



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN NEWS

Classroom Study Material

May 2020 - May 2021



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Table of Content

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

1.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....	1
1.1.1 Ayushman Sahakar Scheme.....	1
1.1.2 Other Recently Launched Initiatives.....	1
1.2 Other Schemes in News.....	2
* 1.2.1 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)....	2
* 1.2.2 Formation and Promotion of 10,000 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).....	3
# 1.2.3 PM Fasal Bima Yojana.....	3
* 1.2.4 Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue (Sub-Component of Green Revolution-Krishonnati Yojana).....	5
* 1.2.5 National Agricultural Market (E-NAM).....	5
# 1.2.6 Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).....	6



2. Ministry of Ayush

2.1 Schemes in News.....	8
2.1.1 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....	8



3. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

3.1 Newly launched schemes.....	9
3.1.1 Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Pharmaceuticals.....	9
3.2 Restructured/Modified Schemes.....	9
3.2.1 Production Linked Incentive Scheme (for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing of Critical KSMS (Key Starting Materials)/Drug Intermediates and APIS (Active pharmaceutical ingredients)).....	9
3.2.2 Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme (for Promotion of Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices).....	10



3.3 Other Schemes in News.....

* 3.3.1 Urea Subsidy.....	10
* 3.3.2 Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme.....	11
* 3.3.3 City Compost Scheme.....	11
* 3.3.4 Scheme for Promotion of Medical Devices Park.....	11
3.3.5 Plastic Park Scheme.....	12



4. Ministry of Civil Aviation

4.1 Schemes in News.....	13
* 4.1.1 Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)/ Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS).....	13
4.1.2 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....	13



5. Ministry Of Commerce & Industry

5.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....	14
5.1.1 Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for White Goods (Air Conditioners and Led Lights) Manufacturers in India.....	14
* 5.1.2 Start up India Seed Fund Scheme.....	14
5.2 Other Schemes in news.....	15
* 5.2.1 Start up India.....	15
5.2.2 Make in India.....	16
* 5.2.3 Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).....	16
5.2.4 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....	17



6. Ministry of Communications

6.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....	18
6.1.1 Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Promoting Telecom & Networking Products.....	18
6.2 Schemes in News.....	18
6.2.1 Bharat Net Project.....	18

Table of Content

 7. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 Schemes in News.....20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1.1 National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.....20 7.1.2 One Nation One Ration Card (ONoRC).....20 7.1.3 Antyodaya Anna Yojana.....21 7.1.4 Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).....21 	 11. Ministry of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.1 Newly Launched schemes.....27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 11.1.1 Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Project.....27 11.1.2 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....27 11.2 Restructured/Modified Schemes.....28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 11.2.1 Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF).....28 11.3 Other Schemes in News.....28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 11.3.1 Mid-Day Meal Scheme.....28 * 11.3.2 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).....29 11.3.3 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....29
 8. Ministry of Corporate Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 Schemes in News.....23 	 12. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1 Schemes in News.....31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1.1 Digital India Programme.....31 12.1.2 Jeevan Pramaan.....31 12.1.3 National Supercomputing Mission.....32 12.1.4 Software Technology Park Scheme.....32 12.1.5 Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Component and Semiconductors (SPECS).....33 12.1.6 Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing.....33 12.1.7 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....33
 9. Ministry of Defence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.1.1 Defence Testing Infrastructure (DTI) Scheme.....24 9.2 Other Schemes in News.....24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.2.1 One Rank One Pension Scheme.....24 	 13. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....35 13.2 Other Schemes in News.....35 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 13.2.1 National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).....35 * 13.2.2 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).....36
 10. Ministry of Earth Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1 Schemes in News.....25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 10.1.1 Atmosphere and Climate Research – Modelling, Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS).....25 10.1.2 National Monsoon Mission.....25 10.1.3 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....26 	

Table of Content

14. Ministry of External Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 17.1.2 Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI).....48
15. Ministry of Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....38 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.1.1 Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP).....38 15.1.2 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....38 15.2 Modified or Restructured Schemes.....40 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 15.2.1 Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY).....40 * 15.2.2 Stand up India Scheme.....41 * 15.2.3 Financial Support to Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding.....42 15.2.4 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....42 15.3 Other Schemes in News.....42 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 15.3.1 Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.....42 * 15.3.2 Atal Pension Yojana.....43 * 15.3.3 Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.....44 * 15.3.4 Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.....44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17.2 Restructured/Modified Schemes.....48 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 17.2.1 Operation Greens.....48 17.3 Other schemes in news.....49 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 17.3.1 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.....49
16. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16.1 Schemes in News.....46 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16.1.1 Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP)-PII.....46 	18. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18.1 Schemes in News.....51 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 18.1.1 Ayushman Bharat.....51 # 18.1.2 National Health Mission (NHM).....51 # 18.1.3 National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).....52 # 18.1.4 National Urban Health Mission.....53 18.1.5 Janani Suraksha Yojana.....53 18.1.6 Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram.....53 18.1.7 Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan.....54 18.1.8 Universal Immunization Programme.....54 18.1.9 Mission Indradhanush.....55
17. Ministry of Food Processing Industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....47 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 17.1.1 PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM- FME) Scheme.....47 	19. Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....56 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19.1.1 Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage.....56
	20. Ministry of Home Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20.1 Schemes in news.....57 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20.1.1 Witness Protection Scheme.....57

Table of Content

 21. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21.1 Newly Launched Schemes.....58 # 21.1.1 Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) (JJM-U).....58 21.2 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....58 	 24. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24.1 Restructured/Modified Schemes.....72 * 24.1.1 Interest Subvention Scheme for MSMES.....72 24.2 Other Schemes in News.....72 24.2.1 Honey Mission.....72 24.2.2 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....73
 22. Ministry of Jal Shakti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22.1 Other Schemes in News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 22.1.1 Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural).....63 # 22.1.2 Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G).....64 * 22.1.3 Namami Gange Yojana.....66 * 22.1.4 National Hydrology Project (NHP).....67 * 22.1.5 Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).....68 	 25. Ministry of Minority Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25.1 Schemes in News.....74
 23. Ministry of Labour and Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23.1 Newly Launched Scheme.....69 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 23.1.1 Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY).....69 23.2 Modified/ Restructured scheme.....69 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23.2.1 Atal Bimbit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY).....69 23.3 Other Schemes in News.....69 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 23.3.1 National Child Labour Project Scheme.....69 23.3.2 Employees' State Insurance Scheme.....70 	 26. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26.1 Restructured/Modified Schemes.....75 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26.1.1 PM-Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme.....75 26.2 Other Schemes in News.....76 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26.2.1 Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme (Phase-II).....76 26.2.2 Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM).....76 26.2.3 Scheme for Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Project.....77
 27. Ministry of Panchayati Raj <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27.1 Schemes in news.....78 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 27.1.1 SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas).....78 	

Table of Content

 28. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	
28.1 Schemes in News.....79 28.1.1 Jal Marg Vikas Project.....79	
<hr/>	
 29. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways	
29.1 Schemes in News.....80 29.1.1 Bharatmala Pariyojana.....80	
<hr/>	
 30. Ministry of Rural Development	
30.1 Schemes in News.....81 # 30.1.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.....81 # 30.1.2 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen).....82 # 30.1.3 Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).....82 30.1.4 DeenDayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.....84 30.1.5 PM Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhyaan.....84	
<hr/>	
 31. Ministry of Science and Technology	
31.1 Schemes in News.....85 31.1.1 Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE).....85 31.1.2 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....86	

 32. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	
32.1 Schemes in News.....88 32.1.1 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) #...88 32.1.2 National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).....89	
<hr/>	
 33. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	
33.1 Schemes in News.....90 33.1.1 Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan/ Accessible India Campaign (AIC).....90	
<hr/>	
 34. Ministry of Textile	
34.1 Schemes in News.....91 * 34.1.1 Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP).....91	
<hr/>	
 35. Ministry of Tourism	
35.1 Schemes in News.....92 * 35.1.1 National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme.....92	

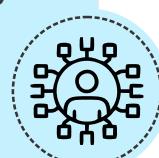
Table of Content

	36. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
36.1 Schemes in News.....93	
* 36.1.1 Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS).....93	
36.1.2 Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana.....93	
36.1.3 Scheme for 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP'.....94	
36.1.4 Miscellaneous Initiatives.....94	
	37. Ministry of Women and Child Development
37.1 Schemes in News.....95	
# 37.1.1 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).....95	
# 37.1.2 Poshan Abhiyan/National Nutrition Mission.....96	
37.1.3 Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).....96	
	38. Niti Aayog
38.1 Schemes in News.....99	
* 38.1.1 Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).....99	
	39. Prime Minister's Office
39.1 Schemes in News.....100	
39.1.1 Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI).....100	

Note:

- To ease the reading and to help aspirants use their time in the most efficient manner, this year we will release two set of Government Schemes document.
- **Government Schemes in News 2021:** covers all the schemes that were in news in the last one year.
- **Comprehensive Government Schemes document:** Covers all the schemes launched by different ministries. This document will be released in the first week of August 2021.

	● Also, to enhance the retention of important points, Government Schemes in News document has been further categorized in three sub types viz.
○ Newly launched schemes: Those schemes that were lunched from May, 2020 to May, 2021.	
○ Modified/ Restructured schemes: In this category, we have specifically highlighted the recent modification.	
○ Other schemes in news: It covers existing schemes which were in news for miscellaneous reasons like assessment of the scheme or completion of duration etc. Reason why a scheme was in the news has been mentioned separately.	





- '*' and '#' indicates Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Scheme respectively. */#' indicates that some components are Central Sector schemes while others are Centrally Sponsored.

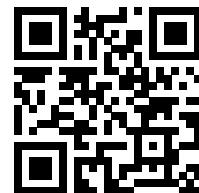
In our endeavour to further enhance the document in the interest of the aspirants, following additions have been incorporated:



- QR based Smart quiz has been added to test the aspirant's learnings and understanding.
- Infographics have been added to ease understanding, provide for smoother learning experience and ensure enhanced retention of the content.

**SMART QUIZ**

You can scan this QR code to practice the smart quiz at our open test online platform for testing your understanding and recalling of the concepts.

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1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

1.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

1.1.1. AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR SCHEME

Objective	Eligibility	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To assist provision of affordable and holistic healthcare through hospitals / healthcare / education facilities by cooperative societies.To assist promotion of AYUSH facilities by cooperative societies.To assist cooperative societies meet the objectives of National Health Policy.To assist cooperative societies participate in the National Digital Health Mission.To assist cooperative societies provide comprehensive healthcare including education, services, insurance and activities thereto.	<p>Any Cooperative Society registered under any State/ Multi State Cooperative Societies Act in the country, with suitable provision in the bye-laws to undertake services related to hospital/ healthcare/ health education, shall be eligible for the financial assistance subject to fulfilment of guidelines under the scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for financial assistance to cooperatives on holistic healthcare infrastructure, education and services.<ul style="list-style-type: none">The NCDC was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.Functions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ NCDC is involved in planning, promoting, coordinating and financing of cooperative development programmes at the national level.✓ It provides financial and technical support to cooperative institutions of farmers and other weaker sections associated with agriculture and allied rural economic activities.NCDC Ayushman Sahakar Fund: The NCDC would extend term loans to the tune of Rs.10,000 Crore to prospective cooperatives, including those formed by fresh graduates in any stream of medicine including AYUSH and other traditional practices.Working capital and margin money to meet operational requirements.Interest subvention of 1% to women majority cooperatives.Loan Period: Period of loan will be for 8 years, including 1-2 years moratorium.The new scheme hopes to promote entrepreneurship among medical graduates who are willing to form a cooperative and serve in rural areas.The scheme aligns itself with the focus of the National Health Policy, 2017, covering the health systems in all their dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, access to technologies, development of human resources, encouragement of medical pluralism, affordable health care to farmers, etc.

1.1.2. OTHER RECENTLY LAUNCHED INITIATIVES

Centralized Farm Machinery Performance Testing Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This portal will facilitate manufacturers in applying, communicating and monitoring the progress of testing of their machines in a seamless manner.It offers the possibility of integrated management in a unified manner within the organization. Thus, it will help in improving the efficiency of the testing institutes thereby reducing testing time for various agricultural machines and equipments.
Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a paid internship programme launched by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).Eligibility: Professional graduates in disciplines such as Agriculture and allied areas, IT etc. will be eligible for internship. Professionals who are pursuing or have completed their MBA degrees in Agri-business, Cooperation, Finance, International Trade, Forestry, Rural Development, Project Management etc. will also be eligible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCDC has earmarked funds to provide each intern a financial support over a 4 months internship period. Benefits: The scheme will provide the young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives. Also, it will assist cooperative institutions access new and innovative ideas of young professionals.
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1.2. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

1.2.1. PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN)*

Why in news?

Almost 33 lakh ineligible beneficiaries received Rs 2,326.88 crore under this scheme.

Objective	Salient features	Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide income support to all landholding eligible farmers' families (irrespective of the landholdings) in the country. Supplement financial needs of farmers for procuring various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. Income support of Rs.6000/- per year is provided to all land holding eligible farmer families across the country, in three equal installments of Rs.2000/- every four months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund is directly transferred into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode. Farmers can do their self-registration through the Farmers Corner in the portal or through Common Service Centers. Definition of family for the Scheme is husband, wife and minor children. Responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT governments. The benefit shall be paid to only those farmers' families whose names are entered into the land records except for Forest dwellers, North-eastern states and Jharkhand which has separates provisions for land records. All PM-KISAN beneficiaries will be given the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) so that farmers can take easy loans from the banks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will help all such farmers to get short term loan for crop & animal/fish rearing at a maximum interest of 4% on timely repayment. PM-KISAN Mobile App was launched on 1st Anniversary of PM KISAN to broaden the reach of the scheme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using this app, farmers can view the status of their application, update or carry out corrections of their Aadhaar cards and also check history of credits to their bank accounts. Scheme provides exclusion criteria for certain category of farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Institutional Land holders. Farmer families in which one or more of its members belong to following categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former and present holders of constitutional posts Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers and former/present Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils, former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations, former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats. All serving or retired officers and employees of Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments and its field units Central or State PSEs and Attached offices /Autonomous Institutions under Government as well as regular employees of the Local Bodies (Excluding Multi- Tasking Staff /Class IV/Group D employees) All superannuated/retired pensioners whose monthly pension is Rs.10,000/-or more (Excluding Multi-Tasking Staff / Class IV/Group D employees) of above category All Persons who paid Income Tax in last assessment year Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.

1.2.2. FORMATION AND PROMOTION OF 10,000 NEW FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS (FPOS)*

Why in news?

The **operational guideline** of the scheme was released in July, 2020.

Objectives	Intended beneficiaries	Salient Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 FPOs to be formed in five years period from 2019-20 to 2023-24 to ensure economies of scale for farmers. • Support to each FPO shall be continued for 5 years from its year of inception. 	Aggregation of small, marginal and landless farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a Central Sector Scheme. • The FPOs include farmer producer companies (FPCs) registered under the Companies Act as well as farmers' cooperatives registered under the Cooperative Societies Act of state governments. • Implementing Agencies (IAs): SFAC, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), NABARD, NAFED, NERAMAC, Tamil Nadu-SFAC, SFACH, Watershed Development Department (WDD)- Karnataka & Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC)- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). • IAs will set up Cluster- Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) at the State/Cluster level. These CBBOs will consist of specialists and will serve as a platform for an end-to-end knowledge for all issues in FPO promotion. • NAFED would form the specialized FPOs which should necessarily be forwardly linked to the market, agri-value chain, etc. NAFED will provide market and value chain linkages to the FPOs formed by other IAs. NAFED has formed & registered 05 Honey FPOs during current year in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar & West Bengal. • FPOs will be provided financial assistance upto Rs 18.00 lakh per FPO for a period of 03 years. In addition to this, provision has been made for matching equity grant upto Rs. 2,000 per farmer member of FPO with a limit of Rs. 15.00 lakh per FPO and a credit guarantee facility upto Rs. 2 crore of project loan per FPO from eligible lending institution to ensure institutional credit accessibility to FPOs. • Credit Guarantee Funds (CGF) will be maintained and managed by NABARD and NCDC. • Efforts will be made to form & promote at least 15% of the targeted FPOs in aspirational districts with at least one FPO in each block of these districts. • Initially the minimum number of members in FPO will be 300 in plain area and 100 in North East & hilly areas. The number could be revised based on experience/need. • FPOs will be promoted under "One District One Product" cluster to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding & export by FPOs. • National Project Management Agency (NPMA) has been engaged for providing overall project guidance, coordination, compilation of information relating to FPOs, maintenance of MIS (Management Information System) and monitoring purpose .

1.2.3. PM FASAL BIMA YOJANA#

Why in news?

The scheme **completed 5 years** in January 2021.

Objectives	Intended beneficiaries	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMFBY aims at supporting sustainable production in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, and it replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS. The Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is still continued.

<p>agriculture sector by way of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events.○ Stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.○ Encouraging farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.○ Ensuring credit worthiness of the farmers, crop diversification and enhancing growth and competitiveness of agriculture sector besides protecting the farmers from production risks.	<p>farmers growing notified crops in a notified area during the season who have insurable interest in the crop are eligible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Initially, it was compulsory for loanee farmers. However, now it has been made voluntary for all farmers, including loanee farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Coverage of crops: Food crops (Cereals, Millets and Pulses); Oilseeds; Annual Commercial/Annual Horticultural crops; Pilots for coverage can be taken for those perennial horticultural/commercial crops for which standard methodology for yield estimation is available.● Coverage of Risks and Exclusions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Basic Cover: Coverage of risks mentioned under this category is mandatory. The scheme provides to cover yield losses (sowing to harvesting) on an area based approach basis due to non-preventable risks like drought, dry spells, flood, inundation, wide spread pest and disease attack, landslides, natural fire due to lightening, storm, hailstorm, and cyclone.○ Add-On Coverage: Coverage of risks mentioned under this category is not mandatory. The State Governments/UTs, in consultation with the State Level Coordination Committee on Crop Insurance (SLCCCI) may provide coverage for Prevented Sowing/Planting/Germination Risk, Mid-Season Adversity, Post-Harvest Losses (earlier this was mandatory), Localized Calamities, Attack by wild animals○ General Exclusions: Losses arising out of war and nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks shall be excluded.● Area Approach basis: This principal assumes that all the farmers in a notified area i.e. ‘Insurance Unit (IU)’ face similar risks for a notified crop. The IU is notified by the State/UTs and is Village/Village Panchayat for major crops and or above Village/Village Panchayat for other crops● Rate of premium payable by the farmer:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Kharif-2.0% of sum insured (SI) or Actuarial rate, whichever is less.○ Rabi-1.5% of SI or Actuarial rate, whichever is less.○ Commercial/ Horticultural crops (both annual & perennial)-5% of SI or Actuarial rate, whichever is less.● Central Subsidy: Initially the contribution of state and Centre was shared on 50:50 bases. However, it was restructured in 2020. And now the Central contribution is up to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 30% for unirrigated areas/crops○ 25% for irrigated areas/crops (districts having 50% or more irrigated area will be considered as irrigated area/district for both PMFBY/RWBCIS)○ 90% for North Eastern States● Insured sum of crops: States/UTs can either choose scale of finance or district level value of notional average yield at MSP. Farm gate price will be considered for the other crops for which MSP is not declared.● Special efforts shall be made to ensure maximum coverage of Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST)/ Women farmers under the Scheme.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of business to Insurance Companies to be done for 3 years. Earlier the tenders floated by the States varied from 1 to 3 years periods. States not to be allowed to implement the Scheme in subsequent Seasons in case of considerable delay by States in release of requisite Premium Subsidy to concerned Insurance Companies beyond a prescribed time limit. (Cut-off dates for Kharif and Rabi seasons will be 31st March and 30th September). States have been allowed to set up their own insurance companies for implementing the scheme.
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1.2.4. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION FOR IN-SITU MANAGEMENT OF CROP RESIDUE (SUB-COMPONENT OF GREEN REVOLUTION-KRISHONNATI YOJANA)*

Why in news?

Fund was allocated to states covered under the scheme during the years 2018-19 to 2020-21.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting environment from air pollution and preventing loss of nutrients and soil micro-organisms caused by burning of crop residue. Promoting in-situ management of crop residue by retention and incorporation into the soil through the use of appropriate mechanization inputs. Promoting Farm Machinery Banks for custom hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership. Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration, capacity building activities and differentiated Information, Education and Communication strategies for effective utilization and management of crop residue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Central Sector Scheme applicable in states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. Under the scheme, financial assistance @50% of the cost is provided to the farmers on individual ownership basis. The financial assistance @ 80% of the project cost to the Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs), Registered Farmers Societies and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres of in-situ crop residue management machinery.

1.2.5. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKET (E-NAM)*

Why in news?

The Budget 2021-22 proposed to link 1000 more mandis with E-NAM.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote genuine price discovery Increases farmers' options for sale and access to markets. Liberal licensing of traders / buyers and commission agents. One license for a trader valid across all markets in the State. Harmonisation of quality standards of agricultural produce. Single point levy of market fees, i.e. on the first wholesale purchase from the farmer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Central Sector scheme with funding coming from Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (AITF). e-NAM is a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to network the existing APMCs and other market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has been selected as the lead agency to implement it. Until now, 1000 markets across 18 States and 3 UTs have been linked with the e-NAM. Budget 2021-22 proposes to link 1000 more mandis with it. During COVID-19, e-NAM platform /mobile app has been further strengthened by launching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warehouse based trading module to facilitate trade from warehouses based on e-NWR (Negotiable Warehouse Receipt). FPO trading module where by FPOs can trade their produce from their collection center without bringing the produce to APMC. The e-NAM platform is made inter operable with ReMS platform of Govt. of Karnataka. This will facilitate famers of either platforms were

<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote stable prices and availability of quality produce to consumers.Provision of Soil Testing Laboratories in/or near the selected mandi.	can sell their produce in other platform thereby increasing their market access. <ul style="list-style-type: none">e-NAM is now developing as “Platforms of Platform” to create a digital ecosystem that leverage the expertise of individual platforms across various segments of agri-value chain.
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1.2.6. PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA (PMKSY)

Why in news?

Recently, the parliamentary standing committee on rural development has flagged **delay in implementation of watershed development component (WDC)** of PMKSY in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Kerala.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub district level water use plans).Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko pani).Integration of water source, distribution and its efficient use, to make best use of water through appropriate technologies and practices.Improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage and increase availability both in duration and extent,Enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop).Enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation Practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a Centrally Sponsored Schemes.It is an inter-ministerial Scheme that has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP); and On Farm Water Management (OFWM) component of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).Water budgeting is done for all sectors namely, household, agriculture and industries.Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) has been instituted under PMKSY in NABARD for funding and fast tracking the implementation of incomplete major and medium irrigation projects.A dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under PMKSY has been set up to provide states financial assistance on concessional rate of interest.National Steering Committee (NSC) under PM with Union Ministers of all concerned Ministries supervises and monitors the scheme.National Executive Committee (NEC) under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog oversees the implementation of the scheme.

COMPONENTS



ACCELERATED IRRIGATION BENEFIT PROGRAMME (AIBP)

- Ministry of Jal Shakti
- The AIBP was launched in 1996-97 to provide Central Assistance to major/medium irrigation projects in the country.
- Its objective to accelerate implementation of such projects which were beyond resource capability of the States or were in advanced stage of completion.
- In October, 2020 the Ministry launched a Mobile App for Geo tagging of the components of projects under AIBP. This app was developed by Bhaskarya National Institute of space applications geo-informatics (BAISAG-N)



PMKSY (HAR KHET KO PANI)

- Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Creation of new water sources through Minor Irrigation (both surface and ground water).
- Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) scheme and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies are also being implemented.
- Strengthening carrying capacity of traditional water sources, construction of rain water harvesting structures (Jal Sanchay); Jal Mandir (Gujarat); Khatri, Kuhl (H.P.); Zabo (Nagaland); Eri, Ooranis (T.N.); Dongs (Assam); Katas, Bandhas (Odisha and M.P.)
- Command area development



PMKSY (PER DROP MORE CROP)

- Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare
- Promoting efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain - guns in the farm (Jal Sinchan)
- Extension activities for promotion of scientific moisture conservation, Crop combination, crop alignment etc.
- ICT interventions through NeGP - precision irrigation technologies, on farm water management, crop alignment etc. and also to do intensive monitoring of the Scheme.



PMKSY (INTEGRATED WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT)

- Department of Land resources, Ministry of Rural development
- DPAP, DDP and IWDP were consolidated* under this component
- Effective management of runoff water and improved soil & moisture conservation activities
- Cluster Approach in selection and preparation of projects
- Convergence with MGNREGS.



DROUGHT PRONE AREAS PROGRAMME (DPAP)

- * The erstwhile Rural Works Programme of 1971-72 was redesignated as the DPAP during the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74).
- The basic objective of the programme is to minimise the adverse effects of drought on production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources ultimately leading to drought proofing of the affected areas.
- Central and State Government in the ratio of 75 : 25 share the cost.



DESERT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DDP)

- The DDP was introduced as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1977- 78. The objective of the programme is to control the desertification and restoration of ecological balance in the desert areas for development.
- The Central share under each type of eco-system: Hot Arid Non Sandy Areas (75%); Hot Arid Sandy Areas (100%); Cold Arid Areas (100%).



INTEGRATED WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- This scheme is under implementation since 1989-90. The IWDP Scheme is 100% Grant-in-Aid from the Centre. The development of non-forest wastelands is taken up under this Scheme.

2. MINISTRY OF AYUSH

2.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

2.1.1. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

National AYUSH Grid Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project was initiated in 2018 for creating a comprehensive IT backbone for the entire sector.Digitalization of the entire Ayush Sector will lead to its transformation in fields of health care delivery at all levels, including research, education, various health programmes and drug regulations.Ayush Sanjivani mobile app and the Yoga locator mobile app have been launched under the project.Also, a customised IT course for Ayush Professionals was developed in collaboration with C-DAC.An ambitious project to support Ayush education is being launched with the name Ayush Next. This has been developed, and is expected to go online soon.Now, the Ayush Grid is also being integrated with National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project was initiated in 2001 (completed 20 years) with a collaboration between the CSIR and the Ministry of AYUSH (erstwhile Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy).TKDL database contains more than 3.9 lakh formulations/ practices from the Indian systems of medicine AYUSH (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Sowa Rigpa) and Yoga in digitized format.It is in five languages: English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.It is available to only patent examiners through TKDL Access (Non-disclosure) Agreement.It seeks to prevent misappropriation of country's traditional medicinal knowledge at International Patent Offices by preventing the granting of patents for products developed utilizing Indian TK.So far, 239 patent applications have either been set aside/ withdrawn/ amended, based on the prior art evidences present in the TKDL database.

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3. MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

3.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

3.1.1. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR PHARMACEUTICALS

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector and contributing to product diversification to high value goods in the pharmaceutical sector.To create global champions out of India who have the potential to grow in size and scale using cutting edge technology and thereby penetrate the global value chains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The approved outlay of the scheme is Rs 15000 crore.Applicant:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any Proprietary Firm or Partnership Firm or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) or a Company registered in India. The applicant should not have been declared as bankrupt or willful defaulter or reported as fraud by any bank or financial institution or non-banking financial company.A maximum of 55 applicants will be selected under the scheme.The applicants will be required to achieve minimum cumulative investment per year over a period of 5 years as prescribed under the scheme.The applications are invited in three groups based on the Global Manufacturing Revenue of FY 2019-20 (less than Rs. 500 crore between Rs. 500 (inclusive) crore and Rs. 5,000 crore and more than or equal to Rs. 5,000 crore) of the applicants.Base Year: Financial Year 2019-20.Tenure: The tenure of the Scheme is from Financial Year 2020-21 to Financial Year 2028-29.The scheme is implemented by the Project Management Agency.The eligible products have been categorized into three categories. The products covered under the scheme are formulations, biopharmaceuticals, active pharmaceutical ingredients, key starting material, drug intermediates, in-vitro diagnostic medical devices, etc.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Category-1 and category-2 products attract 10% incentiveCategory-3 products attract 5% incentive on the incremental sales. Incremental sales of a product mean sales of that product in a year over and above the sales of that product in FY 2019-2020.

3.2. RESTRUCTURED/MODIFIED SCHEMES

3.2.1. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME (FOR PROMOTION OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING OF CRITICAL KSMS (KEY STARTING MATERIALS)/DRUG INTERMEDIATES AND APIs (ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS))

Objective	Salient features
For promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical KSMs/Drug Intermediates and APIs by attracting large investments in the sector to ensure their sustainable domestic supply and thereby reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scope: Under the Scheme, financial incentives shall be given based on sales made by selected manufacturers for 41 products. These 41 products, which cover all the identified 53 APIs.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Out of 53 identified bulk drugs, 26 are fermentation based bulk drugs and 27 are chemical synthesis based bulk drugs.Rate of incentive will be 20 % (of incremental sales value) for fermentation based bulk drugs and 10% for chemical synthesis based bulk drugs.The scheme is applicable only for greenfield projects.Financial incentive shall be given to eligible manufacturers on their incremental sales over the base year (2019-20) for a period of 6 years.The scheme shall be implemented through a Project Management Agency (PMA) to be nominated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals.The tenure of the scheme is from FY 2020-21 to FY 2029-30. <p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Replacement of the criteria of 'minimum threshold' investment with 'committed' investment by the selected applicant.

India's import dependence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deletion of the provision which restricts the sales of eligible products to domestic sales only, for the purpose of eligibility of receiving incentives, bringing the scheme in line with other PLI schemes and encouraging market diversification. • Change in the minimum annual production capacity for 10 products viz Tetracycline, Neomycin, Para Amino Phenol (PAP), Meropenem, Artesunate, Losartan, Telmisartan, Acyclovir, Ciprofloxacin and Aspirin. Minimum annual production capacity is a part of eligibility criteria under the scheme.
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3.2.2. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PL) SCHEME (FOR PROMOTION OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING OF MEDICAL DEVICES

Objective	Salient features
The Scheme aim to boost domestic manufacturing by attracting large investments in medical device sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant: Any company registered in India, proposing to manufacture goods under target segment. • Scheme is applicable only for green field projects. • The scheme shall be implemented through a Project Management Agency (PMA). • Under the Scheme, incentive @ 5% of incremental sales over base year 2019-20 will be provided on the segments of medical devices identified • It seeks to provide assistance to about 25-30 manufacturers under the following categories of medical devices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cancer care/Radiotherapy medical devices ○ Radiology & Imaging medical devices ○ Nuclear Imaging Devices etc. <p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the criteria of 'minimum threshold' investment with 'committed investment' by the selected applicant. • The tenure of the scheme has been extended by one year keeping in view the capital expenditure expected to be done by the selected applicants in FY 2021-22. Accordingly, the sales for the purpose of availing incentives will be accounted for 5 years starting from FY 2022-2023 instead of FY 2021-2022.

3.3. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS

3.3.1. UREA SUBSIDY*

Why in news?

Recently, the Govt approved **subsidy policy for urea produced through coal gasification by Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL).**

Objective	Salient features
To ensure timely and easy availability of urea fertilizers at affordable prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a Central Sector Scheme. • Urea is being provided to the farmers at a statutorily notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP). • The difference between the delivered cost of Fertilizers at farm gate and net market realization by the urea units is given as subsidy to the Urea manufacturer/Importer by the Govt. of India. So, it also includes freight subsidy for movement of urea across the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farmers are getting Urea at affordable MRP because of the subsidy provided by the Government. • Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system: It was introduced in March 2018. Subsidy payment to the companies would happen only after actual sales to farmers by retailers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each retailer is mandated to have point-of-sale (PoS) machine linked to the Department of Fertilisers' e-Urvarak DBT portal. ○ Anybody buying subsidised fertilisers is required to furnish his/her Aadhaar unique identity or Kisan Credit Card number. ○ The quantities of the individual fertilisers purchased, along with the buyer's name and biometric authentication, have to be captured on the PoS device. Only upon the sale

	getting registered on the e-Urvarak platform can a company claim subsidy, payment is remitted electronically to its bank.
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3.3.2. NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY SCHEME*

Objective	Salient features
To ensure balanced use of fertilizers, improve agriculture productivity, promote growth of indigenous fertilizer industry, encourage competition among fertilizer companies and to reduce the burden of subsidy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Central Sector Scheme. The scheme was launched in 2010 when the prices of Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers were decontrolled (price of urea fertilizer is still controlled). Subsidy: Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of P&K fertilizers is decontrolled and fertilizer manufacturers / marketers are allowed to fix the MRP at reasonable price. The Centre provides a fixed rate of subsidy (in Rs. Per Kg basis) on each nutrient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These nutrients include Primary nutrients: Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Secondary Nutrient-Sulphur (S). Additional subsidy for micronutrients namely Boron and Zinc is also provided. 22 grades of P&K fertilizers namely DAP, MAP, TSP, MOP, Ammonium Sulphate, SSP and 16 grades of NPKS (Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) Ammonium Phosphate fertilizers are covered under the scheme. The subsidy is given to the fertilizer manufacturing companies and the rate of subsidy is decided on annual basis.

3.3.3 CITY COMPOST SCHEME*

Objective	Salient features
To support Swachh Bharat Mission and provide City Compost at subsidized rates to farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Central Sector Scheme. Under the scheme, a market development assistance of Rs. 1500 per tonne of city compost for scaling up production and consumption of the product, is being provided. Promotion of city compost will be done by fertilizer companies and marketing entities. Companies will also adopt villages for promoting the use of compost. An appropriate BIS standard/ Eco-Mark will be developed to ensure better market acceptance.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

3.3.4. SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF MEDICAL DEVICES PARK*

Why in news?

Recently, the cabinet has approved promotion of domestic manufacturing of medical devices.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of world class infrastructure facilities in order to make Indian medical device industry a global leader. Easy access to standard testing and infrastructure facilities through creation of world class Common Infrastructure Facilities. Significant reduction of the cost of production of medical devices leading to better availability and affordability of medical devices in the domestic market. Exploit the benefits arising due to optimization of resources and economies of scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a Central Sector Scheme. Medical Device Park means a designated contiguous area of land with common infrastructure facilities for the exclusive manufacturing of medical devices. Four Medical Device Parks will be supported under the Scheme. A maximum grant-in-aid for one Medical Device Park will be limited to Rs 100 crore (total financial outlay of the Scheme is Rs. 400 Crore). The duration of the Scheme is from FY 2020-2021 to FY 2024-2025. A one-time grant-in-aid will be provided for creation of common infrastructure facilities in selected Medical Device Park proposed by a State Government. Note: India depends on imports up to an extent of 85% of total domestic demand of medical devices.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICALS**3.3.5. PLASTIC PARK SCHEME****Why in news?**

The department has approved setting up of **10 Plastic Parks** in the country.

Objective	Salient features
To increase competitiveness and investments, achieve environmentally sustainable growth and adopt the cluster development approach to consolidate the capacities in plastic sector. It also seeks to reduce plastic imports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was envisaged in the National Plastic Park Policy in 2010 which was modified in 2013.The scheme supports setting up of a need based "Plastic Parks" an ecosystem with requisite state-of-the-art infrastructure and enabling common facilities to assist the sector move up the value chain and contribute to the economy more effectively.Funding Pattern: The Centre will provide 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore per project and rest will be contributed by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed by State Government or State Industrial Development Corporation.

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4. MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

4.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

4.1.1. UDE DESH KA AAM NAAGRIK (UDAN)/REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME (RCS)*

Why in news?

Recently, the Government has approved 78 new routes under the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate/stimulate regional air connectivity by making it affordable by supporting airline operation through<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Concessions by Central Government, State Governments and airport operators○ Financial (Viability Gap Funding or VGF) support• To provide connectivity to un-served and under-served regions through revival of existing air strips and airports.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Under-served airports are those which do not have more than 7 flights a week (14 for priority areas), while unserved airports are those where there are no scheduled commercial flights.○ Ministry aims to operationalize 1000 routes and more than 100 airports in the next 5 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airports Authority of India (AAI) is designated as implementing agency.• It is a key component of National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.• The scheme would be in operation for a period up to 10 years from the date of notification of the Scheme Version 1.0.• It has a unique demand and market-based model to develop regional connectivity. RCS will be operational only in States and at airports/aerodromes/helipads which commit and support the scheme by providing concessions as required in the scheme.• Airfares on regional flights are capped at ₹2,500/ hour of approximately 500 km on an aircraft or for a 30 min on helicopter.• Airlines have to provide 50% of the seats (minimum of 9 and a maximum of 40 UDAN Seats) at subsidized rates. Remaining 50% seats will be priced at market rate. For helicopters, if seats are less than or equal to 13 then it is required to provide 100% as RCS seats, but if capacity is more than 13 then maximum 13 will be considered as RCS seats.• Support in the form of Concessions and Viability Gap Funding will be provided to selected operators for RCS routes under the scheme.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Centre will share 80% of the VGF collected by charging a levy of up to ₹8,500 on each departing flight of domestic airlines and the rest 20% will come from the respective state governments (other than NE states, UK, HP and UTs which will contribute 10%).<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Regional Connectivity Fund would be created for this purpose.○ However, for the routes classified as State RCS Routes and Lakshadweep Specific Route, the State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs respectively, shall be responsible for reimbursing 100% of the VGF under the scheme.○ State governments have to provide free security & fire service, utilities at concessional rates, free land for RCS airports etc.○ Airport/Aerodrome/Helipad operators: No landing charges, parking charges and Terminal Navigation Landing Charges will be imposed for RCS flights etc.• In case any rehabilitation/upgradation of infrastructure is required at airports/water aerodromes/helipad to make them operational for RCS operations, it can be undertaken by AAI upon payment of required costs from respective State Government/airport/Water Aerodrome/Helipad operator. Ownership will not change however.

4.1.2. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Krishi Udan Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scheme was announced in Budget 2020-21.• The scheme intends to assist farmers in transporting perishable agricultural products so that it improves their "value realisation", especially in the north-east and tribal districts.• Under the scheme, the first domestic dedicated freighter carried perishable agricultural produce from Lengpui airport (Mizoram) to Kolkata airport.• Similarly, agricultural produces are also transported from Guwahati International Airport to Hong Kong. The customs, plant quarantine and other necessary services are also available at Guwahati International Airport.
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5. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

5.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

5.1.1. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME (PLI) FOR WHITE GOODS (AIR CONDITIONERS AND LED LIGHTS) MANUFACTURERS IN INDIA

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the White Goods manufacturing value chain. Removing sectoral disabilities, creating economies of scale, enhancing exports, creating a robust component ecosystem and employment generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme will be implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. The scheme will be implemented over FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 6,238 crore. Support under the Scheme will be provided to companies/entities engaged in manufacturing of components of Air Conditioners and LED Lights. Incentive: An incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (net of taxes) over the base year of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, for a period of five (5) years subsequent to the base year and one year of gestation period. Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentive under the Scheme shall be provided to Companies making brown field or green field Investments for manufacturing in target segments in India. Eligibility of Companies shall be subject to their meeting the pre-qualification criteria for different target segments. Eligibility shall be subject to thresholds of cumulative incremental investment and incremental sales (net of taxes) of manufactured goods (as distinct from traded goods) over the base year for the respective year. Base year: FY 2019-20. The first year of investment will be FY 2021-22 and the first year of incremental sale will be FY 2022-23. Actual disbursement of PLI for a respective year will be subsequent to that year. The Scheme is Fund Limited and even in case of over achievement the total pay-out of incentives would be capped at the amount approved by Cabinet. The Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) chaired by Cabinet Secretary will monitor the PLI scheme.

5.1.2. START UP INDIA SEED FUND SCHEME*

Objective	Eligibility	Salient features
<p>To provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization. This would enable these startups to graduate to a level where they will be able to raise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility for Startups: Every DPIIT-recognised startup who meets the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It must not be more than two years old and must not have received more than Rs 10 lakh of monetary support (excluding prize money) from the central/ state governments. They are expected to have a business idea to develop a product or a service with market fit, viable commercialisation, and scope of scaling with technology as the core. Preference to startups in sectors like social impact, waste management, water management, financial inclusion, education, agriculture, food-processing, biotechnology, healthcare, energy, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme was announced at Parambh: Startup India International summit Rs.945 crore Seed Fund will be disbursed to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India in 2021-25. An Experts Advisory Committee (EAC) will be constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) for the overall execution and monitoring of the scheme. Start-ups can avail up to ₹70 lakh: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to Rs. 20 Lakhs as grant for validation of Proof of Concept, or prototype development, or product trials Up to Rs. 50 Lakhs of investment for market entry, commercialization, or scaling up through convertible debentures or debt or debt-linked instruments Incubators would get up to ₹5 crore as grant:

<p>investments from angel investors or venture capitalists, or seek loans from commercial banks or financial institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility for Incubators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incubator must be a legal entity (a society, a Trust, Private Limited company, or a statutory body) ○ It should have been operational for at least two years on the date of application to the scheme ○ It must have facilities to seat at least 25 individuals ○ It must have at least 5 startups undergoing incubation physically on the date of application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The grant should be utilized fully by the incubator within a period of three years from the date of receipt of the first installment of funds. ○ If the Incubator has not utilized at least 50% of the total commitment within the first 2 years, then the Incubator will not be eligible for any further drawdowns. <p>NOTE: India is home to the world's third largest startup ecosystem which has helped several budding entrepreneurs to come up with innovative technologies and become big corporations.</p>
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5.2. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

5.2.1. START UP INDIA*

Why in news?

In January 2021, the scheme **completed 5 years**.

Objectives	Eligibility	Salient features
<p>To build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.</p>	<p>Eligibility Criteria for Startup Recognition are as under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Startup should be incorporated as a private limited company or registered as a partnership firm or a limited liability partnership • Turnover should be less than INR 100 Crores in any of the previous financial year • An entity shall be considered as a startup up to 10 years from the date of its incorporation • The Startup should be working towards innovation/ improvement of existing products, services and processes and should have the potential to generate employment/ create wealth (An entity formed by splitting up or reconstrucion of an existing business shall not be considered a "Startup") 	<p>The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal trade (DPIIT) is the implementing agency.</p> <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund of Funds* means government participates in the capital of SEBI registered Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs), known as daughter funds, who in turn invest in Indian startups through equity/equity-linked instruments. • Tax exemption**: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On capital gains arising out of sale of residential house/plot if the amount is invested in eligible Startup for purchase of asset ○ On long-term capital gains if it is invested in a fund notified by Central Government (maximum investment is Rs. 50 lakh) ○ On Angel tax: on Investments above Fair Market Value of startup. Under the new rules, the overall consideration for shares issued by a start-up has been increased to Rs 25 crore from the earlier limit of Rs 10 crore. With recent amendment in Income Tax Act, condition of minimum holding of 50% of share capital or voting rights in a startup has been relaxed to 25%.

THE ACTION PLAN IS BASED ON THREE PILLARS

SIMPLIFICATION AND HANDHOLDING:



1. Simple Compliance Regime for startups based on **Self-certification** to reduce the regulatory burden on Startups and keep compliance cost low.
2. **Startup India Hub** to handhold startups.
3. Launch of **Mobile app and Portal** for compliance and information exchange.
4. **Legal support and fast-tracking patent examination** at lower costs.
5. **Relaxed norms of public procurement** for startups.
6. **Faster exit** for startups (within a period of 90 days).

INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIP AND INCUBATION:



7. Organizing Startup Fests to showcase innovations and providing collaboration platforms.
8. Launch of **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** with Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) Program of NITI Aayog.
9. Harnessing private sector expertise for setting up **incubators**.
10. Building Innovation Centres at National Institutes.
11. Setting up of **7 new research parks** modeled on the Research Park at IIT Madras.
12. Promoting startups in the biotechnology sector.
13. Launching of Innovation focused programmes for students.
14. **Annual Incubator Grand Challenge** to promote good practices among incubators.

FUNDING SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES



15. **Fund of Funds* for Startups (FFS)** has been setup, with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crores managed by SIDBI.
16. Credit guarantee fund for startups through SIDBI.
17. **Tax exemption** on capital gains.**

5.2.2. MAKE IN INDIA

Why in news?

The defence ministry has earmarked 64% of its modernisation funds under the **capital acquisition budget** for 2021-22 for **purchases from the domestic sector**. This has given a boost to the 'Make In India'.

Objectives	Salient features
To promote India as an important investment destination and a global hub in manufacturing, design and innovation.	<p>THE "MAKE IN INDIA" INITIATIVE IS BASED ON FOUR PILLARS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Processes: It recognizes 'ease of doing business' as the single most important factor to promote entrepreneurship. ○ New Infrastructure: Government intends to develop industrial corridors and smart cities, create world class infrastructure with state-of-the-art technology and high-speed communication. Innovation and research activities are supported through a fast paced registration system and improved infrastructure for IPR (intellectual property right) registration. ○ New Sectors: FDI has been opened up in Defence Production, Insurance, Medical Devices, Construction and Railway infrastructure in a big way.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New Mindset: In order to partner with industry in economic development of the country. Government shall act as a facilitator and not a regulator. An Investor Facilitation Cell (IFC) dedicated for the Make in India campaign was formed with an objective to assist investors in seeking regulatory approvals, hand-holding services through the pre-investment phase, execution and after-care support.● Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade (DPIIT) coordinates action plans for 15 manufacturing sectors while Department of Commerce coordinates 12 service sectors.● Targets under the scheme:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increase in manufacturing sector grown 10-12-14% per annum over the medium term.○ Increase in the share of manufacturing in the country's Gross Domestic Production from 16% to 25% by 2022.○ To create 100 million additional jobs by 2022 in manufacturing sector.
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5.2.3. TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EXPORT SCHEME (TIES)*

Why in news?

Recently, various steps were taken by the Centre to **boost the export**.

Objectives	Salient features
To enhance export competitiveness by bridging gaps in export infrastructure , creating focused export infrastructure, first mile and last mile connectivity for export-oriented projects and addressing quality and certification measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It provides financial assistance for setting up and upgradation of existing infrastructure with export linkages like border haats, cold chains, dry ports etc.● The Central and State Agencies, including Export Promotion Councils, Commodities Boards, SEZ Authorities and Apex Trade Bodies recognised under the EXIM policy of Government of India; are eligible for financial support under this scheme.● The Central Government funding is in the form of grant-in-aid, normally not more than the equity being put in by the implementing agency or 50% of the total equity in the project (subject to a ceiling of Rs 20 Cr for each infrastructure project).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Upto 80% of the total equity in case of projects located in North Eastern States and Himalayan States including J&K.

5.2.4. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It was launched under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2015-20 replacing the earlier scheme 'Served from India Scheme'. In June 2020, the validity of the SEIS was extended for one more year on account of COVID-19 pandemic.● Objective: To encourage and maximize export of notified services from India.● SEIS shall apply to 'Service Providers' located in India instead of 'Indian Service Providers''. Thus, SEIS provides for rewards to all Service providers of notified services, who are providing services from India, regardless of the constitution or profile of the service provider.● Under SEIS, the service providers of notified services are incentivized in the form of Duty Credit Scrips at the rate of 3 or 5% on their net foreign exchange earnings. These SEIS scrips are transferrable and can also be used for payment of a number of Central duties/taxes including the basic customs duty.
Invest India business immunity platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Invest India has designed this platform as a comprehensive resource to help businesses and investors get real-time updates on India's active response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).● It keeps a regular track on developments in the control of the virus, provides the latest information on various central and state government initiatives, gives access to special provisions, and answers and resolves queries through emails and on WhatsApp.

6. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

6.1.1. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME FOR PROMOTING TELECOM & NETWORKING PRODUCTS

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To boost domestic manufacturing and attract investments in the target segments of telecom and networking products in order to encourage “Make in India”. To boost export of telecom and networking products “Made in India”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme is open for both Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Non-MSME (this includes both domestic companies as well as global companies). Eligibility shall be subject to qualification criteria for the Global Manufacturing Revenues (GMR) as under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Companies: GMR should be more than Rs. 10,000 crore in the base year. Domestic Companies: GMR should be more than Rs. 250 crore in the base year. MSMEs: GMR should be more than Rs. 10 crore in the base year. Eligibility under the scheme is subject to thresholds of cumulative incremental investments and net incremental sales. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline for investment: 31-3-2021 Baseline for sales: Financial year 2019-20 Applicable Incentives: 7% to 4 % for MSMEs and 6% to 4 % over for others over 5 year above Base Year. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been appointed as the Project Management Agency (PMA) for implementing the scheme. Tenure: The scheme will be effective from 1st April, 2021. The investment will be permitted to be made in four years, subject to qualifying incremental annual thresholds, the support under the Scheme shall be provided for a period of 5 years. Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) chaired by Cabinet Secretary will monitor the PLI Scheme. <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globally Telecom and Networking Products exports represent an US\$100 billion market opportunity, which can be exploited by India. With this scheme, India will be well positioned as a global hub for manufacturing of Telecom and Networking Products. Incremental production around Rs. 2 Lakh crore is expected to be achieved over 5 years. It is expected that scheme will bring more than Rs. 3,000 crore investment and generate huge direct and indirect employments.

6.2. SCHEMES IN NEWS

6.2.1. BHARAT NET PROJECT

Why in news?

The Parliament, in February 2021, was informed that the project still lags with as many as 98,569 Panchayats yet to be service ready.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadband access to all villages by 2022. Laying of incremental 30 lakhs route km of Optical Fiber Cable and increase in tower density from 0.42 to 1.0 tower per thousand of population by 2024. Creation of a digital fiber map of the Digital Communications network and infrastructure, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to provide a minimum bandwidth of 100 Mbps to each of the 2.5 lakhs GPs. It will facilitate delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-banking, public internet access, G2C, B2B, P2P, B2C etc., weather, agricultural and other services to rural India. 'BharatNet Project' is the new brand name of NOFN (National Optical Fibre Network) which is being implemented in three phases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First phase – Envisaged to provide one lakh gram panchayats with broadband connectivity by laying underground optic fibre cable lines with deadline of 31st December 2017, which was achieved.

<p>including Optical Fiber Cables and Towers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly improve quality of services for mobile and internet • Develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI). • Address policy and regulatory changes required to accelerate the expansion and creation of digital infrastructure and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second Phase –To provide connectivity to all 2,50,000 Panchayats using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over powerlines, radio and satellite media completed by March 2019. ○ Third Phase – It will be implemented from 2019 to 2023 during which state-of-the-art, future-proof network, including fiber between districts and blocks, with ring topology would be created. • It is being implemented by a special purpose vehicle named Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. Under the Department of Telecommunication (DoT). • It is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
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DELHI: 15 July | 5 PM | 23 March | 1:30 PM

JAIPUR 17 March

7. MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

7.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

7.1.1. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSAT), 2013

Why in news?

Recently, the NITI Aayog, in its recent discussion paper, has proposed certain reforms in the Act.



Objective	Eligibility	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A legal right to persons belonging to “eligible households” to receive food grains at subsidised price (called central issue prices/CIPs) under the Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS).	<p>Under the Act eligible households comprises two categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Priority households: Entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month.Families covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (poorest of the poor): Entitled to 35 kg per month.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The present CIPs: rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Rs 1/kg.Coverage: The NFSAT covered 67% of the country's population, including 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population (overall 81.35 crore persons). State-wise coverage under NFSAT was determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.Life-cycle approach: Pregnant women, lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years, are entitled to receive nutritious meal free of cost through a widespread network of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres, called Anganwadi Centres and also through schools under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children up to 6 years of age.Maternity benefits: Pregnant women and lactating mothers are further entitled to receive cash maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to partly compensate for the wage loss during the period of pregnancy and also to supplement nutrition.Food security allowance: For non-supply of the entitled quantities of food grains. This provision is governed through the Food Security Allowance Rules, 2015.Joint responsibility of the Centre and State/UT Government.<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Centre: Allocation of required food grains to States/UTs, transportation of food grains up to designated depots in each State/UT and providing central assistance to States/UTs for delivery of food grains from designated FCI godowns to the doorstep of the FPSs.The States/UTs: Effective implementation of the Act, which inter-alia includes identification of eligible households, issuing ration cards to them, distribution of foodgrain entitlements to eligible households through Fair Price Shops (FPS), issuance of licenses to FPS dealers and their monitoring, setting up effective grievance redressal mechanism necessary strengthening of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

7.1.2. ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD (ONORC)

Why in news?

Recently, ‘**Mera RATION App**’ was launched under the scheme to help the ONORC beneficiaries. It allows users to check what they are entitled to, locate nearby ration shops etc. It also supports biometric authentication.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/inter-State and intra-state portability to all ration card holders under NFSA (National Food Security Act). No poor person should be deprived of getting subsidised food grains under the food security scheme when they shift from one place to another. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme was launched in 2019 with the following aims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure all beneficiaries, especially migrants get ration (wheat, rice and other food grains) across the nation from any Public Distribution System (PDS) shop of their own choice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the existing system, a ration cardholder can buy food grains only from the PDS in the locality where he or she lives. This will change once the 'ONORC' system becomes operational nationally. To reduce instances of corruption by middlemen and fraudulence in ration cards to avail benefits from different states. To reduce the incidents of hunger deaths in the country, to further improve rankings in the Global Hunger Index. The beneficiaries will be identified on the basis of their Aadhar based identification through the electronic point of sale (PoS) device. Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) portal (http://www.impds.nic.in/) provides the technological platform for the inter-state portability of ration cards, enabling a migrant worker to buy foodgrains from any Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the country. Other portal (annavtran.nic.in) hosts the data of distribution of foodgrains through E-PoS devices within a state. In Budget 2021-22, the government announced that ONORC scheme is being implemented in 32 States and Union Territories reaching about 69 crore beneficiaries (i.e. around 86% of the total beneficiaries). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remaining four states and UTs (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and West Bengal) will be integrated into the scheme in the coming few months. <p>NOTE: The Centre increased the borrowing limit of states to 5% of gross state domestic product (GSDP) in 2020-21 from 3%. However, incremental borrowing beyond 3.5% of GSDP is linked to reforms undertaken by the states, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universalisation of ONORC Ease of doing business Power distribution reforms Urban local body reforms

7.1.3. ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
To target poorest of poor population and provide them relief from hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landless agriculture labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans /craftsmen and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector. Widows, terminally ill or disabled persons, persons aged 60 years or more, single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence. All primitive tribal households; All eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of HIV positive persons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It covers poorest of the poor families from amongst the BPL families covered under Targeted Public Distribution System within the States and provides them food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.1/ per kg coarse grains, Rs.2/ per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/ per kg for rice. It is a part of NFSA and eligible households are entitled to 35 Kg of food grains per household per month. States/UTs are required to bear the distribution cost, including margin to dealers and retailers as well as the transportation cost.

7.1.4. TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (TPDS)

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
To identify the poor households and giving	The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) and provides for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments.

them a fixed entitlement of food grains, rice and/ or wheat, at specially subsidized prices.	India coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population of the country for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains. Thus, the coverage under TPDS has been delinked from the poverty estimates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains up to the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).State/UT Governments is responsible for the operational responsibilities for allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards to them and supervision over and monitoring of functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).The end retail price is fixed by the States/UTs after taking into account margin for wholesalers/ retailers, transportation charges, levies local taxes etc.TDPS (Control) Order, 2015 and PDS (Control) Order, 2001, stipulate that State/UT Governments are required to review the lists of beneficiaries every year.To prevent the violation of provisions of TPDS [Control] Order 2015 and NFSA 2013, the Department of Food & Public Distribution is implementing a Plan Scheme on 'End-to-end Computerisation of TPDS Operations' on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs.
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8. MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

8.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

MCA21 Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MCA21 is the first Mission Mode e-Governance project of the Government of India.It enables an easy and secure access of MCA services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of India.In Financial Year 2021-22, MCA21 3.0 would be launched.<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a technology-driven project envisioned to strengthen enforcement, promote Ease of Doing Business, enhance user experience, and facilitate seamless integration and data exchange among Regulators.It will have additional modules for e-Adjudication, e-Consultation and Compliance Management system, MCA Lab.<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ MCA LAB will consist of corporate law experts. It will help MCA in ensuring the correctness of results produced by these key modules in view of the dynamic corporate ecosystem.It will also have a cognitive chat bot enabled helpdesk, mobile apps, interactive user dashboards, enhanced user experience using UI/UX technologies, and seamless data dissemination through APIs.
LLP settlement scheme, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It allows one-time condonation of delay to the defaulting Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), to complete their pending compliances, without payment of any additional fees, during the moratorium period.LLP are hybrid of partnership firm and a company, having lesser compliances and limited liability, making it a sought-after business structure

9. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

9.1 NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

9.1.1. DEFENCE TESTING INFRASTRUCTURE (DTI) SCHEME

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote indigenous defence production, with special focus on participation of MSMEs and Start Ups by bridging gaps in defence testing infrastructure in the country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Scheme would run for the duration of five years.It envisages setting up 6-8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry.<ul style="list-style-type: none">This will facilitate indigenous defence production, consequently reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.Each DTI will be setup through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which will be the Implementation AgencyOnly private entities registered in India and State Government agencies will qualify for forming the SPV.The SPVs under the Scheme will be registered under Companies Act 2013.The SPV shall also operate and maintain all assets under the Scheme, in a self-sustainable manner by collecting user chargesFunding: The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75% government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'. The remaining 25% of the project cost will have to be borne by the SPV.The equipment/systems tested will be certified as per appropriate accreditation.While majority of test facilities are expected to come up in the two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs), the Scheme is not limited to setting up Test Facilities in the DICs only.

9.2. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

9.2.1. ONE RANK ONE PENSION SCHEME

Why in news?

The scheme is effective since 1st July 2014 and recently it has completed 5 years (it was launched in 2015).

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of their date of retirement.To bridge the gap between the pensions of current and past ex-servicemen at periodic intervals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The arrears will be paid in four half-yearly instalments. However, all widows, including war widows will be paid arrears in one instalment.Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension in 2013.Personnel who voluntarily retire will not be covered under the OROP scheme.In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years.Before OROP, ex-servicemen used to get pensions as per the Pay Commission's recommendations of the time when they had retired.

10. MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

10.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

10.1.1. ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE RESEARCH - MODELLING, OBSERVING SYSTEMS AND SERVICES (ACROSS)*

Why in news?

The scheme was recently reviewed by the MoES.

Objective	Salient feature																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct R & D for improving forecast of weather, climate and other hazardous events in real-time for delivery of a reliable weather and climate service. This requires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Augmentation of observations and their assimilation into weather and climate models. Understanding the physical processes through field campaigns. Developing and running of high-resolution models for giving forecast in all scales. Translating science to service and its delivery to society. Improving and acquiring the required infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an umbrella scheme launched for the period of 2017-2020. It covers research & development and operational activities on weather and climate related phenomena. It is being implemented through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Meteorological Department (IMD) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) There are nine sub-schemes under ACROSS which are as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sub-Schemes</th> <th>Implementing Institution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs)</td> <td>IMD</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Upgradation of Forecast System</td> <td>IMD</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Weather & Climate Services</td> <td>IMD</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Atmospheric Observations Network</td> <td>IMD</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate</td> <td>NCMRWF</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Monsoon Mission II including High Resolution (12km) global ensemble forecast system (NITI Aayog identified activity)</td> <td>IITM</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Monsoon Convection, Clouds and Climate Change (MC4)</td> <td>IITM</td> </tr> <tr> <td> High Performance Computing System (HPCS)</td> <td>IITM</td> </tr> <tr> <td> National Facility for Airborne Research (NFAR)</td> <td>IITM</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sub-Schemes	Implementing Institution	Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs)	IMD	Upgradation of Forecast System	IMD	Weather & Climate Services	IMD	Atmospheric Observations Network	IMD	Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate	NCMRWF	Monsoon Mission II including High Resolution (12km) global ensemble forecast system (NITI Aayog identified activity)	IITM	Monsoon Convection, Clouds and Climate Change (MC4)	IITM	High Performance Computing System (HPCS)	IITM	National Facility for Airborne Research (NFAR)	IITM
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10.1.2. NATIONAL MONSOON MISSION

Why in news?

Recently, the Ministry outlined the achievements of the 2nd phase.

Objective	Salient feature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a state-of-the-art, dynamic monsoon prediction system for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short range (1-10 days) Medium range (10-30 days) Long range (up to one season) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission was launched in 2012 and its first phase lasted till 2017. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune is main body responsible for execution and coordination of mission. For Long range forecasting (upto a season): American model called Climate Forecast System (CFS) is used, which is a coupled-Ocean atmosphere modelling system i.e. it combines data from ocean, atmosphere and land. For short to medium range: Unified Model (UM) developed by UK is used. NMM augmentation with High-performance Computing facilities has helped in achieving a paradigm shift in weather and climate modeling for operational weather forecasts.

- Developing **partnership between Indian and foreign institutes** to develop a system for prediction of extremes.
- Develop a **system for climate applications having social impacts** (such as agriculture, flood forecast, etc.).
- **Advanced data assimilation system** for preparing high quality data for model predictions.
- **NNM Phase II (2017-2020):** It emphasised on predicting extremes and development of applications based on monsoon forecasts. Achievements of the 2nd phase are:
 - The operationalization of **Monsoon Mission dynamical model i.e Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System (MMCFS)** to prepare operational seasonal forecast of monsoon rainfall and temperatures.
 - **Improvement in cyclone tracking** and intensity prediction.
 - Commissioning of a **Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS)** for short and medium range prediction at 12km.
 - Preparing **regional seasonal forecast outlook for south Asia** under WMO recognised Regional Climate Center and **South Asia Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF)** activities.
 - **Development of an algorithm to monitor** and predict the **Monsoon Intra-seasonal Oscillations (MISO)** and **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** on the extended range.
 - **Probabilistic Quantitative Precipitation Forecast** over all the Indian River basin has been operationally implemented.



10.1.3. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It aims to develop an integrated information system for providing one-point 24x7 access to the Knowledge products like books, reports, journals etc.• It is done under Digital India initiative.• The traditional libraries of the MoES system will be upgraded into KRC.
Mobile App "Mausam" for India Meteorological Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will communicate weather information and forecasts in a lucid manner without technical jargons.• It has 5 services: Current Weather, Nowcast (localized hourly warnings), City Forecast, Warnings and Radar products.

The advertisement features a dynamic background of a city skyline with a runner in motion. A large target symbol is on the left, and a QR code is on the right. The text reads:

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11. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

11.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

11.1.1. STRENGTHENING TEACHING-LEARNING AND RESULTS FOR STATES (STARS) PROJECT*

Objective	Salient features				
It envisions improving the overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian School Education System through interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a World Bank aided project, to be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Project is aligned with objectives of National Education Policy 2020. It covers 6 States: Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha. States will get support in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes. <p style="text-align: center;">MAJOR COMPONENTS</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  NATIONAL LEVEL </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening MOE's national data systems to capture robust and authentic data on retention, transition and completion rates of students. Strengthening of learning assessment systems. Establishing a National Assessment Center (PARAKH) for continuous tracking of learning and data-driven decision making leading to examination reforms. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  STATE LEVEL </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning. Strengthen classroom instruction, Vocational education. Governance and decentralized management for Improved Service Delivery. Strengthening Vocational education in schools through mainstreaming, career guidance and counselling, internships and coverage of out of school children. </td> </tr> </table>	 NATIONAL LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening MOE's national data systems to capture robust and authentic data on retention, transition and completion rates of students. Strengthening of learning assessment systems. Establishing a National Assessment Center (PARAKH) for continuous tracking of learning and data-driven decision making leading to examination reforms. 	 STATE LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Early Childhood Education and Foundational Learning. Strengthen classroom instruction, Vocational education. Governance and decentralized management for Improved Service Delivery. Strengthening Vocational education in schools through mainstreaming, career guidance and counselling, internships and coverage of out of school children.
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11.1.2. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness (KAPILA) Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign was launched on the 89th birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IP refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. Various types of IPs are: Copyright, Patents, Trademarks, Industrial designs, Geographical indications, Trade secrets. Under KAPILA campaign, students in higher educational institutions (HEIs) will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention.
SARTHAQ initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ) 'delineates the roadmap and way forward for the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It is an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education and was released, in April 2021, as part of the celebrations leading to the Amrit Mahotsav on 75 years of India's independence. States and UTs are given the flexibility to adapt this plan with local contextualisation and also modify as per their needs and requirements. SARTHAQ is planned to be implemented in a phased manner.

11.2. RESTRUCTURED/MODIFIED SCHEMES

11.2.1. PRIME MINISTER'S RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (PMRF)*

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of research in various higher educational institutions in the country. With attractive fellowships, the scheme seeks to attract the best talent into research thereby realizing the vision of development through innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme was launched for a period of seven years beginning 2018-19. The institutes which can offer PMRF include all the IITs, all the IISERs, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and some of the top Central Universities/NITs that offer science and/or technology degrees. The candidates will be selected through a rigorous selection process and their performance will be reviewed suitably through a national convention. <p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from any recognised institute/university (except IISc, IITs, NITs, IISERs, IIEST & IIITs) can also apply. Requirement of GATE Score is reduced to 650 from 750 apart from minimum CGPA of 8 or equivalent. In addition to direct entry, lateral entry is now allowed under which, students, who are pursuing PhD in PMRF granting institutions can apply.

11.3. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

11.3.1. MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME#

Why in news?

To help safeguard the nutritional levels of children and aid in protecting their immunity the Centre, in May 2021, approved monetary assistance to 11.8 crore students (studying in class 1 to 8 in the government and government aided schools across the country) through Direct Benefit Transfer. The assistance amounts to the cooking cost component of the Mid-Day Meal scheme.

Objectives of MDM	Intended Beneficiaries	Salient features
To enhance the enrollment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improve nutritional levels among school going children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School children studying in Classes I to VIII of Government, Local body and Government aided schools, Special Training centres (STC) and Madarassas and Maktabs supported under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Centres run under Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) and National Children Labour Project (NCLP) schools of all areas across the country are also included under the MDM. 	<p>MONITORING MECHANISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of Education, National Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) headed by Secretary-Dept. of School education well as Programme Approval Board (PAB). State Steering-cum- Monitoring Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary. District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of the senior-most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha of the district. At local level Gram Panchayats/ Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and the School Management Committees (SMCs).

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It envisages providing cooked mid-day meal with 450 calories and 12 g of protein to every child at primary level and 700 calories and 20 g of protein at upper primary level. It also involves providing nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought-affected area during summer vacation. It is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme and the cost of the MDMS is shared between the central and state governments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central government provides free food grains to the states. The cost of cooking, infrastructure development, transportation of food grains and payment of honorarium to cooks and helpers is shared by the centre with the state governments. The central government provides a greater share of funds. The contribution of state governments differs from state to state.
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Recent revised norms

- Annual increase in **Cooking cost linked to Inflation Index** to offset the impact of inflation on the food items under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- Revision of the transportation rate** from Rs 75 per quintal, for other than NE & Himalayan States to PDS rate (subject to maximum of Rs.150 per quintal).
- Revision of Management Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) rate** from 2% to 3% of the total admissible recurring Central Assistance. This would enable the States and UTs for better supervision and monitoring of the scheme.
- The **assistance for kitchen devices has been enhanced** from Rs 5,000 per school to Rs 10,000 - Rs 25,000 based on enrolment to enable the schools for procuring/replacing adequate kitchen devices.
- Two new components** have also been approved
 - Repair of kitchen-cum stores:** Assistance of Rs. 10,000 for the kitchen-cum-stores constructed ten years ago on sharing basis between Center and States
 - Fortification of food items** in a systematic manner through Food Corporation of India (FCI) starting with rice Kitchen gardens in each school will be encouraged.
- Delegation of power of implementing the scheme with minor modifications** from the existing guidelines to **District Level Committee Chaired** by the District Magistrate.
 - Also, The States and UTs have been given flexibility to utilize, with the prior approval of MHRD, 5% of their Annual Work Plan & Budget for new interventions.
- Other norms include:**
 - Use of Pulses from buffer stock** -The States and UTs may procure pulses as per their local taste for the Mid-Day Meal from the Central buffer stock created by the Government of India.
 - Monitoring of attendance** – All States and UTs are required to ensure that daily data from 100% schools is uploaded through Automated Monitoring System (AMS).
 - Menu under MDM** - States and UTs are required to adopt ways to develop a menu that reflects local taste and local produce that is different on different days.
 - Tithi Bhojan:** to encourage people from the community to celebrate important days such as **child birth, marriage, birthdays etc.** by contributing to the **MDM Scheme**. Tithi Bhojan is not a substitute to MDM but it supplements or complements MDM.
 - Usage of Jails, Temples, Gurudwaras etc. for MDM**- All States and UTs are being advised to involve community and other agencies such as Jails, Temples, Gurudwaras etc. in the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

11.3.2 UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN (UBA)*

Why in news?

In July 2020, a **tripartite MoU** has been signed among **CSIR, IIT Delhi and Vijnana Bharati**. This will pave the way for **access to CSIR rural technologies for UBA** and is expected to lay the foundation for cooperation and joint action in the area of UBA for rural development of India

Objective	Salient features
To enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide rural India with professional resource support from institutes of higher education, especially those which have acquired academic excellence in the fields of Science, Engineering and Technology, and Management.

<p>rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building institutional capacity in Institutes of higher education in research & training relevant to the national needs, especially of rural India. • IIT Delhi has been designated to be the Coordinating Institute (CI) for UBA. • Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (2.0): Under this institution have been selected on a Challenge Mode and the scheme has been extended to 750 reputed Higher Educational Institutes (both public and private) of the country. • Students from these educational institutions will adopt villages and visit them to get acquainted with lifestyle of people there and the problems faced by them.
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11.3.3. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

<p>AICTE-SPICES (Scheme for Promoting Interests, Creativity and Ethics among Students)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme provides financial support to institutions for developing students club for well-rounded development of students by promoting their interests, creativity and ethics. This club should serve as a model for other clubs in the institution and also those in other institutions. • Objective: To energize and position students club/ Chapters/ Societies as facilitating entity for pursuit of individual interests, creative work, showcasing talent, networking and teamwork opportunities, social experience; organization and management skills, exposure to professional ethics etc.
<p>Institution Innovation Council (IIC 3.0)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIC was established by Ministry of Education in 2018. • Major focus of IIC is to create a vibrant local innovation ecosystem, Start-up supporting Mechanism in HEIs, prepare institute for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements Framework etc. • So far, IICs have been established in about 1700 higher educational institutions. IIC will be established in 5000 higher educational institutions under IIC 3.0.

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GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS

PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

The GS Prelims Course is designed to help aspirants prepare for & increase their score in General Studies Paper I. It will not only include discussion of the entire GS Paper I Prelims syllabus but also that of previous years' UPSC papers along with practice & discussion of Vision IAS classroom tests. Our goal is that the aspirants become better test takers and can see a visible improvement in their Prelims score on completion of the course.

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COURSE BEGINS	TOTAL NO OF CLASSES
Admission Open	60

12. MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MEITY)

12.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

12.1.1. DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

Why in news?

Recently, the scheme completed 5 years.

Objective	Salient features
To transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Digital India programme is centred on three key vision areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every CitizenGovernance & Services on DemandDigital Empowerment of CitizensIt aims to provide the much needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas, namely: Broadband Highways, Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity, Public Internet Access Programme, e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology, e-Kranti - Electronic delivery of services, Information for All, Electronics Manufacturing, IT for Jobs, Early Harvest Programmes.e-Kranti - Electronic delivery of services: The mission of e - Kranti is to ensure a Government wide transformation by delivering all Government services electronically to the citizens through integrated and interoperable systems via multiple modes while ensuring efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs.Public Private Partnerships is preferred wherever feasible to implement e-Governance projects.The programme management structure consists of<ul style="list-style-type: none">A Monitoring Committee headed by the Prime MinisterA Digital India Advisory Group chaired by the Minister of Communications and ITAn Apex Committee chaired by the Cabinet SecretaryCreation of Chief Information Officers (CIO) in at least 10 key Ministries so that various e-Governance projects could be designed, developed and implemented faster.Common Services Centers (CSC): To take the benefits of Digital India to every corner of country, a vast network of more than 2.5 lakh CSC has been created. This has developed digital entrepreneurs among poor, marginalized, Dalits and women of India.

12.1.2. JEEVAN PRAMAAN

FOR PENSIONER TO SUBMIT LIFE CERTIFICATE

Why in news?

Recently, the **Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare** roped in the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** and utilise its huge network of **Postmen** and **GraminDakSevaks** in **providing doorstep facility to pensioners for submission of life certificate digitally**.

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
To facilitate on-line submission of Life Certificate by pensioners and streamline the process of getting Life certificate .	Pensioners of Central Government, State Government or any other Government organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is AADHAR Biometric Authentication based digital life certificates (DLCs) for Pensioners.DLC can be obtained through various Jeevan Pramaan Centres which are being operated by CSCs, Banks, and Government offices or by using the client application on any PC/mobile/tablet.It is intended do away with the requirement of a pensioner having to submit a physical Life Certificate in November each year, in order to ensure continuity of pension being credited into their account.

12.1.3. NATIONAL SUPERCOMPUTING MISSION

Why in news?

Second phase of the NSM was completed in April 2021.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make India one of the world leaders in Supercomputing and to enhance India's capability in solving grand challenge problems of national and global relevance To empower our scientists and researchers with state-of-the-art supercomputing facilities and enable them to carry out cutting-edge research in their respective domains To minimize redundancies and duplication of efforts, and optimize investments in supercomputing To attain global competitiveness and ensure self-reliance in the strategic area of supercomputing technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched in 2015 for 7 years and is jointly funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). It is being implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. The mission aims at establishing supercomputer facilities across 70 national research and academic institutions and connecting them onto a National Knowledge Network (NKN). Focus: The NSM has focus on following three dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating better supercomputing infrastructure Becoming more application-oriented Investing in human capital First phase of NSM: In the first phase of the NSM, parts for the supercomputers were imported and assembled in India. Supercomputers assembled indigenously under this project were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Param Shivay'19 Param Shakti Param Brahma Second phase of the NSM: It involves increasing the speed of the supercomputer network in the country to 16 petaflops. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FLOPS (Floating-point Operations per Second) is a common benchmark measurement for rating the speed of microprocessors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A MegaFLOPS is equal to one million FLOPS and a GigaFLOPS is equal to one billion FLOPS. A TeraFLOPS is equal to one trillion FLOPS. A PetaFLOPS can be measured as one thousand teraflops. Third phase of the NSM: This phase will take the speed of country's supercomputer network to 45 petaflops. Once completed around 75 institutions and thousands of researchers will have access to the supercomputers using the NKN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NKN with its multi-gigabit capability is aimed at digitally connecting all the scholars and research institutes of the country. By facilitating the flow of information and knowledge, the network creates a new paradigm of collaboration to enrich the research efforts in the country. <p>NOTE: First Indian supercomputer was PARAM 8000. PARAM Siddhi (global ranking 63 in TOP 500) is India's fastest supercomputer.</p>

12.1.4. SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARK SCHEME

Why in news?

Various units (established under the scheme) faced financial constraints on account of COVID-19 pandemic.

Objectives	Salient features
<p>For the development and export of computer software, including export of professional services using communication links or physical media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Software policy came up in 1986. It resulted into Software Technology Park (STP) scheme in 1991. It is a 100% export-oriented scheme which integrates concept of 100 percent Export Oriented Units (EOU) and Export Processing Zones (EPZ) and the concept of Science Parks / Technology Parks. It is unique in its nature as it focuses on one product / sector, i.e. computer software. Other important features include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisioning of single-point contact services for member units. A company can set up STP unit anywhere in India. 100% Foreign Equity is permitted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All the imports of Hardware & Software in the STP units are completely duty free, import of second hand capital goods also permitted. ○ Re-Export of capital goods is also permitted. ○ The sales in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) shall be permissible up to 50 Percent of the export in value terms.
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12.1.5. SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF MANUFACTURING OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENT AND SEMICONDUCTORS (SPECS)

Why in news?

Recently, the Centre has been pushing for domestic manufacturing under the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan'.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of electronic components manufacturing ecosystem • deepening of Electronics value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme offers financial incentive of 25% of capital expenditure on plant, machinery, equipment, associated utilities and technology, including for R&D to the industrial units making investment for manufacturing of capital goods, electronic components, semiconductors etc. • This will cater to all segments of electronics manufacturing such as Mobile, Consumer electronics, Industrial Electronics, Automotive, Medical Electronics, Telecom Equipment, Computer, Hardware etc. • Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is likely to attract new investments in Electronics Sector to the tune of at least Rs. 20,000 crore. ○ Direct employment of approximately 1,50,000 is expected to be created in the manufacturing units, including indirect employment of about 4,50,000. ○ Reducing dependence on import of components by large scale domestic manufacturing that will also enhance the digital security

12.1.6. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME FOR LARGE SCALE ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING

Why in news?

The Centre is facilitating domestic manufacturing under the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' through PLIs.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost domestic manufacturing • Attract large investments in the electronics value chain including manufacturing of mobile phones, semiconductor packaging and electronic components including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP)units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the scheme, electronic manufacturing companies will get an incentive of 4 to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies over a period of next 5 years. • The scheme shall only be applicable for target segments namely mobile phones and specified electronic components. • The government estimates that under PLI scheme, domestic value addition for mobile phones is expected to rise to 35-40 per cent by 2025 from the current level of 20-25 per cent and generate additional 8 lakh jobs, both direct and indirect. • The scheme will also help in creating 2 to 4 "champion Indian companies".

12.1.7. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Gyan Circle Ventures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a MeitY funded Technology Business Incubator of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sri City (Chittoor), Andhra Pradesh. • It would function as a Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) incubation center to promote deep-tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in using emerging technologies such as IoT, AI, Block-chain, Robotics etc.
DigiLocker	<p>It is a platform for issuance and verification of documents & certificates in a digital way, thus promoting paperless governance.</p> <p>Indian citizens who sign up for a DigiLocker account get a dedicated cloud storage space that is linked to their Aadhaar (UIDAI) number.</p>

	<p>Organizations that are registered with Digital Locker can push electronic copies of documents and certificates (e.g. driving license, Voter ID, School certificates) directly into citizens lockers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens can also upload scanned copies of their legacy documents in their accounts which can be electronically signed using the eSign facility. IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory Authority of India) in February, 2021, advised all Insurance companies for issuance of Digital Insurance Policies via DigiLocker. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digilocker team in NeGD (National e-Governance Division) under MeitY will provide necessary technical guidance and logistic support to facilitate adoption of Digilocker.
Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UMANG is developed by theNeGD (National e-Governance Division)under MeitYto drive Mobile Governance in India. It intends to provide major services offered by Central and State Government departments, Local bodies and other utility services from private organizations. It provides a unified approach where citizens can install one application to avail multiple government services. Its service has been made available on multiple channels like mobile application, web, IVR and SMS which can be accessed through smartphones, feature phones, tablets and desktops. In November, 2020 UMANG's international version launched during Online Conference organised to mark 3 years of UMANG. The international version was launched for select countries that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. It will help Indian international students, NRIs and Indian tourists abroad, to avail Government of India services, anytime. It will also help in taking India to the world through 'Indian Culture' services available on UMANG and create interest amongst foreign tourists to visit India



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13. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

13.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

Nagar van (Urban Forests) scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country in next five years.It will involve focus on people's participation and collaboration between Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates and local citizens.It will focus to plant trees on land that has been marked as forest lands but do not have any trees. Forest once established will be maintained by State Government.
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13.2. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

13.2.1. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE (NAPCC)*

Why in news?

Various climate related issues and government's efforts to tackle them, kept the scheme at the centre stage of climate related discussions.

Objective	Missions	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To achieve a sustainable development path that simultaneously advances economic and environmental objectives.To fulfill India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UNFCCC under Paris Agreement.To protect the vulnerable and poor sections of society through inclusive and sustainable development strategy, sensitive to climate changeTo devise efficient and cost effective strategies	<p>Missions included under it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">National Solar Mission (under MNRE)National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (under Ministry of Power)National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs)National Water Mission (under Ministry of Jal Shakti)National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (under MoS&T)National Mission for a Green India (under MoEFCC)National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (under Ministry of Agriculture)National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (under MoS&T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Action Plan was released in 2008.The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change is in charge of the overall implementation of the plan.The plan document elaborates on a unique approach to reduce the stress of climate change and uses the poverty-growth linkage to make its point.The guiding principles of the plan are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection - of the poor and vulnerable sections of society through inclusive development strategyAchieving national growth - through a qualitative change and economic direction that enhances ecological sustainabilityDevising efficient and cost-effective strategies for end use Demand side managementBetter technology - that looks into aspects of mitigation or adaptation.Market mechanism - that rewards sustainable development,Inclusivity - that invites linkups with civil society and local government institutionsMany of the sectors most at risk from climate change - such as water and agriculture - are the responsibility of state governments, so all states have to develop a SAPCC which implements the national policy framework taking into account their own unique vulnerabilities.Goi is also implementing a dedicated National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) to implement adaptation actions in vulnerable sectors across the country.
National Mission For A Green India (GIM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One of the 8 missions under NAPCC, implemented by MoEFCC. The mission uses both public and private lands and includes local communities in planning, decision making, monitoring etc. The Green India mission aims to<ul style="list-style-type: none">increase forest/tree cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and improve quality of forest/tree cover on another 5 mha of forest/non-forest lands;	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ improve/enhance eco-system services like carbon sequestration and storage (in forests and other ecosystems), hydrological services and biodiversity; along with provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non-timber forest produces (NTFPs) and○ To increase forest-based livelihood income of about 3 million households. |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

13.2.2. NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME (NCAP)*

Why in news?

Efforts to tackle air pollution kept the scheme at the centre stage of discussions related to air pollution.

Objective	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stringent implementation of mitigation measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution• Augment and strengthen air quality monitoring network across the country• Augment public awareness and capacity building measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a Central Sector Scheme.• It is a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.• It targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.• Under NCAP, 122 non-attainment cities have been identified across the country based on the Air Quality data from 2014-2018.• The city specific action plans have been prepared which, inter-alia, include measures for strengthening the monitoring network, reducing vehicular/industrial emissions, increasing public awareness etc.• Implementation of the city specific action plans are regularly monitored by Committees at Central and State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee.• Air quality of cities is monitored by State Pollution Control Boards which publishes their results from time to time.• Some Smart Cities have established Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) which are also connected to Air Quality Monitors (AQMs) for effective monitoring.

14. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

14.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of External Affairs.This is an initiative to conduct a skill mapping exercise of returning citizens under Vande Bharat Mission.It aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skill sets and experience to tap into and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
Vande Bharat Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is India's repatriation operation to bring home Indian nationals stranded abroad due to COVID-19 lockdown.People are brought back in flights by Air India and also by Indian Navy (from Sri Lanka and Maldives).

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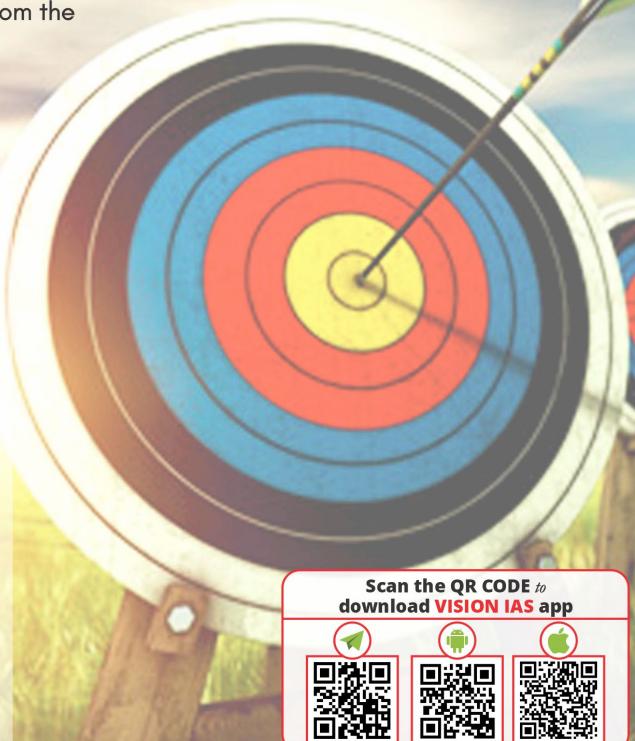
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15. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

15.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

15.1.1. SCHEME FOR REMISSION OF DUTIES AND TAXES ON EXPORTED PRODUCTS (RODTEP)

Objective	Salient features
To boost exports Scheme for enhancing Exports to International Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scheme is applicable on all export goods with effect from 1st January, 2021. This scheme is WTO-compliant and it replaces erstwhile Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) and Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEIS: It was essentially an incentive scheme, where exporters receive duty credit scrips for a percentage of the value of the goods exported. These scrips were used for paying a variety of taxes and duties. A WTO panel had ruled that MEIS was incompatible with multilateral trade rules as it could not be directly correlated to the input taxes paid by exporters. RoSCTL: Announced in March, 2019, RoSCTL was offered for embedded state and central duties and taxes that are not refunded through goods and services tax (GST). It would refund to exporters the embedded Central, State and local duties/taxes that were so far not being rebated/refunded and were, therefore, placing our exports at a disadvantage. The refund would be credited in an exporter's ledger account with Customs and used to pay Basic Customs duty on imported goods. The credits can also be transferred to other importers The RODTEP rates would be notified by the Department of Commerce, based on the recommendation of a Committee chaired by Dr. G.K. Pillai, former Commerce and Home Secretary.

15.1.2. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure (SASCE) scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was announced under AatmaNirbhar Bharat package 2.0. Under this scheme the centre will offer ₹12,000 crore special interest-free 50-year loan to states, exclusively for capital expenditure. Scheme is aimed at boosting capital expenditure by State Governments who are facing difficult financial environment due to shortfall in tax revenue arising from COVID-19 pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital expenditure is money spent on the acquisition of assets like land, buildings, machinery, equipment, as well as investment in shares. It has a higher multiplier effect, enhancing future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher rate of economic growth. Scheme has three parts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part-I covers north-eastern region. Part-II covers for all other States not included in Part-I. Part-III is aimed at pushing various citizen-centric reforms in States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This amount will be available to those States who carry out at least 3 out of the 4 reforms: One Nation One Ration Card; Ease of doing Business Reform; Urban Local Body/ Utility Reform and Power Sector Reform.
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Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0	
AatmaNirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a scheme to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery. It will be effective from October 1, 2020 and operational till 30th June 2021. Under the scheme, any EPFO-registered establishment that brings in new employees or employees who have lost their jobs between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 will be eligible for subsidy for each new candidate enrolled. Beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any new employee joining employment in EPFO registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs.15,000. EPF members who had lost their jobs between March 1, 2020 and September 30 and is employed on or after 01.10.2020.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECLGS aims to provide 100% guaranteed coverage to the banks, NBFCs and other lenders in order to enable them to extend emergency credit to businesses/MSMEs hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and struggling to meet their working capital requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Under ECLGS, 100% guarantee coverage to be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for Collateral Free Automatic Loans up to Rs. 3 lakh crores to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers, in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility. • Government periodically announced ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 and ECLGS 3.0 and now ECLGS 4.0 to enhance the utility and impact of ECLGS by providing additional support to MSMEs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ECLGS 1.0: For providing credit to entities that had outstanding credit of up to Rs 25 crore as of February 29, 2020, with an annual turnover cap of Rs 100 crore for the financial year 2019-2020. It had a 1-year moratorium period and a 4-year repayment period. ◦ ECLGS 2.0: ECLGS scheme was extended to support 26 stressed sectors identified by the Kamath Committee and the healthcare sector. ◦ ECLGS 3.0 business enterprises in the hospitality, travel and tourism, leisure and sporting sectors would be able to avail credit under the scheme. ◦ ECLGS 4.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cap of Rs 500 crore loan outstanding for eligibility removed subject to maximum additional ECLGS assistance to each borrower being limited to 40% or Rs 200 crore, whichever is lower. ✓ 100% guarantee cover to loans up to Rs.2 crore to hospitals/nursing homes/clinics/medical colleges for setting up on-site oxygen generation plants, interest rate capped at 7.5%. ✓ Additional ECLGS assistance of upto 10% of the outstanding as on February 29, 2020 to borrowers covered under ECLGS 1.0. ✓ Civil Aviation sector to be eligible under ECLGS 3.0 ✓ Validity of ECLGS extended to 30.09.2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs.3 lakh crore are issued. Disbursement under the scheme permitted up to 31.12.202. 																						
Production Linked Incentive (PLI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 more Champion Sectors will be covered under PLI Scheme to help boost competitiveness of domestic manufacturing. <table border="1" data-bbox="420 1257 1325 2032"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="420 1257 785 1358">  Sectors </th><th data-bbox="785 1257 1325 1358">  Implementing Ministry/Department </th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1358 785 1448">Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery</td><td data-bbox="785 1358 1325 1448">NITI Aayog and Department of Heavy Industries</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1448 785 1516">Electronic/Technology Products</td><td data-bbox="785 1448 1325 1516">Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1516 785 1583">Automobiles & Auto Components</td><td data-bbox="785 1516 1325 1583">Department of Heavy Industries</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1583 785 1650">Pharmaceuticals drugs</td><td data-bbox="785 1583 1325 1650">Department of Pharmaceuticals</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1650 785 1718">Telecom & Networking Products</td><td data-bbox="785 1650 1325 1718">Department of Telecom</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1718 785 1808">Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles</td><td data-bbox="785 1718 1325 1808">Ministry of Textiles</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1808 785 1875">Food Products</td><td data-bbox="785 1808 1325 1875">Ministry of Food Processing Industries</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1875 785 1942">High Efficiency Solar PV Modules</td><td data-bbox="785 1875 1325 1942">Ministry of New and Renewable Energy</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 1942 785 2010">White Goods (ACs & LED)</td><td data-bbox="785 1942 1325 2010">Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="420 2010 785 2032">Speciality Steel</td><td data-bbox="785 2010 1325 2032">Ministry of Steel</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="357 2043 1293 2077">NOTE: Refer the respective ministries/ departments for details of the PLI schemes.</p>	 Sectors	 Implementing Ministry/Department	Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery	NITI Aayog and Department of Heavy Industries	Electronic/Technology Products	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Automobiles & Auto Components	Department of Heavy Industries	Pharmaceuticals drugs	Department of Pharmaceuticals	Telecom & Networking Products	Department of Telecom	Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles	Ministry of Textiles	Food Products	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	High Efficiency Solar PV Modules	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	White Goods (ACs & LED)	Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade	Speciality Steel	Ministry of Steel
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Additional outlay for PM Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sum of Rs 18000 cr is being provided for PMAY- U. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMAY –U intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022 This will help ground 12 Lakh houses and complete 18 Lakh houses, create additional 78 Lakh jobs and improve production and sale of steel and cement, resulting in multiplier effect on economy.
Support for Construction & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaxation of Earnest Deposit Money & Performance Security on Government Tenders (reduced from 5-10% to 3%) has been given to contractors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will also extend to ongoing contracts and Public Sector Enterprises. It will provide ease of doing business and relief to contractors whose money otherwise remains locked up.
Income Tax relief for Developers & Home Buyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a bid to provide incentive to middle class to buy homes, differential between circle rate and agreement value in real estate income tax has been increased from 10% to 20%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circle rate is government-defined value at which property is registered, whereas agreement value is one negotiated between the builder and the buyer.
Platform for Infra Debt Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government will make ₹6,000 Crore equity investment in debt platform of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIIF is a government backed entity established to provide long-term capital to the country's infrastructure sector. This will help NIIF provide a debt of ₹1.1 Lakh Crore for infrastructure projects by 2025.
Support for Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹65,000 Crore is being provided to ensure increased supply of fertilizers to farmers to enable timely availability of fertilisers in the upcoming crop season.
Boost for Rural Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accelerate rural economy, additional outlay of ₹10,000 Crore is being provided for PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana (PMGKRY) to provide rural employment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMGKRY was launched to empower and provide livelihood opportunities in areas/villages witnessing large number of returnee migrant workers affected by COVID-19. PMGKRY effectively dovetails various schemes including MGNREGA, PMGSY etc.
Boost for Project Exports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹3,000 Crore boost is being provided to EXIM Bank for promoting project exports under Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDEAS provides concessional financing for projects and contributes to infrastructure development and capacity building in the recipient developing countries. This will help EXIM Bank facilitate Lines of Credit development assistance activities and promote exports from India.
Capital and Industrial Stimulus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹10,200 Crore additional budget stimulus is being provided for capital and industrial expenditure on domestic defence equipment, industrial infrastructure and green energy.
R&D grant for COVID Vaccine development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹900 Crore is being provided to Department of Biotechnology for Research and Development of Indian COVID Vaccine.

15.2. MODIFIED OR RESTRUCTURED SCHEMES

15.2.1. PRADHAN MANTRI VAYA VANDANA YOJANA (PMVYY)*

Objective	Eligibility	Salient features
To provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons against a future fall in their interest income due to	<p>It is open only to senior citizens (individuals who have completed 60 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a guaranteed pension scheme being implemented by through the Life Insurance Corporation of India. It promises regular pension payments at a monthly, quarterly, half yearly or yearly frequency in return for an upfront investment (called a purchase price). It sets a minimum and maximum limit on investment at ₹1.56 lakh and ₹15 lakh respectively. The scheme guarantees pension payouts for 10 years, with a return of principal at maturity. Subscribers get an assured pension ranging from Rs 1000/- per month to Rs. 12,000/- per month, based on contribution. The ceiling of maximum pension is for a family as a whole, the family will comprise of pensioner, his/her spouse and dependents. Should the investor die within 10 years, beneficiaries will get back principal. The scheme enjoys no tax benefits, except for GST exemption on principal.

uncertain market conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premature exit with a 2% penalty on principal is allowed in case of critical or terminal illness of self or spouse. • Loan facility is available after completion of 3 policy years. Maximum loan that can be granted shall be 75% of the Purchase Price. <p>Recent changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme's return has been aligned to that on the post office Senior Citizen's Savings scheme, with a cap of 7.75%. It will be reset every year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initially, it provided an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% for 10 years. • This scheme was set to expire in March 2020; however, it was modified and extended upto 31 March, 2023.
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15.2.2. STAND UP INDIA SCHEME*

Objectives	Eligibility	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise in agri-allied activities manufacturing, services or trading sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC/ST and/or women entrepreneur aged 18 years or above. • In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or woman entrepreneur. • Only green field project (first time venture) • Borrower should not be in default to any bank/financial institution. • Borrower shall be required to bring in minimum of 10% of the project cost as own contribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government does not allocate funds for loans under the Stand Up India Scheme. • Loans under the Scheme are extended by all the branches of the Scheduled Commercial Banks as per commercial parameters, Board approved policies of respective banks and extant RBI guidelines. • An amount of Rs. 500 crore each was however released by Government in FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 and Rs. 100 crore in FY 2020-21 towards the corpus of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand Up India (CGFSI). • Steps taken by the government for effective implementation of the Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision for submission for online applications by potential borrowers through www.standupmitra.in portal, ○ Handholding support, ○ intensive publicity campaigns ○ Simplified loan application form ○ Credit Guarantee Scheme ○ Convergence with State and Central Government Schemes wherever feasible, reduction in margin money and inclusion of activities allied to agriculture etc. • The loan is repayable in 7 years with a maximum moratorium period of 18 months. • The rate of interest would be lowest applicable rate of the bank for that category (rating category) not to exceed Bank's base rate (MCLR) +3%+ tenor premium. • Besides primary security, the loan may be secured by collateral security or guarantee of Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Stand-Up India Loans (CGFSIL) as decided by the banks. • The offices of SIDBI and NABARD are designated as Stand-up Connect Centres, who will arrange for the support required. SIDBI is a refinancing agency. • It also provides for Creation of a credit guarantee mechanism through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC). <p>Recent changes</p> <p>The scheme has been extended upto the year 2025. The margin money requirement for loans under this has been reduced from 'upto 25%' to 'upto 15%'. Activities allied to agriculture have been included in the Scheme.</p>

15.2.3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN INFRASTRUCTURE VIABILITY GAP FUNDING*

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VGF Means a grant one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The lack of financial viability usually arises from long gestation periods and the inability to increase user charges to commercial levels. ○ Infrastructure projects also involve externalities that are not adequately captured in direct financial returns to the project sponsor. • Through the provision of a catalytic grant assistance of the capital costs, several projects may become bankable and help mobilise private investment in infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially, the scheme envisages financial support to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure. <p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November, 2021 the Scheme has been extended till 2024-25 with total outlay of Rs.8,100 crore. • Also, the scheme has been revamped with the insertion of following two sub-schemes for mainstreaming private participation in social infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sub scheme-1: Caters to Social Sectors such as Waste Water Treatment, Water Supply, Solid Waste Management etc. Projects under this category should have 100% Operational Cost recovery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Central Government will provide maximum of 30% of Total Project Cost (TPC) of the project as VGF and State Government/Sponsoring Central Ministry/Statutory Entity may provide additional support up to 30% of TPC. ○ Sub scheme -2: This Sub scheme will support demonstration/pilot social sectors projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The projects may be from Health and Education sectors where there is at least 50% Operational Cost recovery. ✓ In such projects, the Central Government and the State Governments together will provide up to 80% of capital expenditure and upto 50% of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs for the first five years. ✓ The Central Government will provide a maximum of 40% of the TPC of the Project. In addition, it may provide a maximum of 25% of Operational Costs of the project in first five years of commercial operations.

15.2.4. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCGS is a central sector scheme. • It was announced in 2019, allowing PSBs to purchase high-rated pooled assets from financially sound NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs). • As a part of its Aatmanirbhar initiative, the scheme was extended to cover primary market issuance of bonds by NBFCs, HFCs and micro finance institutions (MFIs) with low credit ratings. • The idea was to provide liquidity support to institutions with low credit ratings and ensure continuity of credit support to small businesses, which were the worst hit during the covid-19 outbreak. • Under PCGS 2.0, the Centre provided 20% first loss sovereign guarantee to PSBs, resulting in liquidity infusion of ₹45,000 crore into the system. • The scheme covered papers with ratings of AA and below, including unrated papers, aimed at providing access to fresh liquidity support to non-bank lenders.
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15.3. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

15.3.1. PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA*

Why in news?

Recently the ministry announced that the scheme has played a significant role in financial inclusion of women. About 68% account under the MUDRA scheme (since the inception of the scheme till Feb, 2021) is held by women beneficiaries.

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
Increasing access of finance to the unbanked but also bring down the cost of finance from the last Mile Financers to the micro/small enterprises, most of which are in the informal sector.	Any Indian Citizen who has a business plan for a non-farm sector income generating activity such as manufacturing, processing, trading or service sector and whose credit need is less than Rs 10 lakh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For implementing the Scheme, government has set up the Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd (MUDRA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MUDRA is registered as a Company under the Companies Act 2013 and as a Non-Banking Finance Institution with the RBI MUDRA has been initially formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Small Industries Development bank of India (SIDBI) with 100% capital being contributed by it. Presently, the authorized capital of MUDRA is 1000 crores and paid up capital is 750 crore, fully subscribed by SIDBI. MUDRA supports the finance Institutions which are in the business of lending to micro / small business entities engaged in manufacturing, trading and service activities. MUDRA loans are extended by banks, NBFCs, MFIs and other eligible financial intermediaries as notified by MUDRA Ltd. The funding support from MUDRA are of two types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micro Credit Scheme (MCS) for loans up to 1 lakh finance through MFIs. Refinance Scheme for Commercial Banks / Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) / Small Finance Banks / Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The present authorised capital of MUDRA is at Rs. 5000 crore with a paid up capital of Rs.1675.93 crore. RBI has allocated an amount of Rs 20,000 crore from Priority Sector shortfall of Commercial Banks for creating a Refinance Corpus Fund. 3 types of loans to be allotted by micro units' development and refinance agency bank are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shishu: covering loans upto Rs. 50,000 Kishor: covering loans above Rs. 50,000 and upto 5 lakhs Tarun: covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and upto 10 lakhs There is no subsidy for the loan given under PMMY. Banks have been mandated by RBI not to insist for collateral security in the case of loans upto 10 lakh extended to the units in the Micro Small Enterprises sector. To mitigate the issue of collateral and to provide comfort to the lending institutions, a Credit Guarantee Product is extended by creation of a Fund called "Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units" (CGFMU). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme is being managed by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC), an agency promoted by the GOI. MUDRA Card is a debit card issued against the MUDRA loan account. The borrower can make use of MUDRA Card in multiple drawals and credits, so as to manage the working capital limit in cost-efficient manner and keep the interest burden minimum.

15.3.2. ATAL PENSION YOJANA*

Why in news?

Recently the scheme **completed 5 years**.

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
The subscribers would receive the fixed minimum pension at the age of 60 years,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all Indians between the age of 18 and 40 having a savings bank account in a bank or post-office. It is mainly focused on citizens in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It replaced the Swavalamban scheme. The minimum period of contribution by any subscriber under APY is 20 years. Subscribers can make contributions to APY on monthly/ quarterly / half-yearly basis. Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years.

depending on their contributions.	unorganized sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Government's co-contribution: 50% of the total contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower for a period of 5 years. The co-contribution could be availed only by the subscribers who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have joined APY between 1 June 2015 and 31 March 2016 ○ Are not covered by any Statutory Social Security Schemes ○ Are not income tax payers • Subscribers can voluntarily exit before the age of 60 years from APY subject to certain conditions, on deduction of Government co-contribution and return/interest thereon. • In case of premature death of subscriber (death before 60 years of age), spouse of the subscriber can continue contribution to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period, till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years. • In case of death of subscriber, the spouse of the subscriber shall be entitled for the same amount of pension till his or her death. • After the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber shall be entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till age of 60 years of the subscriber. • It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. The Institutional Architecture of NPS would be utilised to enroll subscribers under APY.
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15.3.3. PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA*

Why in news?

Recently, the Ministry has informed that PMJDY has **played significant role in financial inclusion of women.** By Feb 2021, 23.21 crore accounts out of the total **41.93 crore accounts opened under the scheme belong to women account holders.**

Objective	Intended beneficiaries	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access of financial products& services at an affordable cost • Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach 	Persons not having any other account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMJDY was launched initially for a period of 4 years (in two phases) on 28th August 2014. In 2018, the scheme was extended with new features. • It is the National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely a basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner. • Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account. • Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One basic savings bank account is opened for unbanked person. ○ There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts. ○ Interest is earned on the deposit in PMJDY accounts. ○ Rupay Debit card is provided to PMJDY account holder. ○ Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh (enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh) to new PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018 is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders. ○ An overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders is available. ○ PMJDY accounts are eligible for: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), MUDRA scheme.

15.3.4. PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN YOJANA*

Insurance scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safaikaramcharis, ward-boys, nurses, ASHA workers, paramedics, technicians, doctors and specialists and other health workers would be covered by a Special insurance Scheme.
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PMGKAY is

Government Hospitals and Health Care Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any health professional, who while treating Covid-19 patients, meet with some accident, then he/she would be compensated with an amount of Rs 50 lakh under the scheme. All government health centres, wellness centres and hospitals of Centre as well as States would be covered under this scheme approximately 22 lakh health workers would be provided insurance cover to fight this pandemic.
PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, the scheme has been reintroduced for two months (May and June) in the backdrop of resurgence of COVID-19. First phase of the PMGKAY was from April to June 2020 and second Phase was from July to November, 2020. It was launched to supply free food grains to migrants and poor who faced hardship on the account of economic disruption caused by COVID-19 and Lock Down. 5 kg free wheat/rice per month along with 1 kg free pulses via ration shops to 80 crore beneficiaries registered under National Food Security Act (NFSA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional grains given for free under PMGKAY to NFSA beneficiaries is over and above the existing monthly entitlement of 5 kg grains per person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food grains under NFSA were to be made available at subsidized prices of Rs.3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively. Cost of free food grains distribution under the scheme is entirely being borne by Central government.
Benefit to farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first instalment of Rs 2,000 due in 2020-21 will be front-loaded and paid in April 2020 itself under the PM KISAN Yojana. It would cover 8.7 crore farmers.
Cash transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to Poor: A total of 20.40 crores PMJDY women account-holders would be given an ex-gratia of Rs 500 per month for next three months. Gas cylinders: gas cylinders, free of cost, would be provided to 8 crore poor families for the next three months. Help to low wage earners in organised sectors: Wage-earners below Rs 15,000 per month in businesses having less than 100 workers are at risk of losing their employment. Under this package, government proposes to pay 24 percent of their monthly wages into their PF accounts for next three months. This would prevent disruption in their employment. Support for senior citizens (above 60 years), widows and DIVYANG: There are around 3 crore aged widows and people in Divyang category who are vulnerable due to economic disruption caused by COVID-19. Government will give them Rs 1,000 to tide over difficulties during next three months. MNREGA: MNREGA wages would be increased by Rs 20 with effect from 1 April, 2020. Wage increase under MNREGA will provide an additional Rs 2,000 benefit annually to a worker. This will benefit approximately 13.62 crore families.
Self-Help groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women organised through 63 lakhs Self Help Groups (SHGs) support 6.85 crore households. Limit of collateral free lending would be increased from Rs 10 to Rs 20 lakhs.
Other components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised sector: Employees' Provident Fund Regulations will be amended to include Pandemic as the reason to allow non-refundable advance of 75 percent of the amount or three months of the wages, whichever is lower, from their accounts. Families of four crore workers registered under EPF can take benefit of this window. Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Fund: Welfare Fund for Building and Other Constructions Workers has been created under a Central Government Act. There are around 3.5 Crore registered workers in the Fund. State Governments will be given directions to utilise this fund to provide assistance and support to these workers to protect them against economic disruptions. District Mineral Fund: The State Government will be asked to utilise the funds available under District Mineral Fund (DMF) for supplementing and augmenting facilities of medical testing, screening and other requirements in connection with preventing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic as well as treating the patients affected with this pandemic.

16. MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

16.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

16.1.1. NATIONWIDE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PROGRAMME (NAIP)-PII

Why in news?

The NAIP Phase-II has been initiated from 1st August 2020 in 604 districts.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhancing milk productionImproving genetic merit of milch animals with high quality seed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The aim of the program to inseminate over 1 crore bovines in 6 months & ear-tag them with 'PashuAadhaar' which is a unique identification provided to the animals so as to enable the Government to identify and track the animals uniquely with all details such as the breed, age, gender and owner details.Every cow and buffalo under AI will be tagged and can be tracked through the Information Network on Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH) Database.NAIP is a campaign mode genetic upgradation program covering all breeds of bovines to enhance the milk production using low cost breeding technology for improving genetic merit of milch animals with high quality seed.The gestation period for getting the benefits from the AI bovine is approximately 3 years.

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2020

Programme Features

- DAF Analysis Session with senior faculty members of Vision IAS
- Mock Interview Session with Ex-Bureaucrats/ Educationists
- Interaction with Previous toppers and Serving bureaucrats
- Performance Evaluation and Feedback

ADMISSION OPEN

17. MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

17.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

17.1.1. PM FORMALIZATION OF MICRO FOOD PROCESSING ENTERPRISES (PM-FME) SCHEME#

Objective	Intended beneficiaries	Salient features
Providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing micro food processing enterprises.FPOs/ SHGs/ producer cooperatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a Centrally Sponsored schemeThe scheme was launched as a part of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan”.The scheme will be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore.Under the scheme, about 2 lakh FME will be given direct financial assistance in the form of credit linked subsidy.Existing Individual micro food processing units desirous of upgradation of their unit can avail credit-linked capital subsidy @35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.Seed capital @ Rs. 40,000/- per SHG member would be provided for working capital and purchase of small tools.FPOs/ SHGs/ producer cooperatives would be provided credit linked grant of 35% for capital investment along the value chain.Support would be provided through credit linked grant @ 35% for development of common infrastructure including common processing facility, lab, warehouse, cold storage, packaging and incubation center through FPOs/SHGs/cooperatives or state-owned agencies or private enterprise to use by micro units in the cluster.Support for marketing & branding would be provided to develop brands for micro units and groups with 50% grant at State or regional level which could benefit large number of micro units in clusters.<ul style="list-style-type: none">The expenditure would be shared in 60:40 ratio between Central and State or UTs with legislature, 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States.The Scheme adopts One District One Product (ODOPD) approach to reap benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.<ul style="list-style-type: none">The States would identify food product for a district keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw material.The ODOP product could be a perishable produce based product or cereal based products or a food product widely produced in a district and their allied sectors.Support for common infrastructure and branding & marketing would be for ODOP products.The Scheme also places focus on waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts.The Scheme places special focus on capacity building and research. NIFTEM and IIFPT, two academic and research institutions under MOFPI along with State Level Technical Institutions selected by the States would be provided support for training of units, product development, appropriate packaging and machinery for micro units.Union Bank of India is the nodal bank for its implementation.Expected benefits: The scheme would generate total investment of Rs 35,000 crore as well as 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment and benefit 8 lakh units through access to information, training, better exposure and formalization.

17.1.2. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (PLISFPI)*

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Food manufacturing entities with stipulated minimum Sales and willing to make minimum stipulated investment for expansion of processing capacity and Branding abroad to incentivise emergence of strong Indian brands. Support creation of global food manufacturing champions. Strengthen select Indian brand of food products for global visibility and wider acceptance in the international markets. Increase employment opportunities of off-farm jobs Ensuring remunerative prices of farm produce and higher income to farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10900 crore. Two Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivising manufacturing of four major food product segments viz. Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/ RTE) foods including Millets based products, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Marine Products, Mozzarella Cheese. Innovative/ Organic products of SMEs including Free Range - Eggs, Poultry Meat, Egg Products. Support for branding and marketing abroad to incentivise emergence of strong Indian brands. For promotion of Indian Brand abroad, the scheme envisages grant to the applicant entities for - in store Branding, shelf space renting and marketing. Scheme will be implemented over a six years period from 2021-22 to 2026-27 through a Project Management Agency (PMA). The scheme is "fund-limited", i.e. cost shall be restricted to the approved amount. The maximum incentive payable to each beneficiary shall be fixed in advance at the time of approval of that beneficiary. Regardless of achievement/ performance, this maximum shall not be exceeded. Administrative and Implementation Mechanisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme would be monitored at Centre by the Empowered Group of Secretaries chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) would approve selection of applicants for coverage under the scheme, sanction and release of funds as incentives. The Ministry will prepare Annual Action Plan covering various activities for implementation of the scheme. A third-party evaluation and mid-term review mechanism would be built in the programme.

17.2. RESTRUCTURED/MODIFIED SCHEMES

17.2.1. OPERATION GREENS*

TOP mainly reduction in transport and storage and monitoring price

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing value realisation of TOP farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen TOP production clusters and their Farmer Producers Organizations (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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme was announced in the Budget speech of 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs 500 crores to stabilize the supply of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) Government has laid down special strategy and grants-in-aid under the scheme to ensure enhanced production of TOP crops and to augment value chain. Strategy for Operation Greens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term Price Stabilisation Measures: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) will be the Nodal Agency to implement price stabilisation measures. MoFPI will provide 50% of the subsidy on the following two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation of TOP Crops from production to storage Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for TOP Crops Long Term Integrated value chain development projects such as Capacity Building of FPOs & their consortium, Quality production, Post-harvest processing facilities, Agri-Logistics, Marketing / Consumption Points, and Creation and Management of e-platform for demand and supply management of TOP Crops.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduction in post-harvest losses by creation of farm gate infrastructure, development of suitable agro-logistics, creation of appropriate storage capacity linking consumption centres to increase shelf life.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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grants-in-Aid:<ul style="list-style-type: none">The pattern of assistance will comprise of grants-in-aid at the rate of 50% of the eligible project cost in all areas, subject to maximum Rs. 50 crores per project (For FPOs the grant-in-aid will be at rate of 70%).Eligible Organisation would include State Agriculture and other Marketing Federations, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO), cooperatives, companies, Self-help groups, food processors, logistic operators, service providers, supply chain operators, retail and wholesale chains and central and state governments and their entities/ organizations which will be eligible to participate in the programme and to avail financial assistance.Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) portal: It was launched to provide 'real time monitoring' of prices of TOP and for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention under the terms of the Operation Greens (OG) scheme. It will enable the government to monitor the supply situation for timely market interventions and price stabilisation in case of a price crash during a glut. Portal will disseminate information related to TOP crops such as prices and arrivals, area, yield and production, crop calendars and crop agronomy, in an easy-to-use visual formatThe government also intends to utilize the 28 centres of excellence under Indo-Israel Cooperation for the demonstration of new technologies in production and the supply of quality planting material and capacity building to farmers under the scheme.
<p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In December 2020, it was extended from TOP to other notified horticulture crops (TOP to Total) to protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post-harvest losses.The scheme provides subsidy for their transportation and storage from surplus production area to major consumption centres.	<p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eligible Crops:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fruits: Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit;Vegetables: French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato.Any other fruit/vegetable can be added in future on the basis of recommendation by Ministry of Agriculture or State GovernmentDuration of Scheme: – for the period of six months from the date of notification i.e., 11/06/2020.Pattern of Assistance: - Ministry will provide subsidy @ 50 % of the cost of the following two components, subject to the cost norms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption centre; and/orHiring of appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops (for maximum period of 3 months);

17.3. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

17.3.1. PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA*

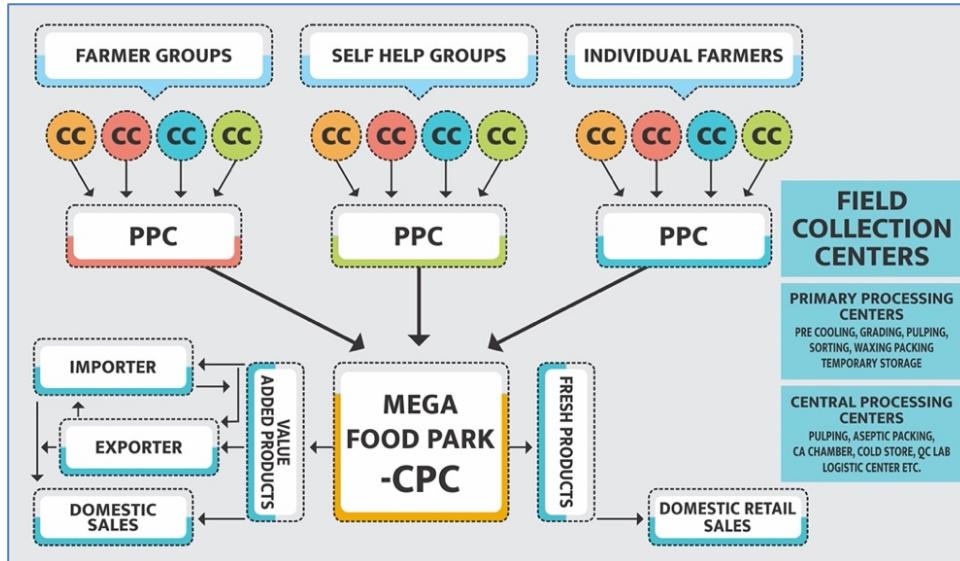
Why in news?

Various projects have been launched, under the scheme, in previous one year.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To supplement agriculture, modernize processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a Central Sector scheme.The scheme was initially named as SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters).It is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes and also new schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industry.

and decrease agri-waste.

- It is a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.



- It is a central sector scheme approved for the period of 2016-20.
- Component schemes:** The first 4 are the ongoing schemes whereas the last three are new schemes launched under the PMKSY
 - Mega Food Parks:** Setting up of modern food processing units with well-established supply chain. It is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
 - Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure:** To provide cold chain facilities without any break from the farm gate to the consumer. The project is set up by Companies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, etc.
 - Creation/Expansion of Food Processing/Preservation Capacities (CEFPPC):** To create processing and preservation capacities and modernisation/expansion of existing food processing units. The project is set up by Companies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, etc.
 - Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure:** It has two components
 - Setting Up/Up-gradation of Quality Control/Food Testing Laboratories
 - HACCP/ ISO Standards/Food Safety/Quality Management Systems
 - Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters:** Development of modern infrastructure and common facilities to encourage group of entrepreneurs to set up food processing units based on cluster approach.
 - Scheme for Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages:** For setting up of primary processing centers/ collection centers at farm gate and modern retail outlets at the front end along with connectivity through insulated/ refrigerated transport.
 - Human Resources and Institutions:** For demand driven Research & Development (R&D), promotional Activities (seminars, workshops, fairs and exhibitions), and sector specific skill development.

18. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MOHFW)

18.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

18.1.1. AYUSHMAN BHARAT#

Why in news?

Recently, 'AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme' was launched to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir. It would operate on insurance mode in convergence with PM-JAY and would be portable across India.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) To meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlining commitment, which is to "leave no one behind." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This flagship scheme was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlining commitment, which is to "leave no one behind." This scheme aims to undertake path breaking interventions to holistically address the healthcare system (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care) at the primary, secondary and tertiary level. Two inter-related components: Health and Wellness Centres (HWCS); Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>HWCS FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This component is funded through National Health Mission. Aim is to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC). It cover both maternal & child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services.  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>PM-JAY (FOR SECONDARY & TERTIARY CARE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM-JAY is Centrally Sponsored. Launched in 2018, it is the largest health assurance scheme in the world. It was earlier known as the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) before being rechristened. The households included are based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) for rural and urban areas respectively. It subsumed the then existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) which had been launched in 2008. Therefore, it also covers families that were covered in RSBY but are not present in the SECC 2011 database. PM-JAY is fully funded by the Government and cost of implementation is shared between the Central and State Governments. National Health Authority (NHA) is the implementing body. </div> </div>

18.1.2. NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION (NHM)#

Why in news?

Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (e-VIN) has been used with the requisite customization during the COVID pandemic for ensuring continuation of the essential immunization services and protecting our children and pregnant mothers against vaccine preventable diseases.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in child and maternal mortality Prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a major instrument of financing and support to the States to strengthen public health systems and healthcare delivery. The Centre-State funding pattern is 60:40 for all the States w.e.f. FY 2015-16, except all North-Eastern States and other hilly States viz. Jammu &

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> including locally endemic diseases. Access to integrated comprehensive primary health care. Population stabilisation, gender and demographic balance. Revitalize local health traditions & mainstream AYUSH. Universal access to public services for food and nutrition, sanitation and hygiene and universal access to public health care services with emphasis on services addressing women's and children's health and universal immunisation. Promotion of healthy life styles. 	<p>Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, for which the Centre-State funding pattern is 90:10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing to the States is based on the State's Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>INITIATIVES UNDER NRHM</p> <p>The diagram features a central circular logo with the text "NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION" and "राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन". Surrounding the logo are ten blue-bordered boxes connected by arrows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming AYUSH: Revitalizing local health traditions District hospital and knowledge center (DHKC) Free drugs and free diagnostic service RMNCH+A: Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health Mother and child health wings (MCH wings) Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakram (RBSK) National Mobile medical units Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) Janani Suraksha Yojana Accredited social health activists (ASHA) </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 sub schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Rural Health Mission National Urban Health Mission States that show improved progress made on key Outcomes/Outputs such as IMR, MMR, Immunization, number and proportion of quality certified health facilities etc. can receive additional funds as incentives. The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (e-VIN) is being implemented under the NHM. It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e-VIN combines state-of-the-art technology, a strong IT infrastructure and trained human resource to enable real time monitoring of stock and storage temperature of the vaccines kept in multiple locations across the country.
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18.1.3. NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION (NRHM)

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide accessible, affordable, quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups Establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter-sectoral convergence at all levels, Ensures simultaneous action on a wide range of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched in 2005 with special focus on the Empowered Action Group (EAG) States as well as North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. The Centre-State funding pattern is 60:40 for all the States w.e.f. FY 2015-16, except all North-Eastern States and other hilly States viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, for which the Centre-State funding pattern is 90:10. The thrust of the mission is on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter-sectoral convergence at all levels, to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of determinants of health such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality.

<p>determinants of health such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives under NRHM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accredited social health activists (ASHA) ○ Janani Suraksha Yojana ○ National Mobile medical units ○ Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) ○ Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) ○ Mother and child health wings (MCH wings) ○ RMNCH+A: Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health. ○ Free drugs and free diagnostic service ○ District hospital and knowledge center (DHKC) ○ Mainstreaming AYUSH: revitalizing local health traditions. • Cities and towns with population below 50,000 will continue to be covered under NRHM.
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18.1.4. NATIONAL URBAN HEALTH MISSION#

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet health care needs of the urban population with the focus on urban poor, slum dwellers, by making available to them essential primary health care services • Reducing their out of pocket expenses for treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would cover all State capitals, district headquarters and cities/towns with a population of more than 50000. • Need based city specific urban health care system. • Partnership with community and local bodies and NGOs. • District health action plan. • The Centre-State funding pattern is 60:40 for all the States w.e.f. FY 2015-16, except all North-Eastern States and other hilly States viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, for which the Centre-State funding pattern is 90:10. • Under the Programme the support is being provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) based on progress related to certain indicators. • For Service Delivery Infrastructure it provides- Urban-Primary Health Centre, Urban-Community Health Centre (U-CHC) and Referral Hospitals and Outreach services. • For Community Process it includes Mahila Arogya Samiti and ASHA/Link Worker.

18.1.5. JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
Reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant woman • New born babies (neonates) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSY is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme and it integrates cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care. • Eligible pregnant women are entitled for cash assistance irrespective of the age of mother and number of children for giving birth in a government or accredited private health facility. • BPL pregnant women, who prefer to deliver at home, are entitled to a cash assistance of Rs. 500 per delivery regardless of the age of pregnant women and number of children. • Focuses on poor pregnant woman in all states with a special dispensation for low performing states. • Performance based incentives to women health volunteers known as ASHA (accredited social health activist) for promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.

18.1.6. JANANI SHISHU SURAKSHA KARYAKRAM

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mitigate the problem of out of pocket expenses which prevents institutional 	Pregnant women who access Government health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero expense deliveries: pregnant women are entitled for free drugs and consumables, free diagnostics, free blood whenever required, and free diet up to 3 days for normal delivery and 7 days for c-

<p>attendance of pregnant women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide better health facilities for pregnant women and sick neonates. 	<p>facilities for their delivery.</p>	<p>section in public institutions (entitlement-based approach). Similar entitlements are there for all sick newborns and infants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free transport from home to institution. It supplements the cash assistance given to a pregnant woman under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). It has no component for cash assistance within itself.
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18.1.7. PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHIT MATRITVA ABHIYAN

Objective	Intended Beneficiary	Salient Features
To avoid infant mortality rates through safe pregnancies and safe deliveries.	All Pregnant Women who are in the 2nd & 3rd Trimesters of pregnancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide fixed-day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month free of cost. One of the critical components of the Abhiyan is identification and follow-up of high-risk pregnancies. Private sector doctors would support the initiatives of government. This scheme is available for both rural and urban areas.

18.1.8. UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

Objectives	Salient Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide free of cost vaccines to all children across the country to protect them against 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs). Rapidly increase immunization coverage. Establish a reliable cold chain system to the health facility level. Achieve self-sufficiency in vaccine production. Strengthen and maintain robust surveillance system for Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI). Introduce and expand the use of new and underutilized vaccines and technology in UIP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a 100% Funded by the central government. It was launched in 1985, and is one of the largest immunizations programmes in the world and a major public health intervention in the country. Under UIP, free vaccines against 12 life threatening diseases: Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b, Measles, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Rotavirus. (Rubella, JE and Rotavirus vaccine in select states and districts). Vaccines provided under UIP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) vaccine: It is given to infants to protect them from tubercular meningitis and disseminated TB. OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine): It protects children from poliomyelitis. Hepatitis B vaccine: It protects from Hepatitis B virus infection. Pentavalent Vaccine: It is a combined vaccine to protect children from five diseases Diphteria, Tetanus, Pertusis, Haemophilis influenza type b infection and Hepatitis B. Rotavirus Vaccine: It gives protection to infants and children against rotavirus diarrhoea. It is given in select states. PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine): It protects infants and young children against disease caused by the bacterium Streptococcus pneumoniae. FIPV (Fractional Inactivated Poliomyelitis Vaccine): It is used to boost the protection against poliomyelitis. Measles/ MR vaccine: To protect children from measles. In few states Measles and Rubella a combined vaccine is given to protect from Measles and Rubella infection. JE (Japanese encephalitis) vaccine: JE vaccine is given in select districts endemic for JE after the campaign. DPT booster: DPT is a combined vaccine; it protects children from Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis. Tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine: TT vaccine has been replaced with Td vaccine in UIP to limit the waning immunity against diphtheria in older age groups. NOTE: Immunization is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines are substances that stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.

18.1.9. MISSION INDRADHANUSH

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
To ensure full immunization with all available vaccines under UIP for children up to two years of age and pregnant women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus is given on pockets of low immunization coverage and hard to reach areas where the proportion of unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children is highest.Pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunization programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was launched in 2014 to strengthen and re-energize the immunization programme.All vaccines are available free of cost as under UIP.The Government identified 201 high focus districts across 28 states in the country that have the highest number of partially immunized and unimmunized children.A total of six phases of Mission Indradhanush have been completed covering 554 districts across the country.Technical support to be given by the WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International etc.“Catch-up” campaign mode aims to cover all the children who have been left out or missed out for immunization.Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI):<ul style="list-style-type: none">IMI: It was launched in 2017 to reach each and every child up to two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the UIP.IMI 2.0 was launched in 2019 to ensure reaching the unreached with all available vaccines and accelerate the coverage of children and pregnant women in identified districts and blocks.IMI 3.0: It was launched in February, 2021 with a target to achieving 90% Full Immunization Coverage in all districts of the country and sustaining the coverage through the immunization system.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus will be children and pregnant women who have missed their vaccine doses during COVID-19 pandemic.Also, beneficiaries from migration areas and hard to reach areas will be targeted.Under IMI 3.0, districts have been classified into low risk; medium risk; and high-risk districts.Since its first phase, MI has vaccinated 37.64 million children and 9.46 million pregnant women.

19. MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

19.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

19.1.1. PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME 'NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON ADVANCED CHEMISTRY CELL (ACC) BATTERY STORAGE

Objectives	Salient features
Achieving manufacturing capacity of Fifty (50) Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC with an outlay of Rs.18,100 crore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ACC battery Storage manufacturers will be selected through a transparent competitive bidding process.The manufacturing facility would have to be commissioned within a period of two years. The incentive will be disbursed thereafter over a period of five years.The incentive amount will increase with increased specific energy density & cycles and increased local value addition.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each selected ACC battery Storage manufacturer would have to commit to set-up an ACC manufacturing facility of minimum five (5) GWh capacity and ensure a minimum 60% domestic value addition at the Project level within five years.The beneficiary firms have to achieve a domestic value addition of at least 25% and incur the mandatory investment Rs.225 crore /GWh within 2 Years (at the Mother Unit Level) and raise it to 60% domestic value addition within 5 Years, either at Mother Unit, in-case of an Integrated Unit, or at the Project Level, in-case of "Hub & Spoke" structure. <p>The outcomes/ benefits expected from the scheme are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Direct investment of around Rs.45,000 crore in ACC Battery storage manufacturing projects.Facilitate demand creation for battery storage in India.Facilitate Make-In-India: Greater emphasis upon domestic value-capture and therefore reduction in import dependence.Net savings of Indian Rs. 2,00,000 crore to Rs.2,50,000 crore on account of oil import bill reduction during the period of this Programme due to EV adoption as ACCs manufactured under the Programme is expected to accelerate EV adoption.The manufacturing of ACCs will facilitate demand for EVs.Import substitution of around Rs.20,000 crore every year.Impetus to Research & Development to achieve higher specific energy density and cycles in ACC.Promote newer and niche cell technologies. <p>NOTE: ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required. All the demand of the ACCs is currently being met through imports in India.</p>

20. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

20.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

20.1.1. WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME

Why in news?

In November 2020, SC has asked trial courts hearing criminal cases against sitting and former legislators to consider providing protection to witnesses under the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 even without making any specific application for the same, keeping in mind their vulnerability.

Objective	Salient features
Protection of witnesses based on the threat assessment and protection measures inter alia include protection/change of identity of witnesses, their relocation, installation of security devices at the residence of witnesses, usage of specially designed Court rooms, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scheme provides for three categories of witness as per threat perception:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Category 'A': Where the threat extends to life of witness or his family members, during investigation/trial or thereafter.○ Category 'B': Where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or his family members, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.○ Category 'C': Where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or his family member's, reputation or property, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.• The Scheme provides for a State Witness Protection Fund for meeting the expenses of the scheme. This fund shall be operated by the Department/Ministry of Home under State/UT Government and shall comprise of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Budgetary allocation made in the annual budget by the State Government;○ Receipt of amount of costs imposed/ ordered to be deposited by the courts/tribunals in the Witness Protection Fund;○ Donations/ contributions from Philanthropist/ Charitable Institutions/ Organizations and individuals permitted by the Government.○ Funds contributed under Corporate Social Responsibility.

NEWS TODAY

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21. MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

21.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEMES

21.1.1. JAL JEEVAN MISSION (URBAN) (JJM-U)

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all 4,378 statutory towns in accordance with SDG Goal- 6.Providing coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 AMRUT cities.Rejuvenation of water bodies to augment sustainable fresh water supply and creating green spaces and sponge cities to reduce floods and enhance amenity value through an Urban Aquifer Management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The mission was launched in budget 2021-22.Funding: 100% central funding for Union Territories, 90% for North Eastern and Hill States, 50% for cities with less than 1 lakh population, one third for cities with 1 lakh to 10 lakh population and 25% for cities with million plus population.Outcome based Funding: Funding will be in three tranches of 20:40:40. Third instalment onwards will be released based on outcomes achieved and credible exclusion.Promoting PPP Model: Mandatory for cities having millions plus population to take up PPP projects worth minimum of 10% of their total project fund allocation.JJM(U) will promote circular economy of water through development of city water balance plan for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation.A Technology Sub-Mission for water is proposed to leverage latest global technologies in the field of water.Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign is proposed to spread awareness among masses about conservation of water.Pey Jal Survekshan will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies with respect to quantity and quality of water through a challenge process.Mission has a reform agenda with focus on strengthening of urban local bodies and water security of the cities. Major reforms are<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing non-revenue water to below 20%;Recycle of treated used water to meet at least 20% of total city water demand and 40% for industrial water demand at State level; dual piping system, electric vehicle charging points;GIS based master plans of the cities; raising funds through issuance of municipal bonds and rejuvenation of water bodies.

21.1.2. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This is a Central Sector Scheme.It was launched for with an objective to provide affordable working capital loan up to ₹10,000 to Street Vendors for facilitating resumption of their livelihoods adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemicSalient features:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initial working capital of up to Rs. 10,000Interest subsidy on timely/ early repayment @ 7%Monthly cash-back incentive on digital transactionsHigher loan eligibility on timely repayment of the first loanTo incentivize regular repayment of loanTo reward digital transactionsMinistry has also launched Socio-Economic Profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families.Based on the profiled data, benefits of the various eligible Central Schemes would be extended to them for their holistic socio-economic upliftment.
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21.2. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

21.2.1. PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (PMAY)- URBAN*/#

Why in news?

In July 2020 a sub-scheme ‘Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC)’ was launched under PMAY-U.

PMAY(Urban) & PMAY (Gramin) have been launched to achieve → Housing for All by 2022 Mission						
Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features				
Provide central assistance to implementing agencies through States/Union Territories (UTs) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) for providing houses to all eligible families/ beneficiaries against the validated demand for houses for about 1.12 cr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiaries include Economically weaker section (EWS), low-income groups (LIGs) and Middle-Income Groups (MIGs). The annual income cap is up to Rs 3 lakh for EWS, Rs 3-6 lakh for LIG and Rs 6 to 18 lakhs for MIG. The beneficiary family should not own a pucca house either in his/her name or in the name of any member of his/her family in any part of India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only Credit linked subsidy component is a Central Sector Scheme while other three components will be implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). It provides central assistance to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other implementing agencies through States/UTs for: <div style="text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> ISSR In-Situ Slum Redevelopment Gol grant @ Rs. 1 Lakh per house 4.6 Lakh ISSR houses approved </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> CLSS Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme Benefit upto Rs. 2.67 Lakh through interest subsidy of 3-6.5% 8.18 Lakh Beneficiaries under CLSS </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> AHP Affordable Housing In Partnership Gol grant @ Rs. 1.5 Lakh per house 28 Lakh AHP houses approved </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> BLC Beneficiary-Led Construction Gol grant @ Rs. 1.5 Lakh per house 62 Lakh BLC houses approved </td> </tr> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EWS category of beneficiaries is eligible for assistance in all four verticals of the Missions whereas LIG and MIG categories are eligible under only Credit linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) component of the Mission. Under the Mission, beneficiaries can take advantage under one component only. The houses constructed/acquired with central assistance under the mission should be in the name of the female head of the household or in the joint name of the male head of the household and his wife, and only in cases when there is no adult female member in the family, the house can be in the name of male member of the household. Flexibility to States for choosing best options to meet the demand of housing in their states Central grant of Rs. one lakh per house, on an average, will be available under the slum rehabilitation programme. National Housing Bank and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) have been designated as Central Nodal Agency (CAN) for implementation of CLSS. Geo-tagging for monitoring the progress of construction of houses, Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to ensure electronic fund flow and Technology Sub-Mission to implement new construction technologies, have been introduced. Government has also sanctioned ‘infrastructure status’ for the affordable housing sector, giving a boost to PMAY. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) 	ISSR In-Situ Slum Redevelopment Gol grant @ Rs. 1 Lakh per house 4.6 Lakh ISSR houses approved	CLSS Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme Benefit upto Rs. 2.67 Lakh through interest subsidy of 3-6.5% 8.18 Lakh Beneficiaries under CLSS	AHP Affordable Housing In Partnership Gol grant @ Rs. 1.5 Lakh per house 28 Lakh AHP houses approved	BLC Beneficiary-Led Construction Gol grant @ Rs. 1.5 Lakh per house 62 Lakh BLC houses approved
ISSR In-Situ Slum Redevelopment Gol grant @ Rs. 1 Lakh per house 4.6 Lakh ISSR houses approved	CLSS Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme Benefit upto Rs. 2.67 Lakh through interest subsidy of 3-6.5% 8.18 Lakh Beneficiaries under CLSS	AHP Affordable Housing In Partnership Gol grant @ Rs. 1.5 Lakh per house 28 Lakh AHP houses approved	BLC Beneficiary-Led Construction Gol grant @ Rs. 1.5 Lakh per house 62 Lakh BLC houses approved			



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARHCs aims at providing ease of living to urban migrants/poor to get access to dignified affordable rental housing close to their workplace. ○ Target beneficiary: Economically Weaker Section (EWS)/ Low Income Group (LIG) who are urban migrants/poor . It includes labour, industrial workers, street vendors, rickshaw pullers, students etc. ○ Implementation through two models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Utilizing existing Government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by Public Agencies ✓ Construction, Operation and Maintenance of ARHCs by Public/ Private Entities on their own vacant land. ○ Central government will provide concessional project finance under Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) and Priority Sector Lending (PSL), Exemption in Income Tax and GST and Technology Innovation Grant for promotion of innovative technologies in ARHCs. ○ This scheme will be implemented in all Statutory towns, Notified Planning Areas, and areas of Development/ Special Area Development/ Industrial Development Authorities.
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21.2.2. SMART CITIES MISSION#

Why in news?

According to a parliamentary standing panel (March, 2021) in 5 years from their respective dates of selection only 2,189 projects worth Rs 35,457 crore (18%) have been completed.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It aims to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions. ● It aims to focus on sustainable and inclusive development and to set examples that can be replicated both within and outside the Smart City, catalysing the creation of similar Smart Cities in various regions and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and the Central Government proposes to give financial support of on an average Rs. 100 crore per city per year. An equal amount, on a matching basis, will have to be contributed by the State/ULB. ● The Mission envisages covering 100 cities in five years (FY2015-16 to FY2019- 20). The Mission may be continued thereafter in the light of an evaluation to be done by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and incorporating the learnings into the Mission. ● The total number of 100 Smart Cities have been distributed among the States and UTs on the basis of an equitable criteria. The formula gives equal weightage (50:50) to urban population of the State/UT and the number of statutory towns in the State/UT. Based on this formula, each State/UT will, therefore, have a certain number of potential Smart Cities, with each State/UT having at least one. ● Mission strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pan-city initiative in which at least one Smart Solution is applied city-wide ○ Develop areas step-by-step – three models of area-based developments ○ Retrofitting ○ Redevelopment ○ Greenfield ● The core infrastructure elements: Adequate water supply, Assured electricity supply, Sanitation, including solid waste management, Efficient urban mobility and public transport, Affordable housing, especially for the poor, Robust IT connectivity and digitalization, Good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation, Sustainable environment, Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly, Health and education. ● The implementation of the Mission at the City level will be done by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which will be headed by a CEO and have nominees of Central Government, State Government and ULB on its Board. The SPV will be a limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 at the city-level, in which State/UT and the ULB will be the promoters having 50:50 equity shareholding.

<p>parts of the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the ease of living particularly for poor, women, elderly and differently abled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds provided by the Government of India in the Smart Cities Mission to the SPV will be in the form of tied grant and kept in a separate Grant Fund. • 20:20 model/concept: Centre has recently introduced a 100-day challenge where the top performing 20 Smart cities have been paired with the bottom 20 as sister cities. They will help the laggard cities to kick-start the smartening up process by borrowing technical know-how and financial studies. • Integrated Control and Command Centres (ICCC) are being setup which are contributing in providing several online services to the citizens. It has also helped in crime prevention, better surveillance and reduction in crime against women.
<p>Other significant initiatives under the Smart Cities Mission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of Living Index: It is an initiative of the MoHUA to help cities assess their liveability vis-à-vis global and national benchmarks and encourage cities to move towards an 'outcome-based' approach to urban planning and management. • India Urban Observatory: A state-of-the-art India Urban Observatory has become operational in the MoHUA. The Observatory will plug into various sources of data from cities both from real-time and archival sources for generating insights through analytics for cities, academia, industry and governments. This will greatly contribute towards evidence policy making.

21.2.3. SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (URBAN)

Why in news?

In budget 2021-22, SBM (U) 2.0 was proposed for the next 5 years.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate open defecation, • Conversion of insanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, • Eradication of manual scavenging, • 100% collection and scientific processing/disposal reuse/ recycle of Municipal Solid Waste, • To bring about a behavioral change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices, • Generate awareness among the citizens about sanitation and its linkages with public health. • Strengthening of urban local bodies to design, execute and operate systems, • To create enabling environment for private sector participation in Capital Expenditure and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched on 2nd October 2014 for five years (2014-2019) with an aim to make a Swachh India. With urban areas of 35 States (except 52 ULBs of West Bengal) Open Defecation Free (ODF), India has realized the vision of an ODF India. • The funding pattern between the Central Government and the State Government/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) is 75% : 25% (90% : 10% for North Eastern and special category states). • Components of the mission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Construction of Household Toilets ◦ Community and Public Toilets ◦ Municipal Solid Waste Management ◦ Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness ◦ Capacity Building and Administrative & Office Expenses (A&OE) • Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Swachh Bharat Kosh of the Ministry of Finance was proposed for bridging the gap in financing • SBM (U) 2.0 : This will be a continuation of the SBM (U), with the following components for funding and implementation across all statutory towns, viz. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sustainable sanitation (construction of toilets) ◦ Wastewater treatment, including fecal sludge management in all ULBs with less than 1 lakh population (this is a new component added to SBM-U 2.0) ◦ Solid Waste Management ◦ Information, Education and Communication, and ◦ Capacity building • At the end of the Mission, the following outcomes are expected to be achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All statutory towns will become ODF+ certified ◦ All statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population will become ODF++ certified, ◦ 50% of all statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population will become Water+ certified ◦ All statutory towns will be at least 3-star Garbage Free rated as per MoHUA's Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free cities ◦ Bio-remediation of all legacy dumpsites



Related Initiatives	
SBM ODF+ and ODF++ Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODF+ and ODF++ are aimed towards proper maintenance of toilet facilities and safe collection, conveyance, treatment/disposal of all faecal sludge and sewage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODF+: Toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene. ODF++: Toilets with sludge and septage management. According to MoHUA the cities that had been certified ODF at least once, on the basis of the ODF protocols, are eligible to declare themselves as SBM-ODF+ & SBM-ODF++. <p>NOTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODF: A city/ward is notified as ODF city/ward if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open. With 18 states / UTs and 3,223 cities declared ODF.
Swachh Survekshan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swachh Survekshan is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India. It was launched as part of the SBM. The first survey was undertaken in 2016 and covered 73 cities; by 2020 the survey had grown to cover 4242 cities and was said to be the largest cleanliness survey in the world. The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification, institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society. Quality Council of India (QCI) is its implementation partner.
Water Plus Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to provide a guideline for cities and towns to ensure that no untreated waste-water is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.
Swachh Swasth Sarvatra (SSS)-Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will be implemented in convergence between MoHUA and MoHFW Scope of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling and supporting wards/cities where Kayakalp Urban-Public Health Centres/U-CHCs are located to become/sustain ODF Strengthening U-PHCs/U-CHCs that have Kayakalp score of below 70% in ODF wards/cities to progress to higher score Build capacity through training in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to nominees of health facilities and ULBs.
Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities launched by MOHUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The star-rating initiative will be rating cities on a 7-star rating system based on 25 key parameters for solid waste management, which will include Door to Door Collection, bulk generator compliance, source segregation, sweeping, scientific processing of waste, scientific land filling, plastic waste management, construction and demolition management, dump remediation & citizen grievance redressal system etc. Cities are required to carry out self-assessment and self-verification for achieving a certain star rating. Citizens have to be involved as well. This self-declaration will be further verified through an independent third-party agency appointed by MoHUA for 1-star, 3-star, 5-star and 7-star garbage free ratings.
e-Dharti App and e-Dharti Geo Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land & Development Office (L&DO) deals with public applications which are mainly related to Conversion of property from leasehold to freehold, Substitution of names of legal heirs and Mutation in the name of purchaser, etc. Under this app, all the three modules i.e. Conversion, Substitution and Mutation have been made online for public to submit their applications related to these. The portal is a GIS based mapping of each and every Government property under L&DO (Land & Development Office), whether it is allotted or still lying vacant.

21.2.4. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, NCMC was launched for Delhi Metro. NCMC dubbed as 'One Nation, One Card' for transport mobility is an initiative to enable seamless travel by different transport systems across the country besides retail shopping and purchases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCMC is an automatic fare collection system. It will turn smartphones into an inter-operable transport card that commuters can use eventually to pay for Metro, bus and suburban railways services.
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22. MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

22.1. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

22.1.1. JAL JEEVAN MISSION (RURAL)

Why in news?

In March 2021, the ministry informed that 'Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural)' has achieved a new milestone in providing tap water supply to four crore rural households across the country.

Objectives	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">JJM aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024.FHTC – Functionality of a tap connection is defined as having infrastructure, i.e. household tap connection providing water in adequate quantity, i.e. at least 55 lpcd (litre per capita per day), of prescribed quality, i.e. BIS:10500 standard, on regular basis, i.e. continuous supply in long-term.To provide functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, Gram Panchayat (GP) buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">JJM is an upgraded version of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) that was launched in 2009.Fund sharing pattern: 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States; 50:50 for other States and 100% for UTs.Components under JJM:<ul style="list-style-type: none">development of in-village piped water supply infrastructuredevelopment of reliable drinking water sources and/or augmentation of existing sources to provide long-term sustainability of water supply systemtechnological interventions for removal of contaminants where water quality is an issuegreywater management (domestic non-faecal wastewater)development of utilities, water quality laboratories, water quality testing & surveillance, R&D, knowledge centre, capacity building of communities, etc.Community driven approach: Gram Panchayats and local community to play the pivotal role.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION



- Implementation strategy:**
 - Time bound completion** of schemes has been proposed
 - Priority to cover water quality affected habitations will be given
 - No expenditure like electricity charges, salary of regular staff, and purchase of land, etc. will be allowed from the central share
 - 'utility-based approach':** this will enable institutions to function as utilities and focus on drinking water supply **services** and recover **water tariffs** from all kinds of consumers.
 - Convergence:** convergence with existing schemes such as MGNREGS to implement measures like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge etc.
 - Incentive for community:** community would be rewarded to the tune of 10% of the capital expenditure on their respective in-village water supply scheme
 - Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S):** includes setting up and maintenance of water quality testing labs and surveillance activities by community.

Related initiatives	
Jalmani Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This programme involves installation of Stand-Alone Purification System in rural schools, since 2008. The ownership of the water purification system lies with school authorities, while funds are provided to the village panchayats by the State Governments for operating this program.
Swajal scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a community demand driven, decentralized, single village, preferably solar powered, mini Piped Water Supply (PWS) programme for the 117 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog. Gram Panchayats in partnership with rural communities and State sectoral agencies would be involved in the execution of the scheme and also operate and maintain the scheme. The programme would also sustain ODF status. The scheme will train hundreds of rural technicians for operation and maintenance of Swajal units.

22.1.2. SWACHH BHARAT MISSION-GRAMIN (SBM-G)

Why in news?

Recently, phase-II of the mission has been launched.

Objective	Salient feature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019 Motivate communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions to adopt sustainable sanitation practices and facilities through awareness creation and health education Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation Develop, wherever required, community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific Solid & Liquid Waste Management systems for overall cleanliness in the rural areas Create significant positive impact on gender and promote social inclusion by improving sanitation especially in marginalized communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> launched on 2nd October 2014 by restructuring erstwhile Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan to make the country Open Defecation Free (ODF) in Five Years by 2019. It seeks to improve the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) activities and making Gram Panchayats ODF, clean and sanitised. Incentives to households: For the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) was available for all Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households. Incentive for Above Poverty Line (APL) households was restricted to SCs/STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women headed households. Said to be the world's largest behaviour change programme, it achieved the seemingly impossible task by generating a people's movement at the grassroots. On 2nd October 2019 all districts across India, declared themselves as ODF. Phase-II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This phase has been launched for the period 2020-21 to 2024-25. The fund sharing pattern between Centre and States will be 90:10 for North-Eastern States and Himalayan States and UT of J&K; 60:40 for other States; and 100:0 for other Union Territories, for all the components. It will focus on sustaining the gains made in the 1st phase of the programme in terms of toilet access and usage, and will ensure that no one is left behind. It will be implemented in a mission mode. It will ensure that effective solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) is instituted in every gram panchayat of the country. Financing: Budgetary support and also amount will be dovetailed from the funds being released under the 15th finance commission, MGNREGS and revenue generation models particularly for SLWM. Monitoring: The SLWM component of "ODF Plus" will be monitored on the basis of output-outcome indicators for four key areas: management of plastic wastes, bio-degradable solid wastes (including animal wastes), greywater and fecal sludge. Employment generation: This would be done through construction of household and community toilets as well as infrastructure for SLWM like compost pits, soak pits, waste stabilisation ponds and material recovery facilities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ODF plus village: It is defined as “a village which sustains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, ensures solid and liquid waste management and is visually clean.” This includes ensuring that all households in a village, as well as the Primary School, Panchayat Ghar and Anganwadi Centre, have access to a toilet and that all public places and at least 80% of households effectively manage their solid and liquid waste and have a minimal litter and minimal stagnant water.
Swachh Swasth Sarvatra Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative is a part of SBM under the National Health Mission. • It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Jal Shakti to achieve better health outcomes through improved sanitation and increased awareness and healthy lifestyles. • The three key components of Swachh SwasthSarvatra are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Health Centres (CHCs) in ODF blocks will be supported to achieve Kayakalp certification (a certificate for high standard of sanitation and hygiene). ○ Gram Panchayat of Kayakalp Primary Health Centres (PHCs) prioritized to become ODF ○ Training in WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) of CHC/PHC nominees • The MDWS will undertake ODF activities in the Gram Panchayat of Kayakalp award winning PHCs and will provide WASH training to a nominee of those CHCs and PHCs. • Under it, 10 lakh rupees of financial assistance would be given to the CHCs so that they can be strengthen to meet the standards of sanitation, hygiene and standard control.
Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initiative is being coordinated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and concerned state/UT and local governments. • The initiative aims at enhancing the experience of both domestic and foreign visitors by improving the sanitation and cleanliness standards at and around the sites. • 100 places across India have been identified as “iconic” due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance. So far in first 3 phases, 30 iconic places have been taken up. All these iconic Sites have designated PSUs or corporates for financial and technical support. Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai has been adjudged the cleanest iconic place in the country. • Under phase IV, 12 tourist sites are selected: Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra; Sanchi Stupa, Madhya Pradesh; Kumbhalgarh Fort, Rajasthan; Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan; Ramdevra, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; Golconda Fort, Hyderabad, Telangana; Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha; Rock Garden, Chandigarh; Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir; Banke Bihari Temple, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh; Agra Fort, Agra, Uttar Pradesh; Kalighat Temple, West Bengal.
RashtriyaSwachhta Kendra (RSK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was announced on centenary of Champaran Satyagraha i.e. 10 April, 2017. • It was inaugurated in August 2020 as an interactive experience centre on the SBM, at the Gandhi Smriti and darshan samiti at Rakghat.
Darwaza Band Media Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an aggressive mass media campaign aiming at Behavior Change. The 'Darwaza Band' campaign has been supported by the World Bank. It is designed to encourage behaviour change in men who have toilets but are not using them. • Recently, the Swachh Bharat Mission(G) launched the 'Darwaza Band - Part 2' campaign which focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country.
Swachhta hi Sewa Campaign	<p>It is a fortnight-long sanitation campaign to highlight the cleanliness initiative, Swachh Bharat Mission. Its objective is to mobilise people and</p>

	<p>reinforce janaandolan (mass movement) for sanitation. There will be targeted cleaning of public and tourist places under this campaign.</p>
GOBAR Dhan scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resource dhan or “GOBARdhan” scheme was launched in April 2018. Gobardhan scheme is being implemented as part of the SBMG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an important element of achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) strategy. It aims to support villages in effectively manage their cattle and biodegradable waste. Scheme focus on keeping villages clean, increasing income of rural households, and generation of energy from cattle waste. Recently, Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a unified portal on 'Gobardhan' scheme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under new unified approach, all biogas programmes/ schemes will be coordinated by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen (SBMG).
Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) Dashboard, ODF-Plus Advisory and the ODF-Plus & Swachh Gram Darpan App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are prepared by NIC. Aim is to foster healthy competition among States and districts undertaking ODF-plus activities. The Swachh Gram Darpan app allows people to monitor how the programme is working at district and state levels.

22.1.3. NAMAMI GANGE YOJANA*

Why in news?

Recently, the 2nd Phase of the Mission has been approved.

Objective	Salient features																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clean and protect the Ganga river in a comprehensive manner. Watershed management of Ganga river basin and reducing runoff and pollution To develop the villages located along the main stem of river Ganga which have historic, cultural, and religious and/or tourist importance River Front Management Conservation of Aquatic life Creating coordination between different ministries involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a central sector scheme. It covers 8 states/UTs, 47 towns & 12 rivers under the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basin covers 11 states viz., Uttarakhand, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi. The current focus of world Bank funded National Ganga River Basin Projects (NGRBP) of NMCG is on five major states on the main stem of river Ganga namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>MAIN PILLARS</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> River-Front Development </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> River-Surface Cleaning </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> Bio-Diversity </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> Afforestation </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> Public Awareness </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> Industrial Effluent Monitoring </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;">  </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> Ganga Gram </td> </tr> </table> </div>		Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure		River-Front Development		River-Surface Cleaning		Bio-Diversity		Afforestation		Public Awareness		Industrial Effluent Monitoring		Ganga Gram
	Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure		River-Front Development														
	River-Surface Cleaning		Bio-Diversity														
	Afforestation		Public Awareness														
	Industrial Effluent Monitoring		Ganga Gram														

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of Clean Ganga Fund (charity fund) as a trust under the Indian Trusts Act.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Donors are eligible for 100% I-T exemption and contributions also fall within the purview of CSR activity.• World Bank is funding the projects through loan.• Implementing agency: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and its state counterparts, State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The NMCG is the implementation wing of the National Ganga Council, set up in 2016. It replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).• The NMCG &SPMGs ropes in ULBs and PRIs in this project.• Setting river centric urban planning process to facilitate better citizen connects, through interventions at Ghats and River fronts.• Entry Level Activities (for immediate visible impact): River surface cleaning to address the floating solid wastes; rural sanitation to arrest the pollution (solid & liquid) entering through rural sewage drains and construction of toilets.• Medium Term Activities (to be implemented within 5 years of time frame):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Expansion of coverage of sewerage infrastructure in 118 urban habitations on banks of Ganga.○ Pollution will be checked through Treatment of waste water in drains by applying bio-remediation method, in-situ treatment, municipal sewage & effluent treatment plants○ Managing the industrial pollution.○ Biodiversity conservation, Afforestation, and water quality monitoring• Long Term Activities (to be implemented within 10 years): determination of ecological-flow, increased water-use efficiency, and improved efficiency of surface irrigation.• The 2nd Phase of the Mission was approved by the World Bank Board in June 2020 for US\$ 400 million.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Loan would be for a period of 5 years up to December 2026.○ The projects to be undertaken under this phase include spillover projects from the first phase of the mission as well cleaning projects in tributaries such as the Yamuna and Kali rivers.• Namami Gange has been included under the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence for Public Administration Scheme for recognizing the efforts of district level officials.
Ganga Gram Yojana	It was started in 2016 under Namami Gange programme to develop the villages located along the main stem of river Ganga which have historic, cultural, and religious and/or tourist importance. Works related to Ganga Grams encompass comprehensive rural sanitation, development of water bodies and river ghats, construction/ modernization of crematoria etc.
Ganga Gram Project	It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG). It is an integrated approach for the holistic development of villages situated on the banks of the holy river with the active participation of villagers.
Ganga Utsav 2020	A three days cultural and educational festival , was organized by NMCG from 2nd to 4th November, 2020 to celebrate the glory of holy river Ganga . This Utsav included variety of events including storytelling, folklores, dialogues with eminent personalities, quizzes, displaying traditional art forms, dance & music performance by renowned artists, photo galleries, exhibitions and much more.

22.1.4. NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT (NHP)*

Why in news?

Recently, the mid-term (4th year) progress review of the project was carried out.

Objective	Salient Features
• To set up a system for timely and reliable water resources data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a Central Sector Scheme launched for 8 years from 2016-17 to 2023-24• The project is supported by World Bank (50% loan).• Project Components:

<p>acquisition, storage, collation and management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build capacity of the State and Central sector organisations in water resources management through the use of Information Systems and adoption of State-of-the-art technologies like Remote Sensing. • Lead time in flood forecast from 1 day to atleast 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water Resources Monitoring Systems (WRISs): Financing the establishment/modernization of new and existing hydro met monitoring systems including meteorology, stream flow, ground water, water quality and water storage measurements etc. ○ Water Resources Information Systems: Strengthening of national and sub-national water information centres with web-enabled WRISs through standardization of databases and products from various data sources/departments. ○ Water Resources Operations and Planning Systems: Development of interactive analytical tools and decision support platform. ○ Institutional Capacity Enhancement: Building capacity for knowledge-based water resources management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHP will gather Hydro-meteorological data which will be stored and analysed and can be assessed by any user. • It will facilitate integrated water resource management by adopting river basin approach through collation and management of hydro-meteorological data. This will also help in water resource assessment.
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22.1.5. DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP)*

Why in news?

Recently, phase II and Phase III of the scheme was approved.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner • To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States/ Implementing Agencies (CWC) • To explore the alternative incidental means at few of selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams (added for Phase II and Phase III) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a Central Sector Scheme. • Phase I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project was launched in 2012 with the help of the World Bank for six-years. ○ It covered 223 dam Projects initially in seven States (namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand) ○ The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) identified potential emergency conditions at a dam and prescribed the procedures to be followed to minimize loss of life and property damage. • Recently, phase II and Phase III of the scheme was approved for comprehensive rehabilitation of 736 existing dams located across the country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project cost is Rs 10,211 crore. The Project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April, 2021 to March, 2031. ○ Financing: The share of external funding (with the financial assistance of the World Bank, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is Rs 7,000 crore of the total project cost, and balance Rs 3,211 crore is to be borne by the concerned Implementing Agencies.The contribution of Central Government is Rs 1,024 crore as loan liability and Rs 285 crore as counter-part funding for Central Component.
DHARMA (Dam Health And Rehabilitation Monitoring Application)	DHARMA is a web tool to digitize all dam related data effectively. It will help to document authentic asset and health information pertaining to the large dams in the country , enabling appropriate actions to ensure need-based rehabilitation.

23. MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

23.1. NEWLY LAUNCHED SCHEME

23.1.1. ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA (ABRY)*

Objective	Salient features
To boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during COVID recovery phase.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Central Sector Scheme. It has been launched for a period of 2020-2023 under Atmanirbhara Bharat Package 3.0. For establishments employing upto 1000 employees: Government will pay both employees' and employers' contribution of wages towards Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) in respect of new employees for two years (on or after October 1, 2020, and up to June 30, 2021). For establishments employing more than 1000 employee: Government will pay only employees' EPF contribution in respect of new employees for two years. Beneficiaries: Employee with less than Rs. 15000 monthly wages and not working in any establishment registered with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) before October 1, 2020. EPFO shall work out modality to ensure that there is no overlapping of benefits provided under ABRY with any other scheme implemented by EPFO.

23.2. MODIFIED/ RESTRUCTURED SCHEME

23.2.1. ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJANA (ABVKY)

Objective	Salient features
Unemployment benefit is paid to workers covered under Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a welfare measure being implemented by the Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation. It offers cash compensation to workers covered under Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme when they are rendered unemployed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESI Scheme aims to protect 'employees' against impact of incidences of sickness, maternity, disablement and death due to employment injury and to provide medical care to insured persons and their families. Minimum two year of insurable employment is required to claim relief. <p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01-07-2018. The scheme is implemented on pilot basis for a period of two years initially. The scheme has been extended upto 20 June 2021. Relaxations made to cope with job loss during COVID-19 pandemic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of relief enhanced to 50% (earlier 25%) of average wages payable up to maximum 90 days of unemployment. Claims can be filed directly by workers, earlier they needed to get it forwarded by last employers. Relief becoming payable after 30 days of unemployment (earlier 90 days). Benefit will be settled within 15 days from date of an application. Enhanced relief will be payable during 24th March, 2020 to 31st December, 2020.

23.3. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

23.3.1. NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR PROJECT SCHEME*

Why in news?

2021 marks the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To eliminate all forms of child labour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All child workers below the age of 14 years in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a Central Sector Scheme. The overall approach of the project is to create an enabling environment in the target area,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to the withdrawal of all adolescent workers from Hazardous Occupations/ Processes and their Skilling and integration in appropriate occupations. Raising awareness amongst stakeholders and target communities. Creation of a Child Labour Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting System. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the identified target area. Adolescent workers below the age of 18 years in hazardous occupations/ processes. Families of Child workers. 	<p>where children are motivated and empowered through various measures to enroll in schools and refrain from working, and households are provided with alternatives to improve their income levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of the age between 5 to 8 years are rescued and linked to the formal education system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is done through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Children in the age group of 9-14 years are put into NCLP Special Training Centres for providing them with a bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Funds are provided directly to the District Project Societies who in turn engage and allocate the funds to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies/Civil Societies Organisation etc. for running of Special Training Centres. A dedicated online portal named PENCI (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) is developed in order to make the NCLP successful through better monitoring and implementation ensuring the timely disposal of work with transparency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has five components -- Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, NCLP and Convergence. At the State Government level the monitoring is to be done by State Resource Centre established at State Labour Department. At district level District Nodal Officers (DNOs) are nominated to take action on the complaints of their respective districts. The payment of stipend to the children is made on modular basis for a minimum of three months through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Under this Scheme the District Project Societies (DPS) are set up under the Collector/District Magistrate to conduct survey to identify children working in hazardous occupations and processes, and for overseeing the implementation of the project.
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23.3.2. EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

Why in news?

In October 2020, the scheme has been **extended to Arunachal Pradesh**.

Objective	Salient features
To provide protection to employees as defined in the Employees' State Insurance Act,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a self-financing scheme that caters to the social security and health insurance needs of the employees. The scheme is funded by both the employer and the employee, which would be remitted into the Employees State Insurance Fund.

1948 against sickness, disablement, death due to employment injury, maternity benefit, and to provide medical care to insured persons and their families.

- The fund is regulated by the **ESI Act, 1948**, and is administered by the Employees State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**), which is an **autonomous body** that was statutorily formed by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- The ESI Act, 1948, applies to organisations with **10 or more employees**, drawing a **salary of up to ₹21,000**.
- The **Government of India through Ministry of Labour and Employment** decides the rate of contribution under the ESI Act.
- The rate of contribution is fixed at **4% of the wages with employers' share being 3.25% and employees' share being 0.75%**.
- It is **not applicable for** seasonal factories, factories engaged in the pursuit of blending, packing or repacking tea or coffee or any other processes as notified by the Central Government.
- Apart from various benefits, the employees covered under ESI Scheme are also entitled to **unemployment allowance under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna (ABVKY) and Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna (RGSKY)**.

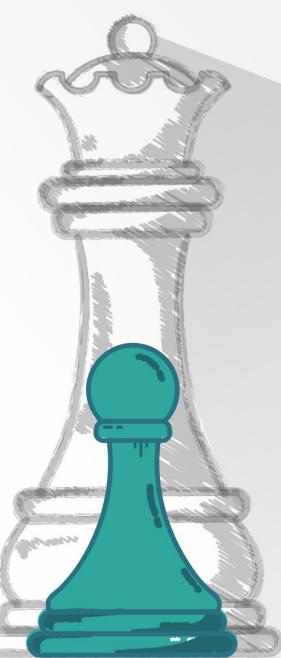
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24. MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)

24.1. RESTRUCTURED/MODIFIED SCHEMES

24.1.1. INTEREST SUBVENTION SCHEME FOR MSMES*

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To increase productivity in both manufacturing and service enterprises.To provide incentives to MSMEs for on boarding on GST in order to encourage the growth in the economy thereby enabling the reduction in the cost of credit to the MSMEs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a Central Sector Scheme.The scheme provides a 2% interest subvention on fresh or incremental loans, for all GST registered MSMEs having valid Udyog Aadhar Number (UAN), during the period of its validity.<ul style="list-style-type: none">MSMEs already availing interest subvention under any of the Schemes of the State/ Central Government will not be eligible under the proposed Scheme.The coverage of the Scheme is limited to all term loans / working capital to the extent of ₹100 lakh.The loan accounts on the date of filing claim should not have been declared as NPA as per the extant guidelines in force.No interest subvention shall be admissible for any period during which the account remains NPA.SIDBI is the nodal agency for the purpose of channelizing interest subvention to the various lending institutions.The term loan or working capital should have been extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks. <p>Recent changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The validity of the scheme has been extended till March 31, 2021.Acceptance of claims in multiple lots for a given half-year by eligible institutions is permitted.Requirement of UAN may be dispensed with for units eligible for GST. Units not required to obtain GST may either submit Income Tax Permanent Account Number (PAN) or their loan account must be categorized as MSME by the concerned bank.Trading activities have also been allowed to be covered under the scheme without UAN.The term loan or working capital could be extended by co-operative banks also (earlier only Scheduled Commercial Banks and RBI registered Systematically Important-NBFCs were allowed to extend the loan or working capital).

24.2. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

24.2.1. HONEY MISSION

Why in news?

Various projects were launched under this scheme in previous one year.

Objective	Salient Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create an end-to-end implementation framework for beekeeping skill development, which provides employment rural & urban unemployed youth.Enforce nationally acceptable standards of Good Beekeeping Practices (GPB).Develop a network of quality master trainers.Offer a passage for overseas market for hive products.Enable pathways from novice beekeepers to viable commercial beekeeping by handholding to credit linkages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">'Honey Mission' was launched in August 2017 in line with Prime Minister's call for 'Sweet Revolution'.The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides beekeepers practical training about examination of honeybee colonies, identification and management of bee enemies and diseases, honey extraction and wax purification, etc.KVIC being the nodal agency of Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) provides loans for setting up units of processing, packaging and labelling units for the honey.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Promote convergence and co-ordination between all the stakeholders of beekeeping in India. | ○ Honey is a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) under The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

24.2.2. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Gramodyog Vikas Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a Central Sector Scheme.Under this scheme centre has started 'Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission'This mission aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers while increasing domestic Agarbatti production.Scheme is designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on PPP mode.Initially four pilot projects will be started as part of the programme, including one in the North East.Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 automatic agarbatti making machines and 10 mixing machines.Accordingly, a total of 200 automatic agarbatti making machines and 40 mixing machines will be provided to the artisans.KVIC will provide 25% subsidy on the cost of the machines and recover remaining 75% of the cost from artisans in monthly installments was approved for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of agarbatti and to develop village industry under the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana'.NOTE: The Centre earlier placed agarbatti item from "free" trade to 'restricted' trade in the import policy and enhancing the import duty from 10% to 25% on 'round bamboo sticks' used for manufacturing of agarbatti for the benefit of the domestic industry.
SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a Central Sector Scheme.It was launched in 2005 to promote Cluster development of traditional industries (Khadi, Coir & Village industries).<ul style="list-style-type: none">Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal Agency for promotion of Cluster development for Khadi.Coir board is the nodal agency for promotion of Cluster development for coir.Objectives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">To develop clusters of traditional industries in the country.To make traditional industries more competitive, market-driven, productive and profitable.To strengthen the local governance system of industry clusters, with active participation of the local stakeholders, so that they are enabled to development initiatives.To build up innovated and traditional skills, improved technologies, advanced processes, market intelligence and new models of public-private partnerships, so as to gradually replicate similar models of cluster-based regenerated traditional industries.

25. MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

25.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

Scholarship Scheme	Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum- Means based Scholarship Scheme - For educational empowerment of students, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme	Provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance.
Naya Saverा - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme	The Scheme aims to provide free coaching to students/candidates belonging to economically weaker sections of minority communities for preparation of entrance examinations of technical/ professional courses and competitive examinations.
Padho Pardesh	Scheme of interest subsidy to students of economically weaker sections of minority communities on educational loans for overseas higher studies.
Nai Udaan	Support for students from minority communities clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commission (SPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) etc.
Nai Roshni	Leadership development of women belonging to minority communities.
Seekho Aur Kamao	Skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group and aiming at improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)	It seeks to provide better socio-economic infrastructure facilities to the minority communities particularly in the field of education, health & skill development which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.
Jiyo Parsi	Scheme for containing population decline of Parsis in India.
USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)	Launched in May 2015 aims to preserve rich heritage of traditional skills of indigenous artisans/craftsmen. Under this scheme HunnarHaats are also held all over the country to provide nation-wide marketing platform to Minority artisans & entrepreneurs and to create employment opportunities.
Nai Manzil	A scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts.
HamariDharohar	A scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority communities of India.
Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It implements education and employment oriented related programmes as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to the economically weaker sections of Minorities under which scholarship is awarded to minority girl students○ Gharib Nawaz Employment Scheme started in 2017-18 for providing short term job-oriented skill development training to youth.○ Bridge Course for madarsa students & school dropouts.
Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For providing concessional loans to minorities for self-employment and income generating ventures.
NOTE: In addition to the above, the Ministry also implements schemes for strengthening State Waqf Boards and coordinates arrangements for annual Haj pilgrimage.	

26. MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

26.1. RESTRUCTURED/MODIFIED SCHEMES

26.1.1.PM-KISAN URJA SURAKSHA EVAM UTTHAAN MAHAABHIYAN (PM-KUSUM) SCHEME

Objective	Features
<p>To provide financial and water security to farmers.</p> <p>Budget 2020-21 has sought to expand the coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme to enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their fallow/barren lands and to sell it to the grid. • 20 lakh farmers to be provided for setting up stand-alone solar pumps • Another 15 lakh farmers to be helped to solarise their grid-connected pump sets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It aims to add a solar capacity of 30.8 gigawatt (GW) by 2022 (original target was 25.7 GW). <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>3 Components of Scheme</p> <p>Component A: Installation of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plant.</p> <p>Component B: Installation of standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.</p> <p>Component C: Solarisation of Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for various components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Component-A: Renewable power plants of capacity 500 KW to 2 MW will be setup by individual farmers/ cooperatives/panchayats /farmer producer organisations (FPO), on their barren or cultivable lands or pasture land and marshy land, referred as Renewable Power Generator (RPG). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ no penalty to RPG for shortfall in solar power generation from minimum prescribed Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF) ✓ Projects smaller than 500 kW may be allowed (earlier not allowed) by states based on techno-commercial feasibility. ✓ The power generated will be purchased by the DISCOMs at Feed in tariffs determined by respective SERC. ✓ Performance Based Incentives @ Rs. 0.40 per unit for five years to be provided to DISCOMs. ○ Component-B: Individual farmers will be supported to install standalone solar pumps of capacity up to 7.5 Horsepower (HP). It will be mandatory to use indigenously manufactured solar panels with indigenous solar cells and modules. Centre and state to share 30% of pump cost each; farmer to provide the remaining 40% (can access bank loan for up to 30 per cent of the cost) ○ Component-C: Individual farmers will be supported to solarise pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP. • MNRE will retain 33% of eligible service charges for nationwide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities. <p>Recent changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target of the scheme has been enhanced and the component C has been restructured to shift focus to solarise agricultural feeders instead of pumps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Until now farmers were provided with 60% financial assistance (equally shared between Centre and State) for solarising their Agricultural pumps which meant 40% had to be borne by the farmers themselves. ○ Centre will now bear 30% of the cost of building a small solar plant to supply electricity to the feeder and the balance 70% would be borne by State-owned DISCOMs. ○ This would obviate need for farmers to replace every existing pump in a village with a solar pump.

26.2. OTHER SCHEMES IN NEWS

26.2.1. GRID CONNECTED ROOFTOP SOLAR PROGRAMME (PHASE-II)

Why in news?

The government issued advisory on this scheme as some vendors were charging more price, from domestic consumers, than the rates decided by DISCOMs.

Objective	Salient feature
To achieve a cumulative capacity of 40 GW by the year 2022 through Grid Connected SRT System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched this programme and it is being implemented by DISCOMs (Distribution companies).DISCOMs are compensated for the additional expenditure they incur on implementing the programme.The programme has following two components<ul style="list-style-type: none">Component A: Under the Phase II, the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for the residential users has been restructured (in 2019) in following ways<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 40% of the benchmark cost of the SRT system with capacity up to 3 kW would be provided as CFA.✓ 20% of the benchmark cost of the SRT system with a capacity from 3 kW to 10 kW would be provided as CFA.✓ 20% for up to 10 kW capacities per house and for a cumulative capacity of up to 500 kW CFA for Group Housing Societies (GHS) and Residents Welfare Association (RWA).✓ The CFA is not available for other categories i.e., institutional, educational, social, government, commercial, industrial, etc.Component B: Performance based incentives will be provided to DISCOMs (for initial capacity addition of 18 GW) based on SRT capacity achieved in a financial year over and above the base capacity.

26.2.2. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU NATIONAL SOLAR MISSION (JNNSM)

Why in news?

Centre has taken various steps to achieve the targets set under the scheme.

Objective	Targets	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To reduce the cost of solar power generation in the country through long-term policy, large scale deployment goals, aggressive R&D and the domestic production of critical raw materials, components and products.To promote the development and use of solar energy for power generation and other uses, with the ultimate objective of making solar energy compete with fossil-based energy options.To establish India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for its diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To create 100 GW (earlier target was 20 GW) solar power capacity by 2022 with investment around Rs. 6,00,000 cr.The target will principally comprise of 40 GW Rooftop and 60 GW through Grid Connected Solar Power Projects.The target also includes setting up of dedicated manufacturing capacities for poly silicon material to annually make about 2 GW capacity of solar cells.To promote programmes for off grid applications, reaching 2000 MW by 2022 including 20 million solar lighting systems.To achieve 20 million sq. solar thermal collector area by 2022.To deploy 20 million solar lighting systems for rural areas by 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The scheme was launched in 2010 as part of National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).The Mission has 3 phases i.e. Phase I (2010-13), Phase II (2014-17) and Phase III (2017-22).Capital subsidy will be provided for Rooftop Solar projects in various cities and towns, for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) based projects to be developed through the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and for decentralized generation through small solar projects.

26.2.3. SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR PARKS AND ULTRA MEGA POWER PROJECT

Why in news?

Various projects have been proposed under the scheme.

Objective	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To facilitate the solar project developers to set up projects in a plug and play model.• To provide a huge impetus to solar energy generation by acting as flagship demonstration facility to encourage project developers and investors.• To enable states to bring in significant investment from project developers to meet its Solar Renewable Purchase Obligation mandate and to provide employment to local population• To reduce carbon footprint by avoiding emissions equivalent to the solar park's installed capacity and generation.• To avoid procuring expensive fossil fuels to power conventional power plants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scheme was rolled out in 2014 to set up at least 25 Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects targeting over 40 GW of solar power installed capacity to be set up by 2021-22 (earlier it was 20 GW by 2020).• It envisages supporting the States in setting up solar parks at various locations in the country with a view to create required infrastructure for setting up of Solar Power Projects.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The solar parks are installations of multiple solar photovoltaic modules by different firms at one set location which provides all infrastructural facilities.○ The solar parks provide suitable developed land with all clearances, transmission system, water access, road connectivity, communication network, etc.• The scheme facilitates and speed up installation of grid connected solar power projects for electricity generation on a large scale.• The capacity of the solar parks shall be 500 MW and above. However, smaller parks are also considered where contiguous land may be difficult to acquire in view of difficult terrain and where there is acute shortage of non-agricultural land.• The solar parks are developed in collaboration with the State Governments and their agencies, CPSUs, and private entrepreneurs.• The implementing agency is termed as Solar Power Park Developer (SPPD).• Central Financial Assistance (CFA) Pattern: The CFA of up to Rs. 25 lakh per solar park for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The CFA of up to Rs. 20.00 lakh per MW or 30% of the project cost, including Grid-connectivity cost, whichever is lower, is also provided on achieving the milestones prescribed in the scheme.○ Rs. 12 lakh per MW or 30% of the project cost whichever is lower is provided to the SPPDs towards development of internal infrastructures if the solar parks and Rs. 8 lakh per MW or 30% of the project cost whichever is lower is provided to the Central/ State Transmission Utility (C/S TU) towards development of external transmission system.

27. MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

27.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

27.1.1. SVAMITVA (SURVEY OF VILLAGES AND MAPPING WITH IMPROVISED TECHNOLOGY IN VILLAGE AREAS)*

Why in news?

An updated guideline was issued by the Ministry in May 2021.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation of accurate land records for rural planning and reduce property related disputes.• To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.• Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the Gram Panchayats (GPs) directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.• Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.• To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS m	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was launched in April 2020 as a Central Sector scheme.• The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages and issuance of property cards to the property owners.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Gram Panchayat and community assets would also be surveyed and GIS maps would be created.○ Demarcation would be done using Drone Surveying technology.• Components:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Establishment of Continuous Operating Reference System (CORS).<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ CORS is a network of reference stations that provide a virtual base station that allows access long-range highaccuracy Network RTK corrections.✓ The CORS Network supports in establishing Ground Control Points, which is an important activity for accurate Georeferencing, ground truthing and demarcation of Lands.○ Large Scale mapping using Drones.○ Awareness program to sensitize the rural population about the surveying methodology and its benefits.○ Enhancement of Spatial Planning Application "Gram Manchitra"<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The digital spatial data/maps created under drone survey shall be leveraged for creation of spatial analytical tools to support preparation of GPDP.○ Setting of Programme Management Unit at National and State level.○ Development/ Maintenance of Scheme Dashboard and integration of drone survey Spatial data/maps with Ministry's Spatial planning application to support in planning at local level.○ Documentation of best practices/ conducting National and Regional workshops.• Coverage: All villages in the country which will be eventually covered in this scheme. The entire work is likely to be spread over a period of five years from April 2020 to March 2025.• Stakeholders involved in carrying out the scheme:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj○ Technology Implementation Agency: Survey of India○ State Revenue Department and Panchayati Raj Department○ Local district authorities.○ Property owner○ Gram Panchayat○ National Informatics Centre (NIC) – GIS Division○ Other line departments having assets in Rural inhabited areas (if any) for preparing comprehensive database.

28. MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

28.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

28.1.1. JAL MARG VIKAS PROJECT

Why in news?

JVMP has managed to save some ₹1,600 crore of which as much as ₹800 crore will be used to develop facilities for people living along the banks of the Ganga stretching from Uttar Pradesh to Bihar.

Objective	Salient features
For the capacity augmentation of navigation on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (Ganga).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project envisages development of waterway (for commercial navigation) between Allahabad & Haldia on Ganga River that will cover a distance of 1620 km.The project covers Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.4 Multi-Modal Terminals are planned on NW1: Varanasi, Sahibganj, Haldia and Gazipur.The project adopted the first time in India a River Information System, IT based system to optimize the resource management of waterborne transport.The JMVP is being implemented with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank, at an estimated cost of Rs 5,369.18 crores (USD 800 million).The cost of the project is being shared on a 50:50 sharing basis between Government of India and the World Bank.India's first Inland Multi-Modal Terminal Port was inaugurated on river Ganga at Varanasi.

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29. MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

29.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

29.1.1. BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA

Why in news?

In previous one-year various road projects were launched under the scheme.

Objectives	Salient features
<p>Umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A total of around 24,800 kms are being considered in Phase I of Bharatmala which is to be implemented over a five years period of i.e. 2017-18 to 2021-22.In addition, Bharatmala Pariyojana phase -I also includes 10,000 kms of balance road works under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), taking the total to 34,800 km. <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"><p style="text-align: center;">BHARATMALA PROJECT CATEGORY</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">Economic Corridors (9000km): To unlock full economic potential.Inter Corridor and Feeder Route (6000km): Ensuring holistic connectivity.National Corridors Efficiency Improvement (5000km): Enhancing efficiency.Border Roads and International Connectivity (2000km): Boosting Border Connectivity.Coastal Roads and Port Connectivity (2000km): Leveraging Ports for Progress.Green Field Expressways (800km): Express speeds for Express gains.Balance NHDP works (10,000 km): Boosting all round connectivity.</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improvement in efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke pointEnhanced focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways.Special attention to fulfil the connectivity needs of backward and tribal areas, areas of economic activity, places of religious and tourist interest, trade routes with neighbouring countries, etc.National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP) under Bharatmala Pariyojna which is aimed at enhancing the freight transportation in India through improving cost, time, tracking and transferability of consignments through infrastructure, procedural and Information Technology (IT) interventions.NHAI has created a National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC) for attracting domestic and foreign investment for highways projects.<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project is executed through Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), NHAI, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and State Public Works Department (PWDs).

30. MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

30.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

30.1.1. MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (MGNREGA), 2005#

Why in news?

Loss of livelihood that was triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic brought this scheme at the centre of debates related to livelihood of poor.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing not less than 100 days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability.Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor.Proactively ensuring social inclusion.Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Besides the mandatory 100 days, there is a provision for additional 50 days of unskilled wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity notified rural areas.<ul style="list-style-type: none">As per Section 3(4) of the MNREGA Act, 2005, the State Governments may make provisions for providing additional days beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.Goals:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by guaranteeing wage employment opportunities.Enhance livelihood security of the rural poor through generation of wage employment opportunities in works leading to creation of durable assets.Rejuvenate natural resource base of rural areas.Create a durable and productive rural asset base.Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially, women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation.Strengthen decentralised, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives.Deepen democracy at the grassroots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.The Gram Panchayat registers households after making enquiry and issues a job card.Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory.At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women.The employment will be provided within a radius of 5 km and if it is above 5 km extra wage will be paid.As per section 6(1) of the Act the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for its beneficiaries.Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought. Unemployment allowance is borne by the state governments.A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery are allowed.The central government bears the 100% wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75% of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.Government has also approved additional employment over and above 100 days per household upto 150 days in notified drought-affected districts in various states.In addition to job creation, the Scheme would now aim at improving quality of assets, skilling workers for entrepreneurship and hiring youth for jobs like GIS mapping and block-level monitoring of work.GeoMGNREGA is a unique endeavour of the MoRD in association with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO and National Informatics Centre for geotagging of assets created under MGNREGA.Performance of MGNREGA under the Shadow of COVID-19: In the FY 2020-21, a total of 344 crore persondays employment was generated till Feb, 2021. This was the highest ever persondays generated so far. Of the total persondays, about 52% women persondays was generated which reflects significant participation of women.

30.1.2. PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (GRAMEEN)

Why in news?

In April 2021, the Ministry informed that 92% target of completion has been achieved in the 1st phase of the scheme i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022. The scheme originally was meant to cover people in the EWS (annual income not exceeding Rs. 3 lakh) and LIG (annual income not exceeding Rs. 6 lakh) sections, but now covers the mid-income group (MIG) as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister had given a clarion call of "Housing for All by 2022", for which a flagship programme of PMAY-G was launched on 20th November, 2016. So far 1.14 crore houses have already been built across the country under the programme. Identification of beneficiaries- Done using information from Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) subject to 13-point exclusion criteria. Role of Gram Sabha- The list will be presented to Gram Sabha to identify beneficiaries who have been assisted before or who have become ineligible due to other reasons. Use of Technology- Inspection and uploading of geo referenced photographs will be done through a mobile app. Each beneficiary is given 100% grant of Rs.1.20 lakh (in plain areas) and Rs. 1.30 lakh (in Hilly States/North Eastern States/Difficult areas/UT of J&K and Ladakh/IAP/LWE districts) with a sharing ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State. Beneficiaries can also avail loan upto Rs. 7000 from financial institutions. Funds for all these houses constructed under PMAY-G are given by way of 4 installments directly into the bank account of the beneficiary after verification of various stages of construction through Geotagged photographs. The beneficiaries are provided support of unskilled labour wages for 90/95 person days under MGNREGS and assistance of Rs. 12,000 for construction of toilets through Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin, or any other dedicated source of funding. It allows for construction using local materials and local house design. A pan-India training and certification programme of Masons has been launched in the States/UTs. The programme implementation is to be monitored through community participation (Social Audit), Member of Parliament (DISHA Committee), Central and State Government officials, National Level Monitors, etc. The scheme has provisions for convergence with other schemes of Government of India and State/UTs for providing LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme, electricity connection, access to safe drinking water under Jal Jeevan Mission, etc. Reduction has been done in administrative expenses from 4% to 2% of programme funds. The selection of beneficiaries through a three-stage validation (Socio Economic Caste Census 2011, Gram Sabha, and geo-tagging) has ensured selection of the poorest of the poor under PMAY-G.

30.1.3. DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA- NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION (DAY-NRLM)

Why in news?

Special Package in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh for a period of five years has been approved to ensure funding of DAY-NRLM.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce rural poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a centrally sponsored programme promotes multiple livelihoods for the rural poor households across the country. The Mission involves working with the community institutions through community professionals in the spirit of self-help. This is the unique proposition of DAY-NRLM.

<p>employment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mobilize 10-12 crore rural households into self-help groups in a time bound manner by 2024-25. To bring about a sustainable improvement in the livelihoods of the poor through building strong community institutions. To "establish efficient and effective institutional platforms" of the rural poor that enable them to increase household incomes through livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial and public services". To reach out to 7.0 crore rural poor households of which 4.5 crore remain to be mobilized into the Self-Help Groups (SHGs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is implemented by special purpose vehicles (autonomous state societies) with dedicated implementation support units at the national, state, district and block levels. Universal Social Mobilisation - At least one woman member from each identified rural poor household is to be brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network in a time bound manner. Special emphasis is particularly on vulnerable communities. Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) instead of the BPL. The PIP is a community-driven process where the CBOs themselves identify the poor in the village using participatory tools. The list of poor identified by the CBO is vetted by the Gram Sabha. Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Fund (CIF) as resources in perpetuity to the institutions of the poor, to strengthen their institutional and financial management capacity and build their track record to attract mainstream bank finance. Financial Inclusion - It promotes financial literacy among the poor and provides catalytic capital to the SHGs and their federations Livelihoods - NRLM focuses on stabilizing and promoting existing livelihood portfolio of the poor in farm and non-farm sectors; building skills for the job market outside; and nurturing self-employed and entrepreneurs (for micro-enterprises). 25% of NRLM Funds are earmarked Aajeevika Skill Development Programme (ASDP). ASDP facilitates building the skills of the rural youth and placement in relatively high wage employment in the growing sectors of economy. NRLM is encouraging public sector banks to set up Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in all districts of the country on the lines of Rural Development Self Employment Institute (RUDSEI) model. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) promotes scaling-up successful, small-scale projects that enhance women's participation and productivity in agriculture and allied activities. MKSP also aims to ensure household food and nutrition security of the poor and the poorest of poor. National Rural Livelihoods Project has been designed as a sub-set of NRLM to create 'proof of concept', build capacities of the Centre and States in 13 high poverty states accounting for about 90 percent of the rural poor in the country. World Bank aided project namely "National Rural Economic Transformation Project" (NRETP) to scale-up initiatives on digital finance and livelihood interventions. In October 2020, the cabinet has approved a Special Package worth Rs. 520 crores in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh for a period of five years till FY 2023-24 to ensure funding of DAY-NRLM on a demand driven basis without linking allocation with poverty ratio during this extended period.
Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched in 2017 as a sub-scheme under DAY-NRLM to facilitate. AGEY aims to provide connectivity to rural areas through vehicles operated by SHG members. State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs) in consultation with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) under DAY – NRLM identify routes where roads have been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) but has poor transport services. SHG members are then provided interest free loans by the CBOs for operating vehicles on the identified routes based on financial viability. There is no separate budgetary allocation under AGEY. Under the programme, the Community Investment Fund (CIF) provided to CBOs under the existing provisions of DAY-NRLM are utilised for providing interest free loans to the SHG members.

30.1.4. DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA

Objective	Intended beneficiary	Salient features
To bridge the skill gap that prevents India's rural poor from competing in the modern market, such as the lack of formal education and marketable skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Youth: 15 - 35 Yrs SC/ST/ Women/ PCTG/ PWD: upto 45 Yrs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). Provides funding support for placement linked skilling projects Demand led skill training at no cost to the rural poor Mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups (SC/ST 50%; Minority 15%; Women 33%) Providing incentives for job retention, career progression and foreign placements. Guaranteed Placement for at least 70% trained candidates. Post-placement support, migration support and alumni network Nurturing new training service providers and developing their skills Greater emphasis on projects for poor rural youth in Jammu and Kashmir (HIMAYAT), the North-East region and 27 Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) districts (ROSHNI) Mandates independent third-party assessment and certification 3-tier implementation model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DDU-GKY National Unit at MoRD functions as the policy-making, technical support and facilitation agency. The DDU-GKY State Missions provide implementation support; and The Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) implement the programme through skilling and placement projects.

30.1.5. PM GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHYAAN

Why in news?

By September 2020, about 27.21 crore man-days employment was provided under the Abhiyaan.

Objective	Salient features
<p>To provide livelihood employment to the returnee migrants and similarly affected citizens in the rural areas.</p> <p>Saturate villages with public infrastructure and create livelihood opportunities viz. Roads, Housing, Anganwadis, Panchayat Bhavans, various livelihood assets and Community Complexes among others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched in June 2020 for a period of 125 days in 116 Districts of 6 States namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. Abhiyaan involved intensified and focused implementation of 25 target driven works to provide employments and create infrastructure in the rural areas of 116 Abhiyaan Districts with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore. It was a convergent effort between the Ministry of Rural Development and other 11 participating Ministries (Panchayati Raj, Road Transport & Highways, Mines, Jal Shakti, Environment, Railways, Petroleum & Natural Gas, New & Renewable Energy, Border Roads, Telecom and Agriculture) and the six State Governments.

31. MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

31.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

31.1.1. INNOVATION IN SCIENCE PURSUIT FOR INSPIRED RESEARCH (INSPIRE)

Why in news?

In February 2021, the ministry informed that 'during the last three years, close to 1,23,024 young students of class 6 - 10 from recognized schools across the country, received the INSPIRE Award MANAK.'

Objective	Salient features
To communicate to the youth population of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science and attract talent to the study of science at an early stage and build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R&D base.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">INSPIRE was approved in 2008 for attraction of talent to science.This programme covers the age group of 15-35 years. INSPIRE Scheme has three programs and five components.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS) aims to attract talented youth to study science by providing INSPIRE Awards-MANAK to one million young learners of the age group 10-15 years, ranging from Class VI to Class X standards, and also by arranging summer camps for about 50,000 science students of Class XI with global leaders in science to experience the joy of innovations on an annual basis through INSPIRE Internship.INSPIRE SchemeSEATS ProgramSHE ProgramAORC ProgramINSPIRE InternshipINSPIRE ScholarshipINSPIRE FellowshipINSPIRE FacultyScholarship for Higher Education (SHE) aims to enhance rates of attachment of talented youth to undertake higher education in science intensive programmes, by providing scholarships and mentorship. The scheme offers 10,000 Scholarship every year at Rs 0.80 lakh per year for the talented youth in the age group 17-22 years, for undertaking Bachelor and Masters level education in natural sciences. The main feature of the scheme is the mentorship support provided to every scholar.Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) aims to attract, attach, retain and nourish talented young scientific Human Resource for strengthening the R&D foundation and base. It has two sub-components<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ INSPIRE Fellowship (age group of 22-27 years): It offers 1000 fellowships every year, for carrying out doctoral degree in both basic and applied sciences including engineering and medicine.✓ INSPIRE Faculty Scheme: It offers assured opportunity every year for 1000 post-doctoral researchers in the age group of 27-32 years, through contractual and tenure track positions for 5 years in both basic and applied sciences area.

The Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) was launched by the DST in partnership with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) in 2017.Its objective is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.It aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10.The DST invites students from government and private schools to send original and innovative ideas having potential to solve common problems.These ideas go through a tough screening and mentoring process at the school level, district, and state level to be selected for the National level competitions.
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31.1.2. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the year 2014, DST has restructured all the women specific programmes under one umbrella known as “KIRAN”. It is the women-exclusive scheme of DST with the mandate to bring gender parity in S&T through gender mainstreaming.Different programs and components of KIRAN like Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A), Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) deal with various crucial issues (break in career primarily due to family responsibilities, self-employment, part time career, relocation and so on) faced by women scientists in their career path.This scheme was in news due to various steps taken by the Ministry to promote Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths.).
Vigyan Jyoti	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was launched by DST in 2019 to inspire girl students to pursue higher education and career in STEM fields.The program provides a scholarship, visit to nearby scientific institutions, science camps, lectures from eminent women scientists and career counselling.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Selected women from more than 500 districts, would be given such opportunities.The program is currently implemented by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in 58 districts with participation of about 2,900 students.In October 2020, the DST and IBM announced collaboration to implement Vigyan Jyoti.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benefits expected from the collaboration:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The partnership with IBM India will strengthen the current activities and expand to include more schools in future.✓ Women tech experts working at IBM India will interact and be role models for inspiring girl students to plan for a career in STEM under the program. <p>The second phase of the programme commenced on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2021, which will spread the programme for encouraging girls to take interest in science and build a career in STEM to 50 more districts taking the total coverage to 100 districts.</p>
Engage With Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This programme has been initiated for engaging students, teachers, principals and leaderships of schools to develop scientific temper and foster a culture of continuous learning as well as to bring science and technology to the forefront.It is being implemented by the Vigyan Prasar (VP), an autonomous organization under the DST.In October 2020, the DST and IBM announced collaboration to implement ‘Engage With Science’ also.This will aim at creating excitement and involvement among school students through tools like gamification and help increase consumption of S&T content and make STEM look aspirational for their future careers.IBM will run the day-to-day activities of the program, including student workshops, seminars and leverage its expertise to mentor the students.The platform will make students interact, participate and get involved with the sampling and active consumption of S&T content, including Cloud, Big Data, etc. through usage of gamification tools and AI/ML components.

SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) – POWER scheme will mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research funding in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ According to the United Nations, 40% of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) graduates in India are women against 35% of the global average. However, India employees only 14% women researchers as against 30% of the global average. • The scheme has 2 components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ SERB-POWER Fellowship: This Fellowship will identify and reward outstanding women researchers and innovators (Indian citizen between 35-55 years of age) working in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories, holding Ph.D. degree in any branch of science and engineering. The nominee should not be receiving any other fellowship from Government sources during the tenure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nature of support and duration: Fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income. Research grant of Rs.10 Lakh per annum. Successful POWER Fellows cannot be re-nominated for the second time. ◦ SERB- POWER Research Grants: This scheme aims to encourage emerging and eminent women researchers for individual-centric and competitive mode of research funding to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering. POWER Grants will empower women researchers by funding them under following two categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Level I: The scale of funding upto 60 Lakhs for three years. ✓ Level II: The scale of funding upto 30 Lakhs for three years.
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CSAT

कार्यरेस

2021



ADMISSION OPEN

लाइव / ऑनलाइन

फ्री और उपलब्ध



32. MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

32.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

32.1.1. PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA (PMKVY)

Why in news?

Recently, 3rd phase of the scheme was launched.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enable and mobilize a large number of youths to take up industry designed quality skill training, become employable and earn their livelihoodIncrease productivity of the existing workforce, and align skill training with the actual needs of the country.Encourage standardisation of the Certification process and put in place the foundation for creating a registry of skills.Benefit 10 million youth over the period of four years (2016-2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The pilot phase of PMKVY was launched in 2015 to encourage and promote skill development in the country by providing free short duration skill training and incentivizing this by providing monetary rewards to youth for skill certification.During its pilot phase 19.85 lakh candidates were trained. <p>PMKVY 2.0 (2016-20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The 2nd phase was launched by scaling up both in terms of Sector and Geography and by greater alignment with other missions of Government of India like Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat, etc.The Scheme was aligned to Common Cost Norms and had a total budgetary outlay of Rs 12000 Crores.Key Components of the Scheme<ul style="list-style-type: none">Short Term Training (STT): - Candidates who were either school/college dropouts or unemployed were trained according to the job role (generally for 2 – 6 months). Upon successful completion of their assessment and certification, candidates were provided placement assistance by Training Partners (TPs).Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): Individuals with prior learning experience or skills are assessed and certified under the RPL component of the Scheme. RPL aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the NSQF. The duration of the training/orientation ranges between 12-80 hrs.Special Projects: To encourage trainings in special areas and premises of Government bodies, corporates / industry bodies and trainings in special job roles not defined under the available Qualification Packs (QPs)/National Occupational Standards (NOSs).The scheme is being implemented through two components:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed (CSCM): This component is implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). 75% of the PMKVY 2016-20 funds and corresponding physical targets have been allocated under CSCM.Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM): This component is implemented by State Governments through State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs). 25% of the PMKVY 2016-20 funds and corresponding physical targets have been allocated under CSSM.Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) were set up in districts.More than 1.2 Crore youth have been trained/oriented through improved standardized skilling ecosystem in the country under PMKVY 1.0 and PMKVY 2.0 <p>PMKVY 3.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">It was launched in January 2021, in nearly 600 districts making 300+ skill courses available to the youth, making skill development more demand-driven and decentralised in its approach.It will be implemented in a more decentralized structure with greater responsibilities and support from States/UTs and Districts. District Skill Committees (DSCs), under the guidance of State Skill Development Missions

	<p>(SSDM) shall play a key role in addressing the skill gap and assessing demand at the district level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus is on bridging the demand-supply gap by promoting skill development in areas of new-age and Industry 4.0 job roles. PMKVY 3.0 aims to train eight lakh candidates.
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32.1.2. NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROMOTION SCHEME (NAPS)

Why in news?

The Budget 2021-22 has proposed amendments to the Apprenticeship Act 1961 (as amended in 2014) and realign the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for post-education apprenticeship, training of graduates and diploma holders in engineering.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote apprenticeship training and incentivize employers who wish to engage apprentices. Increasing the engagement of apprenticeship from 2.3 Lakhs to 50 Lakhs cumulatively by 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimbursement of 25% of prescribed stipend subject to a maximum of Rs. 1500/- per month per apprentice by the Government of India to all employers who engage apprentices. Sharing of the cost of basic training in respect of fresher apprentices (who come directly for apprenticeship training without formal training) limited to Rs. 7500/- per apprentice for a maximum duration of 500 hours/3 months. Scope of the Scheme: It covers all categories of apprentices except the Graduate, Technician and Technician (Vocational) apprentices which are covered by the scheme administered by Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development). It is implemented by Director General of Training (DGT).

ESSAY
ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME 2021

ADMISSION OPEN

- Introducing different stages from developing an idea into completing an essay
- Practical and efficient approach to learn different parts of essay
- Regular practice and brainstorming sessions
- Inter disciplinary approaches
- LIVE / ONLINE** Classes Available

33. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

33.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

33.1.1. SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN/ ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN (AIC)

Why in news?

In February, 2021 the centre launched ‘Sugamya Bharat App’ and ‘Access – The Photo Digest’ was launched.

Objective	Salient features
<p>For achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targets under the scheme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making 50% of all the government buildings of NCT and all the State capitals fully accessible Completing accessibility audit of 50% of government buildings and making them fully accessible in 10 most important cities/towns of States Ensuring that 50% of railway stations in the country are converted into fully accessible railway stations Ensuring that 25% of Government owned public transport carriers in the country are converted into fully accessible carriers Conducting accessibility audit of 50% of all government (both Central and State Governments) websites and converting them into fully accessible websites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWD), the campaign has been divided into three verticals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built Environment Accessibility Transport System Accessibility Information & Communication ecosystem accessibility Sugamya Bharat App: A Crowd sourcing Mobile Application. It is a means for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the AIC. Access – The Photo Digest: This Book is envisaged as a tool and guide to sensitise stakeholders about 10 basic features of accessibility and related good-bad practices in easy to understand pictorial form. <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN</p> <p>Other initiatives under the scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSR funds for building accessible infrastructure Divyang Sarathi Mobile App- For easy information dissemination of rules, acts etc to PwD 'Inclusiveness and Accessibility Index' to assess the efforts of industries in making their work place ready for PwD Online library "Sugamya Pustakalaya" for Persons with print disabilities </div>

34. MINISTRY OF TEXTILE

34.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

34.1.1. SCHEME FOR INTEGRATED TEXTILE PARK (SITP)*

Why in news?

The Minister of Textiles in March 2021 informed the Parliament that **7 Mega Textile Parks will be set in next 3 years** enabling the textile industry to become global competitive, attract large investment and boost employment generation.

Objective	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide the industry with world class state of the art infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile unitsTo facilitate textile units to meet international environmental and social standardsTo mobilize private investment in the textile sector and generate fresh employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was launched by merging two schemes, namely, Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) and the Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) in 2005.The scheme targets industrial clusters / locations with high growth potential, which require strategic interventions by way of providing world-class infrastructure support.Public Private Partnership mode is followed to setup Integrated Textile Parks (ITPs).It is a demand driven scheme in which the prospective entrepreneurs can send their proposals to the Government, after completion of stipulated conditions as per guidelines.An ITP will include following components:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Land: must be more than 20 acres, under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV);Common infrastructure: roads, water & electricity supply, etc;Buildings for common facilities: training center, testing lab, etc;Factory buildings: for production purposes.The ITPs can also get benefits from Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), SAMARTH, etcFunding: Central Government will bear 40% of the project cost (90% of the project cost for first two projects each in the Special Category States) up to Rs.40 crores through grants in three installments.The Funds are released in the form of Bank Loans and Grant/Equity by the Ministry of Textiles, State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC) and Industrial Project Management Consultant (IPMC).Project cost will also cover support activities such as textile machinery, textiles engineering, accessories, packaging, etc depending on the needs of the ITP.

35. MINISTRY OF TOURISM

35.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

35.1.1. NATIONAL MISSION ON PILGRIMAGE REJUVENATION AND SPIRITUAL AUGMENTATION DRIVE (PRASAD) SCHEME*

Why in news?

Recently, “Tourist Facilitation Centre” facility at Guruvayur, Kerala was inaugurated under PRASHAD Scheme.

Objectives	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in a planned, prioritised and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience.• Harness pilgrimage tourism for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.• Enhancing the tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the religious destinations;• Promote local art, culture, handicraft, cuisine, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a Central Sector Scheme.• The scheme aims at infrastructure development such as entry points (road, rail and water transport), last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities like Information/ Interpretation Centers, ATM/ money exchange, eco-friendly modes of transport etc.• For components within public funding, Central Government will provide 100% fund.• For improved sustainability of the project, efforts shall be made to involve PPP and CSR as well.• Centre has included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand in the scheme.



36. MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

36.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

36.1.1. EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (EMRS)*

Why in news?

The guidelines of the scheme were revised in November 2020.

Objective	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishing quality residential schools for the promotion of education and also to ensure all round development of tribal students in all areas, habitations and diversified environment throughout the country, the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)To provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST and PVTG students in tribal dominated areas, along with extra-curricular activities, to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is a Central Sector Scheme.Every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS by the year 2022.These schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.12 Eklavya Model Day Boarding School (EMDBS) will be set based on the demand of the concerned State/ Where density of ST population is higher in identified Sub-Districts (90% or more).Dedicated infrastructure for setting up Centre of Excellence for sports with all related infrastructure (buildings, equipment's etc.) will be supported. This Centre of Excellence will have specialized state-of-the-art facilities for one identified individual sport and one group sport in each State/UT.Reservation of 20% seats under sports quota for deserving ST students who have excelled in the field of sports.Funding under this Scheme would be 100% grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to NESTS (National Education Society for Tribal Students).The NESTS will be guided by a Steering Committee headed by the Minister for Tribal Affairs.

36.1.2. PRADHAN MANTRI VAN DHAN YOJANA

Why in news?

In June 2020, the Coverage of this scheme was proposed to be expanded from the current 18,000 SHGS to 50,000 Van Dhan SHGS, coverage of tribal gathers to be increased threefold to 10 lakh.

Objective	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide skill upgradation and capacity building trainingSetting up of primary processing and value addition facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This scheme is a component of the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' and was launched in 2018.Implemented by TRIFED as the nodal agency at the national level.It is a well thought master plan for the socio-economic development of the tribal population of the country.Main provisions<ul style="list-style-type: none">An initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal gatherers and transforming them into entrepreneurs.The idea is to set-up tribal community-owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in predominantly forested tribal districts.A Kendra shall constitute of 15 tribal SHGs, each comprising of up to 20 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Van Dhan Kendra.100% Central Government Funded with TRIFED providing Rs. 15 lakhs for each 300 member Van Dhan Kendra.Tribal Gatherer Contribution of Rs.1000 / member to instil ownershipPanchayats/ District Administration to provide operational premises to SHGsTraining in Value addition, Use of equipment, Enterprise Management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification of local, district level, state level, national, global buyers for MFP Value Added Products ○ Arrangement for Logistics & Transportations ○ Branding & Marketing
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36.1.3. SCHEME FOR 'MECHANISM FOR MARKETING OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE (MFP) THROUGH MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP) AND DEVELOPMENT OF VALUE CHAIN FOR MFP'

Why in news?

Various MFPs have been included under the scheme in previous one year.

Objective	Features
To ensure fair returns to the MFP gatherers mainly through MSP for identified MFP collected by them along with necessary infrastructure at local level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme is designed as a social safety net for improvement of livelihood of MFP gatherers by providing them fair price for the MFPs they collect. • Conceptualised and implemented by TRIFED in association with State Government Agencies across 21 states of the country, the scheme has emerged as a source of great relief for tribal gatherers • To ensure that the ground gained is not lost and to strengthen the State level programme implementation and contribute to the empowerment of the tribal population, TRIFED has initiated Phase II of the MSP and MFP scheme and the Van Dhan tribal Start-ups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During this phase, one of the major actions being planned is the convergence of the Van Dhan Yojana with the MSP for MFP Scheme. ○ Together, these two initiatives offer a comprehensive development package for tribals, promoting employment and incomes and entrepreneurship. <p>NOTE: MFP is a subset of forest produce (defined in Indian Forest Act 1927). MFP is defined under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 of this Act defines MFP as 'all non-timber forest produce of plant origin' and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, Tusser, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tuber and the like.

36.1.4. MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES

Trifood/SFURTI Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2020, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) announced 200 Projects to be taken up under Trifood/SFURTI Model. • Trifood/ SFURTI Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is one of the convergence initiatives of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). ○ The first such model was launched in August, 2020 in Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. ○ It will ensure year-round income for the tribal population through cluster programmes for agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, floriculture and medicinal and aromatic plants.
TRIFOOD Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. • Under the scheme tertiary value addition centers will be set up for processing the Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the tribal forest gatherers. • The processing units will be set up under the Scheme for Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages under the Pradhan Mantri KisanSampada Yojana (PMKSY). • It aims to enhance the income of tribals. <p>NOTE: SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) is covered under the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).</p>

37. MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

37.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

37.1.1. INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS)

Why in news?

Recently, NITI Aayog undertook evaluation of “Poshan Abhiyaan” which is an integral part of ICDS.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce young child under-nutrition (%) underweight children 0-3 years) by 10 percentage points, To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Launched on 2nd October, 1975, the ICDS Scheme is one of the world's largest and unique programmes for early childhood care and development. It is a centrally sponsored scheme. Engaging anganwadi worker and helper from the same village It is a universal and self-selecting scheme i.e. anyone can visit to the Aanganwadi centre and enroll these services. <p>Sub-Schemes under Umbrella ICDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anganwadi Services – It is for holistic development of children under the age of 6 year and pregnant and lactating women. Child Protection Services – It aims to provide safe and secure environment for children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection and reduce vulnerabilities. National Crèche Services – It aims to provide a safe place for children of working mothers while they are at work thus, empowering them to take up employment. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): From 01.01.2017, the Maternity Benefit Programme is implemented in all the districts of the country. Under PMMVY, a cash incentive of ₹ 5000/- is provided directly to the Bank / Post Office Account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) for first living child of the family subject to fulfilling specific conditions relating to Maternal and Child Health. Scheme for Adolescent Girls (AGs): The key objective of the scheme is to facilitate, educate and empower AGs so as to enable them to become self-reliant and aware citizens. The target group for the scheme covers out of school AGs in the age group of 11 to 14 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition Component: Take Home Ration or Hot Cooked Meal. The financial norms will be Rs. 9.5/- per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year. This would be inclusive of the cost of micronutrient fortification. Non-Nutrition Component: IFA supplementation, Health check-up and Referral services, Nutrition & Health Education (NHE), Counseling / Guidance on family welfare, ARSH, child care practices, Life Skill Education and accessing public services Poshan Abhiyan: It aims to reduce malnutrition in the country by 2022 in a phased manner.

37.1.2. POSHAN ABHIYAN/NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION#

Objective	Salient feature
 Prevent and reduce Stunting in children (0-6 years)  Prevent and reduce underweight in children (0-6 years)  Reduce the prevalence of Anaemia among Children (6-59 months)  Reduce the prevalence of Anaemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years  Reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Abhiyan aims to reduce malnutrition in the country by 2022 in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. 50% of the cost is being borne by the World Bank or other multilateral development and the remaining 50% is divided between the centre and state/UTs. Core pillars of POSHAN Abhiyan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICDS-CAS (Common Application Software) Convergence Behavioural change, IEC Advocacy Training and Capacity building Innovations Incentives Grievance Redressal In October 2020, the NITI Ayog released 3rd progress report (covering the period between October 2019-April 2020) in which it batted for Poshan Plus strategy (refer the Monthly article ‘7.3. MALNUTRITION IN INDIA’ of November 2020 “to read about this strategy in details”)

37.1.3. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO (BBBP)

Why in news?

Recently, the government published the achievements of this scheme in previous 6 years.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child Ensuring education and participation of the girl child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Education. The key elements of the scheme include Enforcement of PC & PNDT Act, nation-wide awareness and advocacy campaign and multi-sectoral action in select 100 districts (low on CSR) in the first phase (2014-15). There is a strong emphasis on mindset change through training, sensitization, awareness raising and community mobilization on ground. Pan India Expansion of BBBP covering all 640 districts (as per census 2011) of the country was launched in March 2018. Two components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and Media Campaign on BBBP Multi-Sectoral intervention in selected Gender Critical Districts worse on CSR BBBP scheme has no provision for individual cash incentive/cash transfer component and thus is not a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme. Enable inter-sectoral and inter-institutional convergence at district/block/grassroot levels is important strategy. Target group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary: Young and newly married couples; Pregnant and Lactating mothers; parents Secondary: Youth, adolescents (girls and boys), in-laws, medical doctors/practitioners, private hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centres

- **Tertiary:** Officials, PRIs; frontline workers, women SHGs/Collectives, religious leaders, voluntary organizations, media, medical associations, industry associations, general public as a whole.
- Monitoring of the BBBP Scheme at National level, State level, District level, Block Level, and Gram Panchayat/Ward Level.
- **Digital Guddi-Gudda Board'** is a platform for dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Material on BBBP and to update monthly birth statistics. It has been adopted as a Best Practice under BBBP scheme by The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Achievements of BBBP in 6 years:**
 - Attitudinal change:
 - ✓ Increased focus on issue of female infanticide, lack of education amongst girls and deprivation of their rights.
 - ✓ Increased awareness and sensitization of the masses regarding prevalence of gender bias and role of community in eradicating it.

MONITORABLE COMPONENTS UNDER BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

Improve the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in selected gender critical districts by 2 points in a year

Reduce Gender differentials in Under Five Child Mortality Rate from 7 points in 2014 to 1.5 points per year

At least 1.5 % increase per year of Institutional Deliveries

Increase enrolment of girls in secondary education to 82% by 2018-19

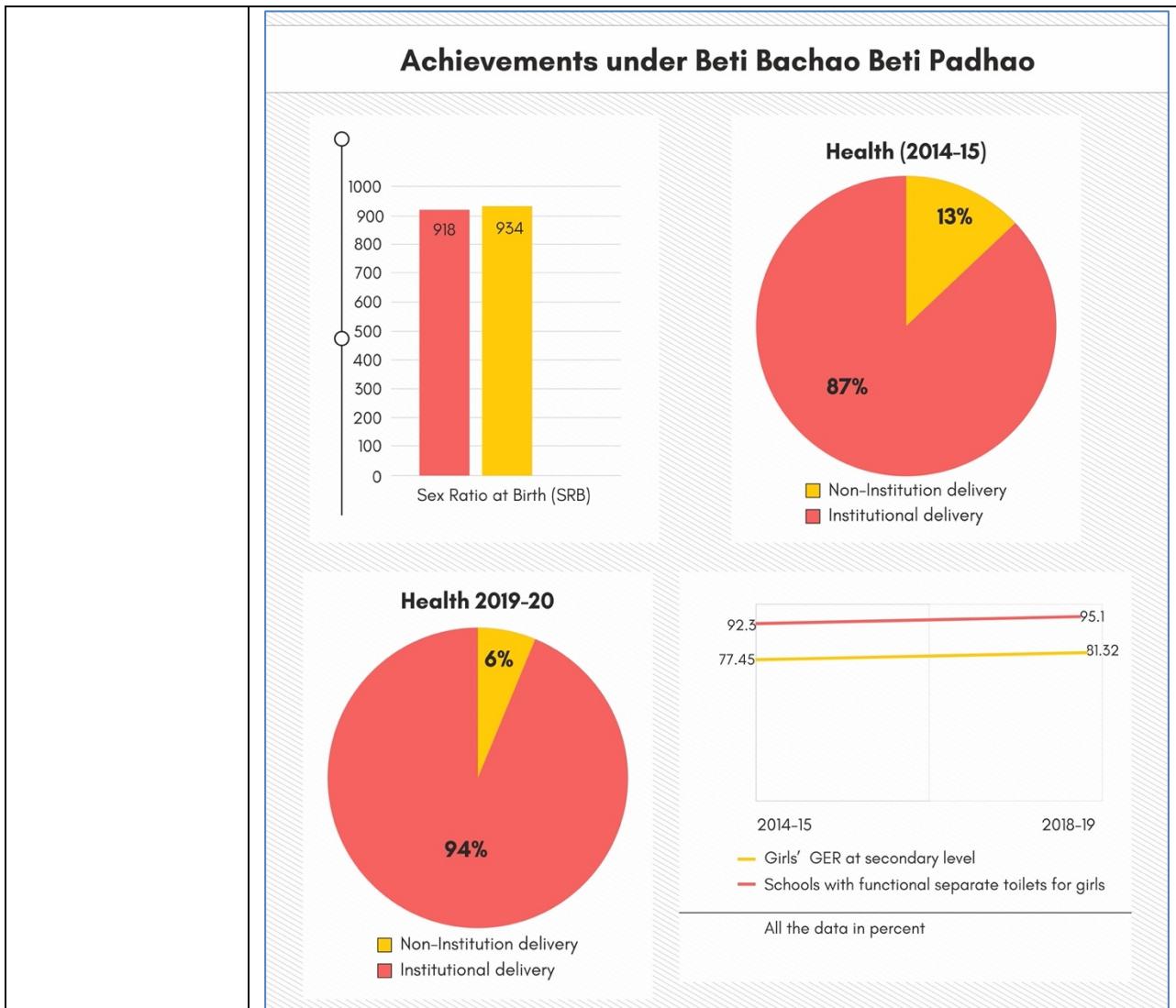
Provide functional toilet for girls in every school in selected districts

Improve the Nutrition status of girls - by reducing number of underweight and anemic girls under 5 years of age

Implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012

Ensure universalization of ICDS

Train Elected Representatives/ Grassroot functionaries as Community Champions to mobilize communities to improve CSR and promote Girl's education



38. NITI AAYOG

38.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

38.1.1. ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM)*

Why in news?

In April, 2021, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) adopted 295 Atal Tinkering Labs established by Atal Innovation Mission nationwide.

Objective	Salient features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">To create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.It is envisaged as an umbrella innovation organization that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between central, state and sectoral innovation schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was launched to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of our country.AIM has adopted a holistic approach encompassing schools, universities, research institutions, industry, MSME, NGOs, Ministries, at district, state and national levels.It has two core functions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU), wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs.Innovation promotion: to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generatedThe holistic framework includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) where students from Class 6th to Class 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atal Tinkering Marathon: The marathon puts nation-wide challenge in 6 thematic areas namely Clean Energy, Water resources, Waste management, Healthcare, Smart mobility, and Agri-tech to find out the best student innovators of India.Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) & Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC): They will be set up at the university, NGO, SME and Corporate industry levels for promoting entrepreneurship in universities and industry.Atal New India Challenges and Atal Grand Challenges: To promote technology driven innovations and product creation for social and commercial impactMentor India Campaign: It's a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students. Industry, Academia, Government, Global Collaborations as a key to success.NITI Aayog joined hands with NASSCOM to roll out Artificial Intelligence Modules in Indian schools to leverage the full potential of AIM's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL). The module contains activities, videos and experiments that enable students to work through and learn the various concepts of AI.AIM's initiatives have played an important contributory role in the advancement of India from a position of 81 in the Global Innovation Index in 2015 to a position of 48 in 2020.Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges: It was launched under AIM to spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups. The programme will be driven by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), four ministries—Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—and associated industries to facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.

39. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

39.1. SCHEMES IN NEWS

Why in news?

The third Wednesday of every month is celebrated as PRAGATI day.

39.1.1. PRO-ACTIVE GOVERNANCE AND TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION (PRAGATI)

Objective	Salient features
Addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A multi-purpose and multi-modal platform that uniquely bundles three latest technologies:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Digital data managementVideo-conferencingGeo-spatial technologyA three-tier system comprising of PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the StatesIt ensures cooperative federalism as it brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.It will strengthen and re-engineer the data bases of the CPGRAMS for grievances, Project Monitoring Group (PMG) and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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