential **to establish robust quality infrastructure in country with harmonised, dynamic and mature standards ecosystem for goods.**

- The **standardisation will fuel economic growth** and enhance 'Made in India' label as standards are widely recognised as catalysts for technical development, industrial growth, well-being of society and more recently for convergence of new and emerging technologies.

- The strategy for **standardisation of products** considers current state of development across sectors, existing quality infrastructure and policy directions in relation to domestic economic developments and trade in goods and services.

5 | North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS)

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

Ministry

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Target Group

- NEIDS has been launched **to catalyse the industrial development in the North Eastern Region** and will boost employment and income generation.

- It has come into force from 01.04.2017 and will remain in force up to 31.03.2022.

- It **covers eligible industrial units in the manufacturing and service sectors** of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

Salient Features

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

- **Promote employment**: For this, government is incentivizing primarily MSME Sector through this scheme. It is also providing specific incentive through scheme to generate employment.

- **Benefits to industrial units**: It will provide various incentives and benefits to all eligible industrial units. The overall cap for benefits under all components of incentives will be of Rs. 200 crores per unit.

- Incentives to be provided to new industrial units in NER

6 | Integrate to Innovate Programme

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

Objective/Aim

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

Salient features:

- The application for the programme is **hosted on Startup India Hub** – an online platform bringing together all stakeholders of the Indian startup ecosystem.

- The programme **provides an opportunity for collaboration and conversation** around valuable energy transitions, offering startups an opportunity to bring their ideas to life with the guidance and support from corporates.

- The corporates would **offer them access to technology, technical and commercial mentorship** and access to potential customers through the corporate network of partners.

GS SCORE

- Entries are invited from innovators across various stages of the energy life-cycle—generation, transmission and distribution, storage and consumption—in multiple sectors such as households, farm, industry, infrastructure, building, utility and transport.

- The winners will be assessed on select parameters such as the breakthrough nature of the innovation, business viability and scalability potential.

7 Scheme for IPR awareness

Ministry:

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

Objective/Aim:

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

Salient features:

- The Scheme for IPR Awareness aims to conduct over 4000 IPR awareness workshops/seminars in academic institutions (schools and colleges) and the industry ,including MSMEs and Startups, as also IP training and sensitization programmes for enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

- Workshops will cover all vital IP topics including international filing procedures, promotion of Geographical Indications and highlighting the ill effects of piracy and counterfeiting.

9 India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Programme

Objective/Aim:

- It will help scale-up the deployment of energy saving measures in residential and public sectors, strengthen EESL's institutional capacity, and enhance its access to commercial financing.

Salient features:

- Creating sustainable markets for **LED lights** and energy efficient ceiling fans; facilitating well-structured and scalable investments in public street lighting; developing sustainable business models for emerging market segments such as super-efficient air conditioning and agricultural water pumping systems; and strengthening the institutional capacity of EESL.

- Moreover, the Program will help to increase private sector participation in energy efficiency, including through private sector energy service companies.

- Under the Program, EESL will deploy **219 million LED bulbs and tube lights, 5.8 million ceiling fans, and 7.2 million street lights,** which will be **supplied by private sectormanufacturers** and suppliers.

- As an integral part of the operation, the **first-ever IBRD guarantee in India** will help EESL access new markets for commercial financing in line with the Bank's approach of maximizing finance for development.

10 Mahatma Bunker Bima Yojana

Ministry:

- Ministry of Textiles

Objective:

◉ To provide **insurance cover to handloom weavers** in case of **natural death** (Rs. 60,000/-), **accidental death (**Rs.1,50,000/-), **total disability** (Rs.1,50,000/-) and **partial disability** (Rs. 75,000/-).

Features:

◉ In addition to above, a scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying in standards IX to XII. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered.

◉ It is expected to cover 10 lakh weavers in the current year.

11 | Hath Kargha Samvardhan Sahayata

Ministry:

◉ Ministry of Textiles

Objective/Aim

◉ The scheme aims to **improve earnings of the handlooms weavers**.

Significance:

◉ It helps to meet the needs of the handloom weavers for assistance for looms and accessories on larger scale with an objective to improve quality of fabric and productivity.

◉ Under this scheme, **GoI assists the weaver by bearing 90% of the cost of new looms** so that they do not have to bear the heavy financial burden.

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Infrastructure Schemes & Initiatives

1   Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018

- Supreme Court has approved Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme.
- The apex court also modified Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007 and made it clear that it will not be extending time for its implementation on any ground.

Ministry

- It will be implemented by **Cauvery Management Authority (CMA).**
- CMA will be sole body to implement CWDT award as modified by Supreme Court.
- The Central Government will have no say in implementing of the scheme except for issuing administrative advisories to it.

Objective/Aim

- It aims for **smooth distribution of water among four southern riparian states/UT** viz. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.
- The scheme deals with release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

Salient Features

- The newly constituted Cauvery Water Management Authority (CMA) has been created as per the Cauvery Management Scheme earlier framed by Centre and approved by Supreme Court.
- The authority will comprise a **chairman, a secretary and eight members**. Out of the eight members, two will be full time, while two will be part time members from centre's side.
- Rest four will be part time members from states. The main mandate of the CMA will be to secure implementation and compliance of the Supreme Court's order in relation to "storage, apportionment, regulation and control of Cauvery waters".
- CMA will also **advise the states to take suitable measures to improve water use efficiency**. It will do so by promoting use of micro-irrigation, change in cropping patterns, improved farm practices and development of command areas.
- The CMA will **also prepare an annual report** covering its activities during the preceding year.

2   Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas

- Government has signed second Loan Agreement with **New Development Bank (NDB)** for financing of Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas. This is the first tranche loan of $100 million was approved by the NDB under Multi Tranche Financing Facility of $345 million for this project.

Ministry

⊙ Government of Rajasthan will implement the project primarily through **Rajasthan Water Resources Department.**

Objective/Aim

⊙ The objective of the project is **to rehabilitate 678 km long Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP)** built during 1958-63 to prevent seepage, conserve water, and enhance water use efficiency as mandated by both national and state level policies on water use.

Salient Features

⊙ The project will enable **arresting the seepage** by rehabilitating the deteriorating canal lining of IGNP system which needs urgent attention.

⊙ Its implementation period is of **6 years**.

Significance:

⊙ The project is aimed at **arresting seepage** by refurbishing canal, modernisation of irrigation management practices by involving water users' associations, strengthening of drinking water supply and irrigation facilities and rehabilitation of waterlogged areas.

3   NABH Nirman

⊙ The government is **augmenting the airport capacity** of various airports as part of NABH (NextGen Airports for BHarat) Nirman initiative.

Ministry

⊙ Ministry of Civil Aviation

Objective/Aim

⊙ The government in February announced a new initiative — NABH Nirman— under which it proposes to expand airport capacity in the country by **more than five times** to handle a billion trips a year.

⊙ The three key aspects of NABH Nirman are:

  ➤ fair and equitable **land acquisition**

  ➤ **long-term master plan** for airport and regional development

  ➤ **balanced economics** for all stakeholders.

4   Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)

⊙ In Rajasthan Budget 2018, the Chief Minister lauynched it.

Ministry

⊙ The detailed project report for the ERCP has been sent to the Centre and Central Water Commission (CWC) has already approved its working.

Objective/Aim

⊙ The project will **link the Kalisindh, Gambhiri and Parbati rivers**

⊙ ERCP is planned **to meet the Drinking / Irrigation and Industrial water needs** of the 13 districts of Southern & South Eastern Rajasthan viz. Jhalawar, Bara, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur of Rajasthan for Humans and Live stock till year 2051.

◉ The project will help **to irrigate nearly 10 lakh acres of land**, giving a boost to agriculture in the state.
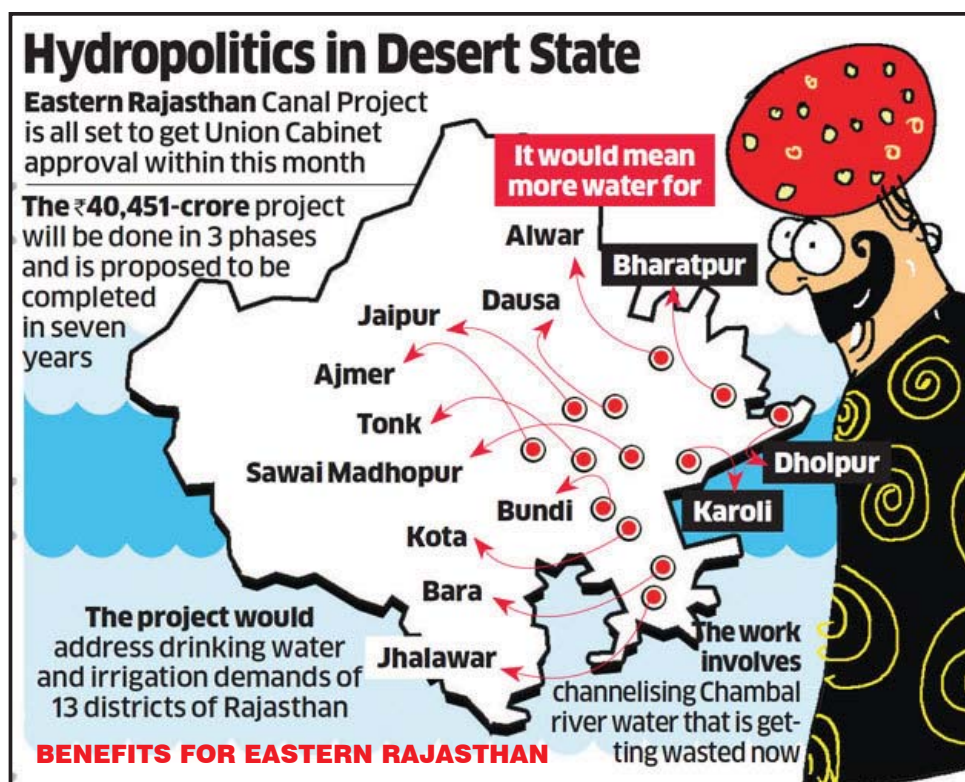
Salient Features

◉ Will **enhance availability of surface water & Ground water** in the region.

◉ Will also **take care of Flood/ Drought situation** in the area.

◉ Would also boost the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in Alwar district and **generate employment** for youths of the state.

5 BIMS & Bhoomi Rashi

Ministry

◉ Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH)

Objective/Aim

◉ Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) and Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage aimed at **expediting pre construction processes** relating to bidding and land acquisition respectively.

Salient Features

Bidder Information Management System (BIMS)

◉ BIMS portal aims at **streamlining process of pre-qualification of bidders** for EPC Mode of contracts for National Highway works with enhanced transparency and objectivity.

◉ It works as **data base of information** about bidders, covering basic details, civil works experience, cash accruals and network, annual turnover etc.

◉ It allows **assessment of pre-qualification of bidders from data already stored in portal** to carry out technical evaluation at much faster rate. It will be used by all project implementation

- agencies of MoRTH for maintenance of technical information of civil works of contractors, concessionaires and for online technical evaluation of civil works bids.

- BIMS portal will be **operated in conjunction with Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)** portal for invitation of bids for civil works for EPC mode.

- It will help to significantly **reduce procurement time for projects** through objective and transparent online evaluation system thereby leading to accelerated project implementation.

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6 Mission Satyanishtha

- Indian Railways had organised a programme on Ethics in Public Governance and launched Mission Satyanishtha at a day-long event held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi. It was first of its kind event organised by any government organization in the country.

Ministry

- Ministry of Railways

Objective/Aim

- Mission Satyanishtha aims at **sensitizing all railway employees about need to adhere to good ethics** and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.

- Under it, talks and lectures on subject were organised all over Indian Railways for this purpose.

Salient Features

- To train every employee **to understand need and value of ethics** in personal and public life.

- To **deal with ethical dilemmas** in life and public governance.

- To help **understand policies of Indian Railways on ethics** and integrity and employee's role in upholding same.

- To **develop inner governance** through tapping inner resources.

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7 "Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan"

- **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** had organised Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan in **five main Ganga basin states** – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The drive was launched in July 2018 for a week which was observed as 'Shubharambh Saptah'.

Ministry

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.**

Objective/Aim

- The campaign was initiated as **part of Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) component of Namami Gange programme.** It aimed to bring greater awareness among people and other stakeholders regarding **importance of afforestation** for task of Ganga Rejuvenation.

Salient Features

- The state forest departments of these five states were nodal agencies for the smooth and effective execution of the campaign. It also saw participation from Ganga VicharManch (GVM), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), NGOs and educational institutions.

- **Dehradun based Forest Research Institute (FRI)** had prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR) to implement the afforestation project in a scientific manner. On basis of DPR, State Forest Departments carried out their plantation activities.

8   Affordable Housing Fund

- The Union Cabinet has approved creation of National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) to finance Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) which aims to build 1.2 crore affordable houses in urban areas by 2022.

Ministry:

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Salient features:

- NUHF will be placed under aegis of **Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).**

- It will be raised from **non-budgetary sources** and will tap into existing government entities such as Housing and Urban Development Corp. (Hudco).

- NUHF will facilitate raising requisite funds in next four years and plug any budgetary shortfalls.

- It will smoothly sustain construction of houses to address gap in Urban Sector progresses by maintaining flow of Central Assistance under different verticals i.e. Affordable Housing in Parternership (AHP), Beneficiary Linked Construction (BLC), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).

9   Nivaran

Objective/Aim

- It is the **first IT application on the Rail Cloud**

Salient features:

- It serves as a platform for **resolution of service-related grievances** and of serving and former railway employees.

- The existing application hosted on a conventional server was migrated on RailCloud

- It will save significant revenue and improve user experience at same time.

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8

Science & Technology and Defence

1 UNNATI Programme

Aim:

- It is a capacity building programme on Nanosatellite development.
- **Agency:** It is an initiative by **ISRO** to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE-50).

Salient features:

- The programme provides opportunities to the participating developing countries **to strengthen in assembling, integrating and testing of Nanosatellite.**
- UNNATI programme is planned to be conducted for 3 years by U.R. Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in 3 batches and will target to benefit officials of 45 countries.

2 Young Scientist Programme

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced Young Scientist Programme.

Aim:

- Inculcate and **nurture space research** fervour in young minds.

Salient feature:

- It would be a **one month programme**. The students will be exposed to the practical experience of **building small satellites.**
- **Eligibility**: Mostly 8th standard passed out students will be given lecturers and access to research laboratories. 3 students from each of the 29 States and 7 Union Territories will be selected for the Young Scientist program

3 Saksham 2019

Ministry/agency:

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.

Aim:

- Saksham actively **involves the Oil & Gas PSUs** along with other stakeholders like State Governments,

- To create **focused attention on fuel conservation** through people centric activities and

- To sensitize the masses about the **conservation and efficient use of petroleum products** leading to better health and environment.

Salient features:

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) is a registered society set up under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.

- **As a non-profit organization, PCRA is a national government agency** engaged in promoting energy efficiency in various sectors of economy.

- **PCRA aims at making oil conservation a national movement**. As part of its mandate, PCRA is entrusted with the task of creating awareness amongst the masses about the importance, methods and benefits of conserving petroleum products & emission reduction.

- It **sponsors R&D activities** for the development of fuel-efficient equipment / devices and organizes multi-media campaigns for creating mass awareness for the conservation of petroleum products.

- To take the message to the people, PCRA uses all possible and effective media for mass communication.

- To give impetus to the oil conservation movement, PCRA utilizes various platforms like the World environment day, World energy day, various festivals etc.

- It functions as a **Think Tank to the Govt. of India** for proposing policies and strategies on petroleum conservation and environment protection aimed at reducing excessive dependence on oil.

- For the benefit of various target groups of petroleum products, PCRA has developed **literature containing simple ready to implement conservation tips** and techniques.

- **Special low cost green leaflets** have also been developed to educate the masses on the ill effects of pollution caused due to incomplete combustion and its impact on health.

4 | Atal Innovation Mission

Ministry/ Department

- NITI Ayog

Aim:

- To promote a culture of **innovation and entrepreneurship**. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

Salient feature:

- It aims to **create high-class incubation facilities** with necessary infrastructure in terms of capital equipment and operating facilities, coupled with the availability of sectoral experts for mentoring the start-ups.

- The scheme is known as **Atal Incubation Centre scheme**.

- The scheme focuses on the **establishment of incubation centres** in underserved and unserved areas to support inclusive growth.

- Under the scheme, Atal Incubation Centre can be established either in Publicly funded institutions or Private sector funded institutions or in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

- The sub-schemes of AIM include

  ▶ **Establishing Atal Tinkering Labs** (ATLs) and

  ▶ **Atal Incubation Centers** (AICs), for providing scaling up support to Established Incubation Centres.

  ▶ It also includes finding **ultra-low cost solution to India's most intractable problems** through Atal Grand Challenges and Atal Vikas Challenges.

| **5** | **Atal Tinkering Labs** |

Agency

- NITI Aayog's

Aim:

- To 'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators', Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India.

Salient features:

- The objective of this scheme is to **foster curiosity, creativity and imagination** in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc.

- All Schools (minimum Grade VI – X) managed by Government, local body or private trusts/society can set up ATL.

- Atal Tinkering Labs have **evolved as epicenters for imparting these 'skills of the future'** through practical applications based onself-learning.

- **Bridging a crucial social divide**, Atal Tinkering Labs provide equal opportunity to all children across the spectrum by working at the grassroot level, introducing children to the world of innovation and tinkering.

| **6** | **Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti** |

Ministry:

- Ministry of Defense

Aim:

- Showcases salient inventions and innovations achieved by DRDO, Defence PSUs and Ordnance Factories (OFs).

Salient features:

- To **enhance self-reliance in defence**, the Department of Defence Production has instituted a new framework titled 'Mission Raksha GyanShakti' which aims to provide a **boost to the IPR culture in indigenous defence industry.**

- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.

- The event brought out that the end objective of 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' is **to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.**

- The IPR has emerged as a key ingredient of an ecosystem which stimulates innovation and ingenuity.

| **7** | **New India challenge** |

Agency

- Niti Ayog

Aim:

- It can give **boost to the innovation** as its structure gives thrust to support innovative ideas and also aims to **transform them to commercially viable ideas.**

Salient features:

- The components of the New India challenge include:

- In collaboration with **five ministries**, AIM will invite prospective innovators to design market-ready products, using cutting edge technologies across 17 identified focus areas such as Smart Mobility, Predictive Maintenance of Rolling Stock and Waste Management.

- It aims to address various challenges haunting India. The Atal new India challenge aims to transform these challenges into opportunities. Thus providing for dual benefits of addressing challenges and scaling the innovations to make them commercially viable models.

- The grant will be further supplemented by **mentoring, handholding, incubating and other support** as needed at various stages of commercialisation, while generating wider deployment for the product. Indian growing economy and diversity produces numerous opportunities. Atal new India challenge aims to bank on these opportunities to **provide sustainable solutions** to these challenges together with giving a boost to Innovation

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8   Resource Prospector mission

Agency:

- NASA

Aim:

- A mission to assay the resources that may be available to **humans on the moon.**

Salient features:

- The Resource Prospector mission would have sent a rover to the moon's polar regions to **learn about water and other deposits on and just beneath the lunar surface**.

- The Resource Prospector mission consisted of a lander and a solar-powered rover equipped with a drill. The rover would have scouted the lunar surface, digging up soil for analysis.

Significance of the Mission:

- Scientists know that **water ice exists on the moon**, but the Resource Prospector would have provided scientists with a more **complete understanding of these deposits.**

- Such knowledge is crucial in expanding a human presence on the moon. **Lunar ice can potentially be melted and split into oxygen and hydrogen, providing a local source of water, oxygen and rocket propellant.** Not only would this help make human activities more self-sustaining, but it would also dramatically reduce launch costs, because much of these vital resources could be produced on site

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9   Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)

Agency:

- It has been created as a professional body under the aegis of **DIPP**

Objective:

- To take forward the implementation of the National IPR Policy that was approved by the Government in May 2016

Salient features:

- CIPAM is **working towards creating public awareness about IPRs in the country,**

- **Promoting the filing of IPRs through** facilitation,
- Providing inventors with a platform to commercialize their IP assets

10   National Wildlife Genetic Resources Bank

- **National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank** was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telanagana. It is *India's first genetic resource bank* where genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.

Salient features:

- It is equipped with **sophisticated equipment to preserve the genetic resources** that could be utilised to **virtually resurrect an animal species in case it goes extinct**. It will cryopreserve living cell lines, gametes and embryos of endangered wild animal species in India. For cryogenic preservation, researchers at CCMB-LaCONES will use liquid Nitrogen that is cooled down to as low as minus 195 degrees Celsius.
- It will **aid wild life conservation efforts** by taking up artificial reproduction, conducting studies in evolution biology and wildlife medicine. Thus, it will also help in protecting India's biodiversity and environment. So far this bank has collected and preserved genetic resources of 23 species of Indian wild animals.

11   Farmer Zone

Agency:

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**

Aim:

- To set "Farmer Zone" - a collective **open-source data platform for smart agriculture** which will use biological research and data to improve the lives of small and marginal farmers. It is envisaged that "Farmer Zone" will help cater to all needs of the farmer, from **dealing with climate change, weather predictions and soil, water, and seed requirements to providing market intelligence.**

Salient features:

- The conclave has identified the challenges faced in each agro-climatic region, it has also discussed possible solutions through scientific interventions. The Farmer Zone platform will connect farmers and scientists, government officials, thought leaders in agriculture, economists and representatives from global companies who work in the big-data and e-commerce space to bring about technology-based localised agri-solutions.
- The platform will work on getting relevant **quality data related to agriculture into the cloud**, develop sentinel sites to help link with farmers and evolve PPP based enterprises for data delivery.
- "FarmerZone" that will **focus on solutions in the farming ecosystem**, especially for small and marginal farmers."

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Environment & Ecology Schemes & Initiatives

1 | Landscape-based catchment treatment plan to achieve carbon sink target

- A *landscape-based catchment treatment plan* is being worked upon by Union Government to store carbon.

Ministry:

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Objective/ Aim:

- To fulfill commitments made under *Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), of Paris Agreement* India anticipated that it might not be able to meet that through forests alone. It is now looking at the soil of catchment areas as an additional alternative to create an additional carbon sink the equivalent of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes carbon dioxide by 2030.

Salient features:

- A carbon sink is a system that absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

- Trees are *natural carbon sinks*, while underground reservoirs in form of underground caves can also be filled artificially and used as carbon sinks.This technique is called *Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).*

- Further, *carbon sequestration* can also be done by storing *atmospheric carbon* in soil in form of *organic carbon.*

2 | Scheme to support promotion of biomass-based cogeneration in sugar mills and other industries

- To promote sustainable energy generation and idea of *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R)* for development and waste management, government launched this program in May 2018.

Ministry:

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Biomass Power Division)

Objective/ Aim:

- To support *Biomass based Cogeneration* Projects in Sugar mills and Other Industries for power generation in the country.

Salient features:

- **Cogeneration** or Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is defined as the sequential *generation of two different forms of useful energy from a single primary energy source*, typically mechanical energy and thermal energy. Usually, heat and electricity are cogenerated.

- There are two types of plants which have been identified under this scheme. They are:

Bagasse Cogeneration Projects

- Bagasse is *the dry pulpy fibrous residue that remains after sugarcane or sorghum stalks* are crushed to extract their juice. It is used as a biofuel for the production of heat, energy, and electricity, and in the manufacture of pulp and building materials.

- *Bagasse is often used as a primary fuel source for sugar mills*. When burned in quantity, it produces sufficient heat energy to supply all the needs of a typical sugar mill, with energy to spare.

- This can be used for generation of electricity along with heat, if better technology and infrastructure is provided.

- The power thus generated can be used for meeting the requirements of the sugar mill and the surplus can be fed into the grid.

- Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will be provided at *the rate of Rs.25 Lakh/MW (for bagasse cogeneration projects)* under the scheme.

Non-bagasse Cogeneration Projects

- Industrial sector which consumes *35% of the total electricity generated* in the country, and most of the need is fulfilled by fossil fuel.

- As fossil fuels are limited, and have adverse environmental impact, it would be appropriate to use non-conventional energy sources including biomass resources such as *crop residues and agro-industrial wastes* for generation of energy in the industries mainly through *biomass gasification technology* for meeting their total/partial requirements for both electrical and thermal energy.

- Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will be provided at *the rate of Rs.50 Lakh/MW for Non-bagasse Cogeneration projects, under the scheme.*

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3 | Ocean Cleanup project

- In 2018,a trash collection device to collect plastic litter floating between California and Hawaii in an attempt to clean up the world's largest garbage patch (called the *Great Pacific Garbage Patch)*has been deployed.

Agency Involved

- A *non-government engineering environmental organization* called *The Ocean Cleanup* based in Netherlands.

Objective/ Aim:

- To **clean-up the Great Pacific Garbage patch** which consists of plastics, used bottles, Fishing nets and gears e.t.c

Salient features:

- The project aims to **deploy a trash collection device to collect plastic litter** floating between California and Hawaii.

- The buoyant, U-shaped barrier made of plastic and with a tapered 10-foot deep screen, is intended to act like a coastline, trapping some of the 1.8 trillion pieces of floating plastic that scientists estimate are swirling in that gyre but allowing marine life to safely swim beneath it.

- The main aim is to **stop plastic wastes to go away from the coast line** and in the meantime, collect and recycle them.

- This barrier has been fitted with *solar power lights, cameras, sensors and satellite antennas* through which the cleanup system will communicate its position at all times and thus allowing a support vessel to fish out the collected plastic every few months and transport it to dry land where it will be recycled.

- The free-floating barriers are made to **withstand harsh weather conditions** and constant wear and tear.

- They will stay in the water for two decades and in that time collect 90 percent of the trash in the patch which is present there.

- Apart from it, *7 million tonnes of plastic waste* which is added every year to the garbage patch must be checked to reduce its size.

4 ECO Niwas Samhita

- ECO Niwas Samhita 2018 an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R) on *National Energy Conservation Day*.

Ministry

- Ministry of Power

Objective/ Aim

- To make *Residential buildings* energy efficient and hence decreasing carbon footprints.

Salient features:

- Government has framed an *Energy Conservation Building Code Rules,* which envisages to construct buildings in such a way that it could help to save energy consumption.

- Adoption of ECBC-R could lead to 30%-50% energy savings by residential buildings.

5 National Environmental Health Profile Project

- A 'National Environmental Health Profile Project' aims to evaluate the *quantum of health effects arising from environmental exposure*, was initiated in November 2018.

Ministry:

- Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)

Objective/Aim:

- To assess health effects arising from environmental exposure across the country.

Salient features:

- The study is being carried out across *20 cities divided into four zones*.

- Each zone consists of five cities and one city in each zone is taken as *referral city and* one city as *test city*.

- The city where the pollution levels are not very high is taken as the referral city in that zone, and the cities with the higher pollution loads are taken as *test cities* where the study will be conducted.

- All leading medical institutions in the country such as AIIMS Delhi, are part of this project to provide technical edge to it.

- *Principal investigators* have been identified from across all these institutions in these cities who have been provided data related to environment such as *metrological data, health data and data on particulate matter. Particulate matter.*

6 Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has launched afforestation drive in five Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

- The campaign has been initiated **as part of the Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG)** component of Namami Gange programme.

- State Forest Departments of these states have been made the nodal agencies for the smooth and effective execution of the campaign.

- In order to implement the afforestation project in a scientific manner, **Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun** was assigned the project to prepare a **Detailed Project Report** (DPR) on the basis of which the State Forest Departments would carry out their plantation activities.

- The FRI report **provides a multi-disciplinary approach** with potential plantation and treatment models. Considering the type of natural ecosystem, identification of native vegetation, soil conditions and agro-climatic zones, potential models of various types have been developed.

- Besides maintenance of the ecological and geological integrities, the implementation plan aims to contribute towards the Clean Ganga Mission, by **improving the base flow and filtration of the ground water pollution.**

7 Scheme to Promote In-Situ (In The Farm Itself) Management Of Crop Residue

- for in-situ management of crop residue in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi.

Aim/objective:

- It will promote agricultural mechanization for next two years (2018-20) to **provide cost effective and eco-friendly solution** to farmers to deal with problem of **stubble burning** that result in raising air pollution levels in Delhi and neighbouring states every winter.

Salient features:

- The proceeds from central fund will be used to **establish Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs)** forCustom Hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery.

- Government will provide **80% financial assistance of project cost to cooperative societies** of

- Farmers, FPOs, SHGs, registered farmers societies or farmers groups, private entrepreneurs and group of women farmers.

- It will provide **50% financial assistance to farmers** for procurement of agriculture machinery and equipment for in-situ crop residue management.

- Beneficiaries will be identified and selected for establishment of Farm Machinery Bank for Custom Hiring and procurement of machines on individual ownership basis by state nodal department/ DLEC.

8 Deep Ocean Mission

Ministry:

- Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

Aim:

- This will improve India's position in **ocean research field**.

Salient features:

- The program on Poly metallic nodules was initiated at CSIR-NIO with the collection of the first nodule sample from Arabian Sea on board the first **Research Vessel Gaveshani** on 26 January 1981.

- **India was the first country in the world** to have been given the Pioneer Area for exploration of deep-sea mineral viz. Polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin in 1987.

- Based on the resource evaluation, India has now retained an area of 75,000 sq km with an estimated resource of about 100 million tons of **strategic metals such Copper,Nickel, Cobalt besides Manganese and Iron.**

- A **First Generation Mine-site (FGM)** with an area of 18,000 sq km has been identified. Latest technologies for extraction of metals from the minerals have also been developed under the programme.

- Detailed environmental data has been collected for compliance with International Seabed Authorities requirements.

- Besides identifying the mineral resource and developing technologies for mining and extraction, the programme has also resulted in **high impact research as well as manpower development.**

9 Himalayan Research Fellowships scheme

- The union environment ministry has decided to start a 'Himalayan Research Fellowships scheme' to **create a young pool of trained environmental managers, ecologists, and socio-economists.**

- This pool will help generate information on physical, biological, managerial and human aspects of Himalayan environment and development.

- This is among the series of programmes that MoEFCC is running for **conservation and protection of Himalayas.**

Salient features:

- The fellowship scheme will be executed through various universities and Institutions working in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

- Preference will be given to the Institutions from north-eastern states.

- Fellowships will be awarded for a maximum period of three years.

- The financial support will be provided under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS).

10 National Biogas and Manure Management Programme

- Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy to set up 65,180 biogas plants under the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP).

Aims :

- To set up family type biogas plants for **providing biogas as clean cooking fuel and a source of lighting.**

Salient features:

- "Under the NBMMP, about **49.6 lakh household size biogas plants have been installed** sincethe inception of the National Biogas Programme in the country.

- "The programme is being implemented in all the states and Union Territories by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE)and Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC), Biogas Development and Training Centres (BDTCs).**

- "The MNRE has taken various steps to increase the production of biogas in the country which include introduction of new biogas plant designs under the NBMMP such as floating designShakti Surabhi Model, Solid-State Deenbandhu design model of biogas plants.

- The biogas plants can **generate biogas from organic substances** like cattle-dung, and otherbio-degradeable materials such biomass from farms, gardens, kitchens, and night soil.

11 SECURE Himalaya

- The Centre has launched a six-year project **to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity,** land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.

- **Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species** and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime.

- The project has been launched in association with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** on the inaugural day of the Global Wildlife Programme.

- The SECURE - securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems - is meant for specific landscapes. It include Changthang (Jammu and Kashmir), Lahaul - Pangi and Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh), Gangotri-Govind and Darma-Byans Valley in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) and Kanchenjunga - Upper Teesta Valley (Sikkim).

- Enhanced enforcement efforts and monitoring under the project will also **curb illegal trade in some medicinal and aromatic plants** which are among the most threatened species in these landscapes.

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Policies

1 | National Electronics Policy 2019

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

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

Salient Features of NPE 2019

- **Create eco-system for globally competitive ESDM sector**: Promoting domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM.

- **Provide incentives and support for manufacturing of core electronic components.**

- **Provide special package of incentives for mega projects**

- Formulate suitable schemes and incentive mechanisms to encourage new units and expansion of existing units.

- **Promote Industry-led R&D and innovation in all sub-sectors of electronics**

- Special thrust on Fabless Chip Design Industry, Medical Electronic Devices Industry, Automotive Electronics Industry and Power Electronics for Mobility and Strategic Electronics Industry.

- **Create Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF)** to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in ESDM sector.

- **Promote trusted electronics value chain initiatives** to improve national cyber security profile.

2 | National Mineral Policy, 2019

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

- It will lead to **sustainable mining sector** development in future.

- It will **address the issues of project affected persons** especially those residing in tribal areas.

- The new changes include the focus on make in India initiative and Gender sensitivity in terms of the vision.

- It also **focuses on usecoastal waterways and inland shipping** for evacuation and transportation of minerals.

- It encourages **dedicated mineral corridors** to facilitate the transportation of minerals.

- It introduces the concept of **Inter-Generational Equity** that deals with the **well-being not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come**.
- It also proposes to constitute an **inter-ministerial body** to institutionalize the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.

3 National Capital Goods Policy

Aim/Objectives-

- **Increasing exports to 40 percent of production**, **from the current 27 percent**.
- To facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors (**increasing research intensity in India from 0.9% to at least 2.8% of GDP),** increase skill availability (**training ~50 lakh people by 2025)**, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
- **Increase employment**: Raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million by 2025.
- Increase domestic market share: To **increase the share ofdomestic production in India's capital goods demand from 60% to 80% by 2025**

Salient Features

- **Increasing Exports:** The National Capital Goods Policy 2016 aims at increasing exports to 40 percent of production, from the current 27 percent.
- **Push to Domestic Production:** The policy aims to increase the share of domestic production in the country's demand to 80 percent from 60 per cent, potentially making India net exporter of capital goods.
- **Technological Improvement:** The policy aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across subsectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
- **HIEMDA Scheme:** The policy seeks to enhance Indian made capital goods export through a 'Heavy Industry Export & Market Development Assistance Scheme (HIEMDA)'.
- **Technology Development Fund**: The policy advocates launching a Technology Development Fund under the public-private partnership (PPP) model

4 Draft Defence Production Policy 2018

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

Vision

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

Goals and Objectives

- Create an environment that **encourages a dynamic, robust and competitive defence industry as an important part of the 'Make in India' initiative**.
- To **facilitate faster absorption of technology** and create a tiered defence industrial ecosystem in the country.
- To **reduce current dependence on imports and to achieve self-reliance in development and manufacture** of following weapon systems/platforms latest by 2025
- **To make India as a global leader in Cyberspace and AI technologies**.

Salient Features

⊙ **Ease of Doing Business in Defence Production**-

⊙ Necessary enabling provisions will be brought in to enable Startups and MSMEs to participate in transparent and fair manner, without having restrictions of turnover, prior experience as they meet technical and functional requirements.

⊙ Defence Investor Cell in Department of Defence Production will provide handholding to MSMEs and other investor in defence production, as also to resolve issues with Central, State and other authorities.

⊙ **PPP Model** -The policy attempts for increased productivity and innovation.

⊙ **Liberal Policies** -The policy would liberalise licences that will be provided to defence industries.

⊙ **Skill Development** - It aims at advancing and boosting the existing public sector defence production units.

⊙ **Overseas Production** - the policy plans on setting up Defence Export Organisation in partnership with the industry. This will facilitate for overseas marketing of domestically produced goods.

Expected Outcomes:

⊙ If properly implemented the policy will **reduce the import bill**.

⊙ It could **increase the export earnings** for more than 3 million people.

⊙ This will make **India a top destination for Research & Development (R&D)** in the world.

⊙ It can promote India as a **hub for defence related Intellectual Property (IP).**

⊙ The broad policy will **accelerate domestic defence production** and thereby makes it feasible to have a market of our own.

⊙ Indigenous defence production will attract more investors which eventually will lead to **massive market creation**.

5	National Manufacturing Policy

Objectives

⊙ To **increase the sectoral share of manufacturing in GOP to at least 25% by 2022**;

⊙ To increase the rate of job creation so as to **create 100 million additional jobs by 2022**;

⊙ And to **enhance global competitiveness**, domestic value addition, technological depth and environmental sustainability of growth.

Salient Features

⊙ Policy is based on **principle of economic and industrial growth in partnership with states**.

⊙ **Policy aims at setting up National Investment and Manufacturing Zones**

⊙ **Infrastructure will be financed appropriately by Central government** through Viability Gap Funding while Special Purpose Vehicle will develop zone infrastructure through PPP mode.

6	Agriculture Export Policy, 2018

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

Objectives-

- **Double agricultural exports from present**

- **Diversify India's export basket**, **destinations and also boost high value and value added agricultural exports** including perishables.

- **Provide institutional mechanism** for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.

- **Strive to double India's share in world agri-exports** by integrating with global value chain at earliest.

- Promote indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional agri products exports.

- Enable farmers to benefit from export opportunities in overseas market.

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7 Food Processing Policy

Objectives-

- To **reduce wastages, increase value addition, ensure better prices for farmers**

- To **address the challenges of malnourishment and malnutrition**

- To **make food processing more competitive and future ready through** creation of adequate infrastructure facilities

- To **position India as the most preferred investment destination** for the agri-business and food processing.

- To **generate more opportunities for the development of the agribusiness** and Food Processing Industry, and create employment.

Salient Features

- India provides most conducive environment to food processing given parameters and conditions like abundance of food production, abundance of manpower engaged in agriculture and low cost of processing.

- To make India Global Food Factory and Global Food Market brings immense opportunities for food processing sector.

- India is ushering in an era of Zero Tolerance towards Post Harvest Wastage, Zero Tolerance on Delays in Commissioning of Food Processing Projects, Zero Tolerance in Delays in obtaining Licenses/ Statutory Clearances for Food Processing/ Food Retail Markets by Central/State/Local authority.

- National Food Processing Policy which shall focus on building India's NATIONAL FOOD GRID and NATIONAL COLD CHAIN GRID and create Retail Markets in every nook and corner of the country.

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8 Draft National Forest Policy, 2018

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

Objective

- The overall objective and goal of the present policy is **to safeguard the ecological and livelihood security of people, of the present and future generations**, based on **sustainable management** of the forests for the flow of ecosystem services In order.

◎ To **achieve the national goal for eco-security**, the country should have a **minimum of one-third of the total land area under forest and tree cover**

◎ The new forest policy **aims to address the new realities – climate change, human-animal conflict and declining green cover**.

Concepts:

◎ The draft has introduced some new concepts such as:

➤ Economic valuation of ecosystem services

➤ Forest certification

➤ National forest ecosystem management information system

Highlights:

◎ Unlike the previous policies, which stressed on environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance, the 2018 policy **focuses on the international challenge of climate change.**

◎ It **proposes public-private participation models**

◎ **Community participation**

◎ **Forest fire** - The draft policy includes measures to safeguard ecosystems from forest fires

◎ **Climate change** - Forests are natural carbon sinks, assisting in climate change mitigation.

◎ **Human-wildlife conflict** - Quick response, dedicated teams of well equipped and trained personnel would be developed.

9 | National Tariff Policy

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

Objectives

◎ To **ensure availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates** and financial viability of the sector and attract investments.

◎ **Promote transparency, consistency and predictability in regulatory approaches** across jurisdictions and minimize perceptions of regulatory risks.

◎ **Promote generation of electricity from Renewable sources.**

◎ Promote Hydroelectric Power generation

◎ **Evolve a dynamic and robust electricity infrastructure** for better consumer services.

◎ Facilitate supply of adequate and uninterrupted power to all categories of consumers.

◎ **Ensure creation of adequate capacity** including reserves in generation, transmission and distribution in advance, for reliability of supply of electricity to consumers.

Salient Features –

◎ **Electricity to All**

◎ **Environment-Friendly Procurement of power** from waste-to-energy plants

◎ **Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) to promote renewable energy**

◎ Transmission of Power Inter-State transmission charges and losses for renewable power (wind/solar) have been exempted.

10 | National Digital Communications Policy-2018

- It replaces existing National Telecom Policy-2012

Aim

- It envisions **supporting India's transition to digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling information and communications needs of citizens and enterprises**.

Key Objectives

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

Features NDCP 2018 aims to-

- Provide **universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen.**
- **Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022**.
- Ensure internet connectivity to all uncovered areas.
- Establish comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals.
- Facilitate India's effective participation in global digital economy;
- Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms

11 | National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

Salient features of Policy:-

- The policy categorises of biofuels to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category
  - Basic Biofuels: First Generation (1G) bioethanol and biodiesel
  - Advanced Biofuels: Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc.
  - **Expansion scope of raw material for ethanol production**: It allows use of sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials like sweet sorghum, sugar beet, starch containing materials like corn, cassava, damaged food grains like broken rice, wheat, rotten potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
  - **Use of surplus food grains**: The policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol **with approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee**
  - **Supply chain mechanisms**: The policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, short gestation crops.

12 National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy

- By Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Objectives-

- Provide comprehensive framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar Photo Voltaic (PV) hybrid system for efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land. **Reduce variability in renewable power generation** and **achieving better grid stability**.

Features

- Flexibility in share of wind and solar components
- **Technology front**: Policy provides for integration of both energy sources i.e. wind and solar at alternating current (AC) as well as direct current (DC) level.
- **Hybrid projects**: The policy seeks to promote new hybrid projects as well as hybridisation of existing wind and solar projects.
- It allows **hybridisation of existing projects (wind or solar)** with higher transmission capacity than sanctioned one, subject to availability of margin in existing transmission capacity.
- **Use of battery storage**: The policy permits use of **battery storage in hybrid project** for optimising output and reduce variability.
- National Health Policy

Objectives

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

Salient Features –

- **Professionalism, Integrity and** Ethics: The health policy commits itself to the highest professional standards, integrity and ethics to be maintained in the entire system of health care delivery in the country, supported by a credible, transparent and responsible regulatory environment.
- **Equity**: Reducing inequity would mean affirmative action to reach the poorest.
- **Affordability:** As costs of care increases, affordability, as distinct from equity, requires emphasis. Catastrophic household health care expenditures defined as health expenditure exceeding 10% of its total monthly consumption expenditure or 40% of its monthly non-food consumption expenditure, are unacceptable.
- **Universality:** Prevention of exclusions on social, economic or on grounds of current health status
- **Patient Centered & Quality of Care**: Gender sensitive, effective, safe, and convenient healthcare services to be provided with dignity and confidentiality.

13 National Mental Health Policy

Objectives

- To reduce distress, disability, exclusion, morbidity and premature mortality associated with mental health problems across life-span of a person;
- To enhance understanding of mental health in the country;
- To provide universal access to mental health care;

- To increase access to mental health services for vulnerable groups;

- To reduce risk and incidence of suicide and attempted suicide;

- To ensure respect for rights and protection from harm of persons with mental health problems, and reduce stigma associated with mental health problems; and

- To enhance availability and distribution of skilled human resources for mental health.

Salient Features

- The National Mental Health Policy is based, inter-alia, on the values and principles of equity, justice, integrated and evidence based care, quality, participatory and holistic approach to mental health.

- It enlists the comprehensive list of vulnerable groups, which include the poor (who are linked with mental illnesses in a "negative vicious cycle"), the homeless (who have "no provision for care and support"), persons in custodial institutions (who face a **"deprivation of personal liberty"**), orphans, children, the elderly and people affected by emergencies and various natural or man-made disasters.

- It also recognises the fact that mental health is linked to many other aspects of life such as social welfare, school education and women and child development.

- In addition to the treatment of mental illnesses, the policy also stresses the need to prevent such problems and promote mental health. It places the onus of such promotion on early childhood care itself, by targeting anganwadi centres for children below six years of age.

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E- Governance Initiatives

1   Google-RailTel

- **Google-RailTel** completed its 400th **high-speed Internet project** at **Dibrugarh Railway station.**
- 8 million people actively use the public Wi-Fi service on a monthly basis provided under "RailWire".
- **Railwire** is a joint project by **Google and State-owned telecom infrastructure provider RailTel Corporation**.

2   E-Governance Initiatives of the Ministry of Coal

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

3   Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)

- The third phase of SIP was launched at **Mana village** which is situated close to the **Badrinath temple in Uttarakhand**.
- **Sabarimala in Kerala** and the **RaghavendraSwamy temple in Kurnool** of Andhra Pradesh are among the 10 iconic sites added to the phase III Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) mission
- The Swachh Iconic Places is an initiative **under the Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- SIP is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries**- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism**.

4   National Digital Library

- **Ministry of Human Resources and Development** has launched National Digital Library.
- It is a **repository of millions of academic texts** from around the world which will be open for all to use.
- The earlier version of digital library was limited to schools and other educational institutes.
- It has been **built by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**.

5 Digitization of Crime Records Bureau

- **Andhra Pradesh** has become the **first state in the country** to complete automation of the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB).
- IT-based web/mobile application "**i-App cloud"** helps the **police access the entire information of crimes** under various IPC sections.
- The data is **collected from District Crime Records Bureau** (DCRB).

6 Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS)

- The CMSMS is a **web based GIS application** through which location of **sites for unauthorised mining can be detected**.
- Its basic objective is reporting, monitoring and taking suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities.
- The system will use **satellite data to detect changes by which unauthorised mining activity** extending beyond the allotted lease area can be detected and suitable action can be taken on it.

7 Common Service Centre

- The Common Service Center (CSC) Scheme is an integral part of "Digital India" initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- CSCs are the **access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages**.
- **Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE)** under CSCs provide service to the rural consumer in villages.

8 DigiLocker

- DigiLocker is a secure **cloud based platform for storage, sharing and verification of documents & certificates launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- Ministry of Railways approved digital Aadhaar and Driving Licence from Digital Locker as proof of identity of passengers for undertaking journey by Train.
- The documents are accepted **only if a passenger shows the Aadhaar/Driving Licence** from the 'Issued Documents' section by logging into his/her DigiLocker account.

9 National Database of Arms Licenses System

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

10 Innovate India Platform

- The platform is a collaboration between **the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog and MyGov**, **a citizen centric platform** of the Government of India.

○ It will serve as the **common point for all the innovation** happening across the nation.

○ Through the Innovate India portal, users **can view, comment, share, and rate the innovations**crowdsourced on the Innovate India platform.

11 UPI 2.0

○ Unified Payment Interface is a platform **created by the National Payments Corporation (NPCI)** to facilitate **faster and smoother digital payments**.

○ It allows a customer to **pay directly from a bank account to another bank account & different merchants, both online and offline**, without the hassle of typing credit card details, IFSC code, or net banking/wallet passwords.

○ It allows scheduling payment **transfers at a later date with pre-authorisation**.

○ It allows customers to link their **overdraft (OD) account with UPI**. In the Earlier version, only current and savings account can linked.

○ It will also let **users verify UPI credentials using a QR code**.

○ Customers can now **receive invoices from merchants directly in the inbox** to verify the authenticity of credentials.

12 PARIVESH

○ **Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub** was recently launched by the Prime Minister of India.

○ It is a **Single-Window Integrated Environmental Management System**, launched on the occasion of **World Biofuel Day.**

○ It enables project proponents, citizens to view, track and interact with scrutiny officers, generates online mail alerts to state functionaries in case of delays beyond stipulated time for processing of applications.

13 Government e-Marketplace

○ National Mission on Government e Marketplace (GeM) will be launched by the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.

○ GeM is a platform that provides **online, end to end procurement of commonly used goods and services** for all Central and State Government Departments, Public Sector Units and affiliated bodies.

○ It provides the **tools of e-bidding**, **reverse e-auction** and **demand aggregation** to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value for their money.

○ The aim of the mission is to promote inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in public procurement and achieve cashless, contactless and paperless transaction.

14 TRAFFIC

○ TRAFFIC, the **wildlife trade monitoring network**, is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants.

○ It is a **strategic alliance of IUCN and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).**

- Its mission is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.
- It plays a vital role in tackling illegal wildlife trade through conducting research and analysis, advocacy and awareness work and by supporting remedial action against illegal wildlife trade.

15 | SPARC Scheme

- A webportal for the **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)** was recently launched **by Union Human Resource ministry**.
- It is a scheme for **promotion of academic and research collaboration**.
- It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian and foreign institutions.

16 | Bhudhaar

- **Andhra Pradesh government** has recently launched "**Bhudhaar" initiative**.
- It aimed at enabling **easy identification of details of the land parcel**.
- Under this, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhaar number, an **11-digit unique figure**.

17 | Integrated Government Online Training Programme (iGOT)

- **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions** has recently launched iGOT to **augment existing training mechanism for civil servants with online based module**.
- This will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis.
- The initiative aims at "**Competent Civil Services for Good Governance**".

18 | E-Prison

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

19 | Cyber Crime prevention against Women and Children

- It is a scheme under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It aims to have an effective mechanism to **handle cybercrimes against women and children** in the country.

- The **main features** of the scheme are given below:
- Online cybercrime reporting platform
- One national level cyber forensic laboratory
- Training of Police officers, judges & prosecutors
- Cybercrime awareness activities
- Research & Development

20 E-Court Service

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

21 Corruption Perception Index

- India has **improved its ranking by three positions** in the **Global Corruption Index 2018**.
- The index was released by released by the **Transparency International.**
- India was ranked **81st in 2017, is ranked 78 in 2018**.

22 River Information System

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

23 National Data Repository

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

24 | Operation Digital Board (ODB)

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.

- It has been launched on the lines of **Operation Blackboard** to provide **better digital education** in schools.

- It aims to set up **one digital and interactive board per classroom** in **government and government-aided schools**

- University Grants Commission will be the implementing agency for ODB in Higher Education Institutions.

25 | Rail Drishti Dashboard

- It was launched by **Ministry of Railways**

- It encompasses all the digitization efforts in Indian Railways and promotes transparency and accountability.

- It helps customers keep track of their consignment.

26 | National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)

- It was launched by the **Prime Minister in Ahmadabad, Gujarat**.

- The first Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport consists of NCMC Card, SWEEKAR (SwachalitKiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System (AFC)), SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate).

- NCMC enables people to pay multiple kinds of transport charges, including metro services and toll tax, across the country.

- It is also known as **'One Nation One Card'**.

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Others Schemes & Initiatives

1 | Niti Forum for North-East

Ministry

- Ministry for Development of North-East Region

Feature:

- The NITI Forum for Northeast is tasked **to identify various constraints on the way of accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth** in the North East Region of the country and to recommend suitable interventions for addressing identified constraints. It will also review the development status in the NER.

- The Forum may **examine and address any other issues** which are of importance but not specifically spelt out in its Terms of Reference.

- It may devise its own procedure to conduct its business/meetings/fields visits or constitution of Sub-Groups etc.

2 | Blue Aadhar Card/Baal Aadhaar

Feature:

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the nodal authority for issuing Aadhaar cards has rollout '**Bal Aadhaar', meant for kids under 5 years of age.**

- Bal Aadhaar literally means **Kid's Aadhaar**. It will have **blue colour** to differentiate it with regular Aadhaar. It will be **linked with one of parent's Aadhaar card.**

- Blue coloured Aadhaar **does not include child's biometric information**.

- The first mandatory biometric update is required at the age of five to include child's biometric information like fingerprints and iris scan.

- The second mandatory biometric update is required at the age of 15.

- **Besides school photo ID card, child's birth certificate and a mobile number will also be required for enrolment.**

3 | Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC)

Ministry:

- Ministry for Development of North-East Region

Feature

⊙ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister approved the following schemes of M/o DONER for continuation till March, 2020

⊙ For other projects funded by NEC - both Revenue and Capital - as 100% Central funding basis, to continue with existing pattern;

⊙ Proposal to ensure optimization of resources through convergence of efforts of various Ministries/Departments.

⊙ The projects under the existing Schemes of NEC, NLCPR (Central) and NERSDS will **accrue socio-economic benefits to the people of North Eastern Region** enhancing their capabilities and livelihood.

⊙ Another Scheme namely "Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources-Central [NLCPR (Central)], presently funded by M/o DoNER, provides resources to the concerned line Ministries/their agencies for projects like Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link, checking erosion in Majuli Island. This Scheme will also be transferred to NEC for implementation.

⊙ **Previously, there was no fixed arrangement for distributing the funds into State or Central component.**

⊙ For the Central component, the projects having regional character, requiring Inter-Ministerial intervention are to be taken up.

⊙ **Priority sectors have been identified** such as bamboo; piggery; regional tourism; higher education, tertiary healthcare & special intervention in backward areas; livelihood project; Science & Technology Interventions in NER; Survey & Investigation and NER Promotion.

⊙ By the above, a clear apportionment or **division of sectors is ensured between DoNER and NEC to avoid duplication.**

⊙ In order to give a boost to the Tourism in NE Region, amongst other things, the outstanding liabilities in tourism sector under Product Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits (PIDDC) may also be addressed.

4 Videsh Aaya Pradesh Ke Dwaar

Ministry:

⊙ The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched 'Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar', an engagement programme with regional media in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

Objective:

⊙ The initiative aims **enhance public diplomacy outreach of MEA** and its commitment to take objectives of foreign policy to people at grassroot-level.

Feature:

⊙ The initiative involves MEA's engagement with regional media based in different cities across the country to communicate foreign policy priorities in simple terms.

⊙ It seeks to **highlight benefits accruing to common people through its diplomatic efforts** and bring domain of foreign policy closer to people.

⊙ It is also intends to **create pool of media professionals interested in foreign policy** and guide them on connecting with MEA.

5 Seva Bhoj Yojna

Ministry

⊙ Ministry of Culture

Objective:

- A new scheme to **provide financial assistance on purchase of specific food items by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.**

Feature:

- Under this scheme, Centre's share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) charged on the raw food materials purchased by the religious institutions will be refunded.

- The scheme aims reimburse Central Government share of CGST and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) of Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) who **provide food, prasad, langar (Community Kitchen), Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to public and devotees.** This will help to lessen the financial burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions.

- CRIs such as Temples, Gurudwara, Mosque, Church, Dharmik Ashram, Dargah, Matth, Monasteries etc. having existence for at least five years and serve free food to at least 5000 people in month.

- Such institutions will be **given grant under the scheme if they are covered under Section 10 (23BBA) of Income Tax (IT) Act** or are institutions registered as Society under Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) or as Public Trust under any law for time being in force of statuary religious bodies or institutions registered under Section 12AA of IT Act

- **All eligible institutions must registered with Darpan portal of Ministry of Culture**. The applications will be examined by committee constituted for purpose. On basis of the recommendation of committee, competent authority in Ministry of Culture will register CRIs for reimbursing claim of CGST and Central Government share of IGST paid on mentioned specific items.

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6 Concessional Financing Schemes (CFS)

Objective:

- **To support Indian Entities** bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.

Feature:

- Under the CFS, the Govt. of India has been supporting Indian Entities bidding **for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad** since 2015-16. Since the objectives of the Scheme continue to be relevant, it is proposed to extend the Scheme for another five years from 2018 to 2023.

- Prior to the introduction of CFS, Indian entities were not able to bid for large projects abroad since **the cost of financing was very high for them and bidders from other countries such as China, Japan, Europe and US were able to provide credit at superior terms**, i.e., lower interest rate and longer tenures which works to the advantage of bidders from those countries.

- Also, by having projects of strategic interest to India executed by Indian entities, the CFS **enables India to generate substantial backward linkage induced jobs**, demand for material and machinery in India and also a lot of goodwill for India.

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7 Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Terrorist Travel Initiative

- **United States and Morocco** launched GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative under auspices of Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF).

Objective:

- The new initiative will **strengthen UNSC Resolution 2396 aiming to stop terrorist travel altogether**. It will improve capabilities for detecting and interdicting terrorist travel through enhanced terrorist screening and information sharing.

Feature:

- The initiative brings together stakeholders to **share expertise on developing and implementing effective counter-terrorism watch listing and screening tools**. It was launched on sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.

- It will **bring together national and local governments, law enforcement and border screening practitioners and international organizations to share expertise** to develop and implement effective counterterrorism watch listing and screening tools.

- Under this initiative, series of **four regional workshops** in 2018 and 2019 will be convened to develop set of good practices that will be endorsed at 2019 GCTF Ministerial. The resulting document will reinforce countries and organizations to use border security tools prescribed in UNSC Resolution 2396 to stop terrorist travel.

8 Safe City Project

Feature:

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has approved a Safe City project for Lucknow at a total cost of Rs.194.44 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund Scheme.

- The Safe City project for Lucknow also **envisages gender sensitization awareness campaigns** and capacity building in collaboration with community and civil society organizations.

- This approval is a part of MHA's plans to implement Safe City projects in 8 selected cities, namely, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow under Nirbhaya Fund with the purpose of strengthening safety and security of women in public places.

- The Safe city proposal for Lucknow will be implemented by Uttar Pradesh Police, assisted by the Municipal bodies and city transport authorities.

The major components of the Safe City project in Lucknow include :

- Setting up an **Integrated Smart Control Room**;

- Setting up **Pink Out-posts** (exclusively administered by Women police) for facilitating ease of filing complaint by women;

- **Pink Patrols of Women police**;

- Setting up Women Help Desks in all Police Stations with Counsellors;

- Augmentation of existing **Asha Jyoti Kendra**;

- Implementing Safety measures in buses, including Cameras;

- Improving Street Lighting in identified Hot Spot areas;

- Setting up Pink Toilets;

- Integration of Women power-help line with single **Emergency number '112'**.

9 Mukhiya Mantri Krishi Aashirwad Yojna

Ministry:

- Government Of Jharkhand

Objective:

- The primary objective of the scheme is to reduce the dependency of farmers on non-institutional loans/private lenders State is targeting around 22.76 lakh farmers in a planned manner during the financial year 2019-20 covering a Kharif cropped area of about 45 lakh acres.

Feature:

- Mukhya Mantri Krishi Aashirwad Yojna is an ambitious scheme of the state government **aimed at improving the financial situation of farmers and provide them with timely investment support before the start of the Kharif season**.

- The scheme is aligned with the vision of Honorable Prime Minister of Doubling Farmers Income by Year 2022.

- Marginal and small farmers will be given Rs 5000 per acre per year (maximum up to 5 Acres) through DBT in their bank account.

- Rs 2250 crore has been earmarked for this scheme for the Financial Year 2019-20.

- Farmers can utilize the funds for following purposes:

  ➤ Purchase of **Seed**

  ➤ Purchase of **Fertilizers**

  ➤ **Labour and land** preparation

  ➤ Hiring of **Farm Equipment**

  ➤ Any other Agriculture related work

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