



INSIGHTSIAS
Simplifying
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Insights PT 2018 Exclusive

Government Schemes and Programmes

June 2017 – January 2018

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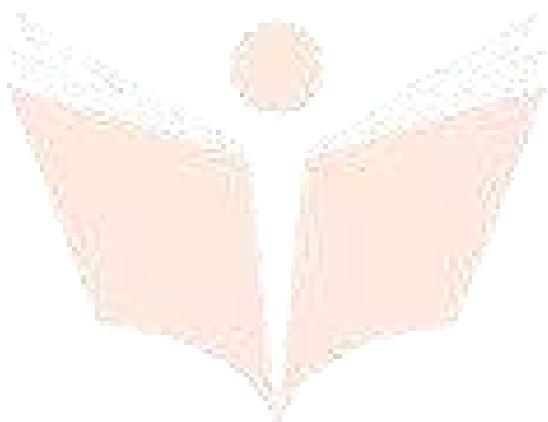
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Ministry of Culture

NOTES

1. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” was announced by Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different States & UTs will lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between the States.
- All States and UTs will be covered under the programme.
- There will be pairing of States/UTs at national level and these pairings will be in effect for one year, or till the next round of pairings.
- The State/UT level pairings would be utilized for state level activities. District level pairings would be independent of the State level pairings.
- Linking various States and Districts will connect people through exchanges in areas of culture, tourism, language, education trade etc.
- Citizens will be able to experience the cultural diversity of a much larger number of States/UTs while realising that India is one.
- **Objectives:**
 - To CELEBRATE the Unity in Diversity of our Nation.
 - To PROMOTE the spirit of national integration.
 - To SHOWCASE the rich heritage and culture, customs and tradition.
 - TO ESTABLISH long-term engagements.
 - TO CREATE an environment which promotes learning between States.

2. National Mission on Cultural Mapping of India

- “National Mission on Cultural Mapping of India” was recently launched.
- This Mission is part of the ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ umbrella.
- Ministry of Culture launched it in the year of commemoration of the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay.
- The mission aims at:
 - Converting the vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective cultural map.
 - Designing a mechanism to fulfil the aspirations of the whole artist community of the nation.
 - Preserving the rich cultural heritage of this country in the form of a cultural repository of artists and art forms.
- This Mission encompasses data mapping, demography building, formalising the processes and bringing all the cultural activities under one web based umbrella for better results.
- The Mission also seeks to open a direct channel of communication of artists with the Government and peer to peer communication among artists for talent honing and handholding of each other.

Ministries of Women and Child Development

NOTES

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

- Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) has issued a clarification note stating that the **BBBP scheme has no provision for individual CASH TRANSFER COMPONENT by Government of India.**
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme focuses on:
 - **Challenging mindsets and deep rooted patriarchy** in the societal system,
 - **Strict enforcement of PC&PNDT Act,**
 - **Advancing education of the girl child**
 - Focus on issues of **women empowerment** on a life cycle continuum.
- It is not a DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) scheme.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched in January, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana.
- The scheme is aimed at **promoting gender equality** and the significance of **educating girls.**
- The Scheme is targeted at **improving the Child Sex Ratio** through multi sectoral interventions including **prevention of gender biased sex selection** and **promoting girls' education** and her holistic empowerment.
- It is a **tri-ministerial effort** of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
- In the first phase, 100 districts with low Child Sex Ratio were selected.
- **BBBP Week:**
 - The Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated **the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week** from 09th to 14th October, 2017.
 - It is celebrated in view of the **International Girl Child Day on 11th October, 2017.**
 - **The theme of the programme:** "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- *The Daughters of New India*".

2. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Draft guidelines for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) have been prepared by the Ministry.
- The draft guidelines provide:
 - **Aadhaar linkage,**
 - **Direct Benefit Transfer** of Rs. 5000 in beneficiary's bank/post office account in three instalments:
 - At the stage of early registration of pregnancy,
 - After six months of pregnancy on at least one antenatal check-up and registration of child birth &
 - First cycle of immunisation of the child.
- Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), **previously Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)**, is a **maternity benefit program** run by the government of India.
- It is a **conditional cash transfer scheme** for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for **first two live births.**

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- It provides **partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare** and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices.
- In 2013, **the scheme was brought under the National Food Security Act, 2013** to implement the provision of cash maternity benefit of ₹6,000 stated in the Act.
- It is **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under which
 - The cost sharing ratio between the Centre and the States & UTs with Legislature is 60:40,
 - For North-Eastern States & three Himalayan States; it is 90:10 and
 - 100% Central assistance for Union Territories without Legislature.

3. Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box)

- It is **an online complaint management system for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace**.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It is to **ensure effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (the SH Act), 2013**.
- This portal is an initiative to provide a **platform to women working or visiting any office of Central Government**(Central Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies and Institutions etc.) **to file complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace under the SH Act**.
- Those who had already filed a written complaint with the concerned Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) constituted under the SH Act are also eligible to file their complaint through this portal.
- It will provide **speedier remedy** to women facing sexual harassment at workplace.
- Once a complaint is submitted to the portal, it will be directly sent to the ICC of the concerned Ministry/Department/PSU/Autonomous Body etc.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development as well as complainant can monitor the progress of inquiry conducted by the ICC.
- **Background:**
 - The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work.
 - This **statute superseded the Vishakha Guidelines** for prevention of sexual harassment introduced by the Supreme Court of India.
 - Under the Act, which also **covers students in schools and colleges** as well as **patients in hospitals**, employers and local authorities will have to set up grievance committees to investigate all complaints.
 - Employers who fail to comply will be punished with a fine of up to 50,000 rupees.

4. “Jan Sampark” Programme

- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** of the Ministry of Women & Child Development started a **monthly “Jan Sampark” programme** to enable the public to have interaction with its officials and staff for seeking

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information related to Adoption as well as flagging their concerns.

- Details pertaining to Immediate Placement and Special Needs Adoption Module of **Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS)** as well as the newly launched Grievance/Query portal were shared with all the stakeholders.
- **About CARA:**
 - Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a **statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
 - It functions as the **nodal body for adoption** of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate **in-country and inter-country adoptions**.
 - CARA is designated as the **Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions** in accordance with the provisions of the **Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993**, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
 - CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

5. Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra (PMMSK)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra' scheme for a period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- The scheme is part of Umbrella Scheme "**Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women**" of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It aims at **empowering rural women** with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.
- It will aim to **improve declining child sex ratio**, ensure survival and protection of the girl child, ensuring her education and empowering her to fulfil her potential.
- It will provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for getting their entitlements and for empowering them through **training and capacity building**.
- Through this scheme, government plans to reach 115 most backward districts in the country with 920 Mahila Shakti Kendra.
- At national level, Mahila Shakti Kendra will provide domain-based knowledge support while at state level; it will cater to State Resource Centre for Women that will provide technical support on issues related to women at district and block level centres.

6. Sub-schemes under Umbrella Scheme "Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)"

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for continuation of Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, Child Protection Services and National Crèche Scheme till 30.11.2018.
- These are the sub-schemes under Umbrella Scheme "Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)".

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- **The aims of these schemes are as under:**
 - **Anganwadi Services (ICDS)**
 - It aims at **holistic development of children under the age of six years** and its beneficiaries are children of this age group and **Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers.**
 - **Scheme for Adolescent Girls**
 - It is to facilitate, educate and empower Adolescent Girls so as to enable them to **become self-reliant and aware citizens** through promoting awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, **mainstreaming out of school AGs into formal/non formal education** and providing information/guidance about existing public services.
 - **Child Protection Services**
 - It is to provide safe and secure environment for children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection,
 - Prevent actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from families etc.
 - **National Creche Scheme**
 - It aims at providing a safe place for mothers to leave their children while they are at work.

7. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

- ICDS Scheme is a **centrally sponsored scheme** implemented by states/UTs. It was launched on 2nd October 1975.
- It has following **objectives**:
 - Improve the **nutritional and health status of children** in the age-group **0-6 years;**
 - Reduce mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
 - Promote policy coordination and implementation **for promoting child development;**
 - Lay adequate foundation for **psychological, physical and social well-being of children** etc.
- Under the scheme, **services** such as
 - Supplementary nutrition;
 - Pre-school non-formal education;
 - Nutrition and health education, immunization, health check-ups; and
 - Referral services through Anganwadi Centres for children below 6 years of age as well as to pregnant women and lactating mothers are offered.

8. Sakhi One Stop Centres

- Popularly known as Sakhi, the scheme is being implemented since 1st April 2015.
- The scheme aims to facilitate **access to an integrated range of services** including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counselling, and temporary support services **to women affected by violence.**

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- Under the scheme, it has been envisaged that **One Stop Centres (OSC)** would be set up across the country in a phased manner.
- It focuses on strengthening of **Multi Sectoral Response** to violence faced by Women.

9. National Nutrition Mission

- The government has approved the setting up of a National Nutrition Mission (NNM) to rein in malnourishment and stunted growth.
- NNM will address three aspects—the food that should be given to rein in **stunting, undernourishment, low birthweight and anaemia**.
- The government is targeting a **reduction of 2% a year in stunting, undernutrition and low birth weight** among 100 million people.
- Also, it aims to **reduce anaemia** among young children, women and adolescent girls **by 3% a year**.
- The mission would include several components like an **ICT (information and communications technology)-based real-time monitoring system**, incentivizing of states and Union territories to meet their targets, social audits, and setting up of nutrition resource centres.
- **Implementation:**
 - Under NNM, the **ministries of women and child development, health and family welfare, and water and sanitation will work together**.
 - The mission will form an **apex body that would fix targets** and monitor, supervise and guide nutrition-related interventions across the ministries.
 - The implementation strategy would be based on intense monitoring and a convergence action plan up to the grass-roots level.

10. Online portal 'NARI'

- It is an online portal developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The portal aims to provide women citizens with easy access to **information on government schemes and initiatives** for women run by both Central as well as the States Governments.
- It provides links to the Ministries, Departments and autonomous bodies offering these schemes as well as easy access to online applications and grievance redressal.

11. Scheme for Adolescent Girls

- The government is implementing the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) for **out of school girls in the age group of 11-14 years**.
- The scheme aims at providing them **nutritional support, motivating out of school girls to go back to formal schooling or skill training**.
- The girls are also equipped with **information on health, hygiene** and guidance on existing public services.
- It is **centrally sponsored scheme** implemented using platform of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.
- **Anganwadi Centres** are focal point for delivery of services.

- It is implemented through Centre and State share in ratio of 50:50, for nutrition component 60:40 for rest of activities for State/UTs with legislation, 90:10 for NE and three Himalayan States and 100% for UTs without legislative assemblies.

NOTES**12.e-Samvad**

- e- Samvad portal has been launched by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- It is an **online platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development.**
- Through e-Samvad portal, NGOs and civil society can **provide their feedback, suggestions, put up grievances, share best practices etc.**
- Senior Officers within MWCD will be able to view the inputs/suggestions received for their concerned subject areas and appropriately respond to NGOs.
- This will help in formulation of effective policies and measures for welfare of women and children.

13.Mahila e-Haat

- The Union Government has launched an **online marketing platform Mahila E-HAAT** to facilitate women entrepreneurs to sell their products.
- It is part of Union Government's flagship 'Digital India' and 'Stand Up India' initiatives.
- It is the Joint initiative of Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK).**



Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

NOTES

1. Second edition of Slum Daud

- The **Slum Yuva Daud** is part of the **Adopt Slum Campaign** initiated by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan**.
- Participation: the campaign will involve groups like **NSS, public schools, RWAs, NGOs, rotary clubs etc.**
- **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS):**
 - Nehru Yuva Kendras were established in the year 1972 with the objective of providing rural youth avenues to take part in the process of nation building as well providing opportunities for the development of their personality and skills.
 - In the year 1987-88, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) was set up **as an autonomous organization under the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, to oversee working of these Kendras.
 - NYKS is the **largest grassroots level youth organization**; one of its kind in the world.
 - It channelizes the power of youth on the principles of **voluntarism, self-help and community participation**.
 - The basic objective for creation of youth clubs is to render **community support** through developmental initiatives involving activities with particular focus on **youth empowerment**.

2. Revamped Khelo India Programme

- The Programme aims at **mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development**.
- An unprecedented **Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme**, which would cover 1,000 most talented young athletes each year across select sports disciplines.
- Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an **annual scholarship worth Rs. 5.00 lakh for 8 consecutive years**.
- This is the first time ever that a long-term athlete development pathway would be made available to talented youngsters to excel in competitive sports.
- This programme strives to promote “**Sports for All**” as well as “**Sports for Excellence**.”

3. National Service Scheme

- The President Shri Ram Nath Kovind recently presented **National Service Scheme Awards 2016-17**.
- The objective of NSS Awards is to **recognize and reward outstanding contributions towards voluntary community service** made by the Universities/ Senior Secondary (+2) Councils, NSS Units/ Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers.
- NSS is a **Centrally Sector Scheme**.
- The Scheme was launched in the year 1969 with the primary objective of

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developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.

- The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The motto of NSS is “**NOT ME, BUT YOU**”.
- NSS is being implemented in Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities.
- The design of the NSS envisages that each educational institution covered under the Scheme has at least one NSS unit comprising of normally 100 student volunteers, led by a teacher designated as Programme Officer (PO).
- Each NSS unit adopts a village or slum for taking up its activities.

4. Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)

- The Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram has been launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to **empower the youth of the country to achieve their full potential**.
- It is the **umbrella scheme** which consolidates Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Youth Corps (NYC), National Programme for Youth & Adolescent Development (NPYAD), National Discipline Scheme (NDS), National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP).

5. Mission XI Million

- With the vision of **making football the sport of choice** in India, Mission XI Million, the biggest **school sport outreach programme** was launched by the government.
- **A first of its kind**, the programme will encourage children to play the game of football, gain healthy habits and learn important life lessons in teamwork and sportsman spirit.
- The approach is to work with school principals and sports teachers and **encourage and incentivize** them to make children play football games on regular basis.
- It aims to instil the **passion for football in 11 million children** from every part of the country.
- Mission XI Million also equips parents and schools with the equipment and the knowledge about how to make regular play a reality for their wards.

Ministry of Urban Development

NOTES

1. Smart Cities Mission

- Under the scheme that was **launched in 2014**, around 100 cities in the country will be developed and its duration is five years (**2015-16 to 2019-20**).
- As of January 2018, 99 cities have been selected.
- **Bottom-up approach** has been the key planning principle under Smart City Mission.
- These cities will be developed to have **basic infrastructure** through assured water and power supply, sanitation and solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, IT connectivity, e-governance and citizen participation.
- **States and Urban local Bodies (ULBs)** will play a key supportive role in the development of Smart Cities.
- The implementation of the Mission at the City level will be done by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** created for the purpose.
- The SPV will plan, appraise, approve, release funds, implement, manage, operate, monitor and evaluate the Smart City development projects.
- Each smart city will have a SPV which will be headed by a full time CEO and have nominees of Central Government, State Government and ULB on its Board.
- The total State and Central financial assistance for each smart city would be Rs. 1,000 crore.
- The central government will grant every winning city a sum of Rs. 500 crore and the State governments will provide an additional Rs. 500 crore.

2. Heritage Infrastructure Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)

- The National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) aims to **preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage** of the country.
- Central government will meet the entire expenditure under the scheme (**Central Sector Scheme**). But, the states and local urban bodies are requested to supplement their resources for rapid development of heritage cities.
- The project will work through a **partnership of Government, Academic Institutions and local community** combining affordable technologies.
- The **12 cities** selected for the scheme are **Ajmer, Amritsar, Amravati, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Warangal, Puri, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Varanasi and Velankanni**.
- **Objectives of Scheme:**
 - Bring urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation together for heritage cities.
 - **Beautification of heritage cities** in an inclusive and integrated manner with prime focus on livelihoods, skills, cleanliness, security, safety, accessibility and faster service delivery.
 - Guide conservation, restoration, future use and development of heritage cities.

- Create **improved connectivity** platform and access to tourists.

3. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

- AMRUT is the **new avatar of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**.
- It adopts a **project approach** to ensure **basic infrastructure services** relating to water supply, sewerage, storm-water drains, transportation and development of green spaces and parks with special provision for meeting the needs of children.
- AMRUT will be implemented in 500 locations with a population of one lakh and above.
- It would cover some cities situated on stems of main rivers, a few state capitals and important cities located in hilly areas, islands and tourist areas.
- Under this mission, **states get the flexibility of designing schemes** based on the needs of identified cities and in their execution and monitoring.
- States will only submit **state annual action Plans** to the centre for broad concurrence based on which funds will be released. The central government will not appraise individual projects.
- **Central assistance** will be to the extent of 50% of project cost for cities and towns with a population of up to 10 lakhs and one-third of the project cost for those with a population of above 10 lakhs.
- States will transfer funds to urban local bodies within 7 days of transfer by central government and **no diversion of funds to be made** failing which penal interest would be charged besides taking other adverse action by the centre.

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Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

NOTES

1. Inclusive India Initiative

- The National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in collaboration with key partners recently organised the conference “**Inclusive India Initiative: Towards an Inclusive India**” for intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs).
- The ‘Inclusive India Initiative’ of National Trust is specifically **catering to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities**;
- ‘Inclusive India’ in about changing the attitudes.
- The three core focus areas of Inclusive India Initiative are **Inclusive Education, Inclusive Employment and Inclusive Community Life**.
- **Large-scale awareness campaigns** would be executed on pan-India basis, making the schools and colleges inclusive for the children and adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Association with government and private organisations will be explored for making the infrastructure of educational institutes accessible and inclusive.
- The initiative will engage at least 2000 corporate sector organisations; public and private, for creating awareness towards inclusive employment.
- **National Trust:**
 - The National Trust is a **statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, set up under the “National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Retardation and Multiple Disabilities” Act (Act 44 of 1999).
 - The National Trust was envisaged with a core mission of providing opportunities for capacity development of Persons with Disabilities and their families, fulfilling their rights, and promoting the creation of an enabling environment and an inclusive society.

2. Divyang Sarathi

- The government has launched ‘**Divyang Sarathi**’—the accessible and comprehensive mobile application for easy dissemination of information to ‘**Divyangjans**’.
- This mobile application aims at providing all relevant information pertaining to the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, including various acts, rules, regulations and guidelines, employment opportunities, and the disability market in an accessible format.
- The unique feature is its **audio notes** (text-to-voice conversion software) as well as the **adjustable font size** which can be altered as per the user’s requirement.
- The mobile application is **compliant with the principles of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** for Universal Access and the **provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**. The Act mandates that all information to be made available in an accessible form.
- The application is also an integral part of the **ICT component of the Accessible India Campaign**.

3. Accessible India Campaign (AIC)

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- Accessible India Campaign or (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) is the nationwide flagship campaign of the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The aim of the Campaign is **to make a barrier free and conducive environment for Divyangjans all over the country**.
- The campaign has been divided into three verticals: Built Environment; Transport and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem.
- It is in line with the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** to which India is a signatory.
- The campaign has the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives.
- Department launched '**Sugamya Pustakalaya**'- an online library for Persons with Print Disabilities centred on achieving 'Universal Accessibility'.
- To create mass awareness on Accessibility, a Motorcycle Rally '**Ride4Accessibility**' was organised on July 24.2016.
- **100 Accessible websites** of various State Governments/UTs under Accessible India Campaign have been launched.

4. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

- "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana", a 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category'.
- It is the first-of-its-kind **Central Sector Scheme (CCS)** in India, to be fully funded by the Central Government. It is expected to benefit 5,20,000 Senior Citizens.
- The Scheme will be implemented through '**Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)**', (a PSU under M/o SJ&E), which will undertake one year free maintenance of the aids & assisted living devices.
- The devices will help the Senior Citizens to overcome their age related physical impairment and to lead a dignified and productive life.
- Beneficiaries will be identified by the State Governments/UTs through a Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector.
- 30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.

5. 2017 Vayoshreshtha Samman

- Vayoshreshtha Samman – a **scheme of National Awards for senior citizens**.
- The Awards are given to **eminent citizens and institutions** in recognition of their outstanding **services to the elderly people**, especially indigent senior citizens.
- The government has been conferring Vayoshrestha Samman every year since 2005, but it has been given the status of a national award only since 2013.
- The Vayoshreshtha Samman Awards are **given every year on the International Day of Older Persons**.
- International Day of Older Persons is observed on the 1st of October every year in accordance with a UNGA resolution.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

NOTES

1. 'Skill for Life, Save a Life' initiative

- 'Skill for Life, Save a Life' initiative was launched to **promote skill development in the health sector.**
- It aims to **upscale the quantity and quality of trained professionals in the healthcare system.**
- Under this initiative various courses are initiated targeting specific competencies for healthcare professionals as well as for general public.
- Such courses ensure that the health sector gets the **adequate skilled health workers.**
- This shall reduce the gap between expectations of employment of the youth and the actual job they get.

2. 'Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh'

- The 'Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh', a **National Human Milk Bank and Lactation Counselling Centre** was recently inaugurated at the Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC).
- "Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh" is established in collaboration with the **Norwegian government, Oslo University and Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI).**
- The national human milk bank and lactation counselling centre will collect, pasteurize, test and safely store milk that has been donated by lactating mothers and make it available for infants in need.
- This facility will **protect, promote and support breastfeeding** of their own healthy mothers by providing lactation support to mothers through dedicated lactation counsellors.
- The project will act as the teaching, training and demonstration site for other milk banks to be established under the Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also launched **Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA) programme** to create awareness regarding breastfeeding among mothers for enhancing the child's immunity.

3. Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) in order to intensify efforts to **reduce child deaths due to diarrhoea.**
- The Ministry will mobilize health personnel, State Governments and other stakeholders to **prioritize investment in control of diarrhoea.**
- It aims to **create mass awareness** about the most effective and low-cost diarrhoea treatment— a **combination of Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) solution and Zinc tablets.**
- Intensified **community awareness** campaigns on hygiene and promotion of ORS and Zinc therapy will be conducted at state, district and village levels.
- **ASHA worker** would undertake **distribution of ORS packets** to households with under-five children in her village.
- **ORS-Zinc Corners** will be set-up at health care facilities and non-health

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- facilities such as Schools and Anganwadi centres.
- The activities are also being supported by other ministries of the Government of India, especially the **Education, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Women and Child Development, and Water and Sanitation**.
 - **Other interventions by the Government:**
 - Vitamin A supplementation.
 - Promoting early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months.
 - Appropriate complementary feeding.
 - Capacity building and service provision of staff for management of childhood diarrhoea in all government health facilities.
 - Introduction of **Rotavirus vaccine under UIP**.
 - **Diarrhoea:**
 - Diarrhoea is caused by various **viruses, bacteria and protozoa** like rotavirus, E.coli etc.
 - The main reasons for diarrhoeal attacks amongst children are contaminated water, inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene, malnutrition and lack of immunisation.
 - Almost all the deaths due to diarrhoea can be averted by preventing and treating dehydration by use of ORS, administration of Zinc tablets along with adequate nutritional intake by the child.
 - Diarrhoea can be prevented with safe drinking water, sanitation, breastfeeding/appropriate nutrition and hand-washing.

4. Mission Parivar Vikas

- On the 2017 **World Population Day**, Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched Mission Parivar Vikas.
- It will focus on **146 districts in 7 states with highest total fertility rates** in the country.
- These 146 districts have been identified based on total fertility rate and service delivery for immediate and accelerated efforts to **reach the replacement level fertility goals of 2.1 by 2025**.
- Recent data suggests that these 146 districts have TFR of more than/equal to 3.0.
- The main objective will be to accelerate **access to high quality family planning choices** based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.
- The key strategic focus will be on improving **access to contraceptives** through delivering assured services and creating an enabling environment along with **close monitoring and implementation**.

5. Health Ministry launches two new contraceptives

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched two new contraceptives, an **injectable contraceptive 'Antara'** and a **contraceptive pill 'Chhaya'**, in the public health system.
- The contraceptives, which will be **available for free in Medical Colleges and District Hospitals**, have been launched in 10 states.

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- The 'Antara' injectable will be effective for three months and the 'Chayya' pill for one week.
- To help improve the supply and distribution of contraceptives, the Ministry had launched a new software, **Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS)**.
 - It is designed to provide robust information on the demand and distribution of contraceptives to health facilities and ASHAs.

6. National Deworming initiative

- The NDD program was launched in 2015.
- It is organised twice in a year **covering all the children from 1-19 years of age except the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where deworming is carried out once in a year**.
- The **Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH)** prevalence in these two States is less than 20%.
- All the children are provided deworming tablet in schools and anganwadis.
- The deworming has the potential to **improve nutritional status** of children.
- The deworming tablet called '**Albendazole**' is a safe and efficacious drug for controlling worm infestation.
- Besides the deworming tablet, various health promotion activities related to **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** are also being organised in schools and anganwadis.
- This programme is being implemented in close collaboration with **Ministry of Human Resource & Development and Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- Teachers and anganwadi workers have been trained to administer the tablet to children, while ASHAs and other functionaries will generate awareness and mobilize children to be dewormed on the day.
- **Intestinal parasitic worms:**
 - They are **large multicellular organisms**, which when mature can generally be seen with the naked eye.
 - They are also known as **Helminths**.
 - They are often referred to as intestinal worms even though not all helminths reside in the intestines.
 - Parasitic worms in children **interfere with nutrient uptake**, and can contribute to **anaemia, malnourishment, and impaired mental and physical development**.

7. Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) to **accelerate full immunization coverage to more than 90% by December 2018**.
- Government of India aims to reach **each and every child less than two years of age and all those pregnant women** who have been left **uncovered under the routine immunisation programme**.
- IMI programme aims at **reducing maternal and child mortality**.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush will cover **low performing areas** in the

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selected districts and urban areas.

- Special attention will be given to **unserved/low coverage pockets in sub-centre and urban slums** with migratory population.
- IMI drive will be spread over 7 working days starting from 7th of every month.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush will have **inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination**.
- The **convergence of ground level workers** of various departments like ASHA, ANMs, Anganwadi workers, Zila preraks under National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and self-help groups.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush would be **closely monitored at the district, state and central level** at regular intervals.
- It would be **monitored at the highest level** under a special initiative ‘Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation (**PRAGATI**)’.
- **Mission Indradhanush:**
 - Mission Indradhanush aims to immunize all children under the age of 2 years, as well as all pregnant women, against **seven vaccine preventable diseases**.
 - The diseases being targeted are **diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles and Hepatitis B**.
 - In addition to these, vaccines for **Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B** are also being provided in **selected states**.
 - In 2016, **four new additions** have been made namely **Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis, Injectable Polio Vaccine Bivalent and Rotavirus**.

8. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

- The **quantitative evaluation of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)** was carried out.
- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) is a **government-run health insurance scheme** for the **BPL family** (a unit of five).
- It provides **cashless insurance** for hospitalisation in public as well as selected private hospitals.
- RSBY became fully operational on **April 1, 2008**.
- It provides for **IT-enabled and smart-card-based cashless healthy insurance** cover, up to Rs. **30,000/- per annum** on a family floater basis to the unorganized sector.
- Initially the RSBY project was under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, but from April 1, 2015 it was transferred to Ministry of Health and family welfare.
- The scheme is run in collaboration of both **Centre (75%) & State government (25%)**.
- The beneficiary has to pay Rs. 30 per annum as registration/renewal fee.

9. LaQshya – Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative

- The government has launched “LaQshya – Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative, a **Safe Delivery Mobile Application for health workers** who manage

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normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral areas.

- The goal of this initiative is to **reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths** associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity OT and ensure respectful maternity care.
- It aims to **improve the quality of care** that is being provided to the pregnant mother in the Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatres.
- This initiative will be implemented in Government Medical Colleges (MCs) besides District Hospitals (DHs), and high delivery load Sub- District Hospitals (SDHs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs).
- The initiative also plans to **conduct quality certification of labour rooms** and also incentivize facilities achieving the targets outlined.

10. National Strategic Plan (2017-24) and Mission “SAMPARK”

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the **National Strategic Plan 2017-24 aimed at eradicating HIV/AIDS by 2030**.
- It was launched on the occasion of **World AIDS Day on 1st December**.
- **The National Strategic Plan 2017-24** will pave a roadmap for achieving the target of **90:90:90 Strategy**.
- **Mission SAMPARK** was also launched to **trace those who are Left to Follow Up and are to be brought under Antiretroviral therapy (ART) services**.
 - “Community Based Testing” will be taken up for fast-tracking the identification of all who are HIV positive.
- **90:90:90 Strategy:**
 - It is a **new HIV treatment** narrative of **UNAIDS programme** which has set targets of
 - 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status (90% diagnosed),
 - 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (90% on HIV treatment) and
 - 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression (90% suppressed).

11. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- The programme aims to provide **assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care**, free of cost, universally to **all pregnant women on the 9th of every month**.
- The scheme is aimed at ensuring that **every pregnant woman undergoes essential checkups** during pregnancy to avoid unnecessary complication.
- Scheme is applicable to women through their **third to sixth month of pregnancy**.
- A key feature of the scheme includes services by **gynaecology specialists and physicians** with support from **private sector doctors** to supplement the efforts of the government sector.
- These services include ultrasound, blood and urine tests, in addition to routine antenatal check-up.
- It also invites the private sector to provide free ante-natal services (ANC) on a voluntary basis to pregnant women, especially those living in **under-served**,

semi-urban, poor and rural areas.

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12. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)

- The flagship programme of the Union Health ministry – AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) aims to provide **affordable life-saving cancer, cardiac drugs and medical disposables**.
- The **AMRIT pharmacies** offer an average discount of 63% on medicines.
- The AMRIT programme was launched in November 2015 and is being implemented through **mini-ratna PSU HLL Lifecare Ltd (HLL)** which has been setting up pharmacies at major hospitals across the country.
- The primary goal of AMRIT is to make available and accessible, at very affordable rates, all drugs, implants, surgical disposables that are not dispensed free of cost by the hospitals.

13. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

- The Central Sector Scheme, PMSSY was announced in 2003 with objectives of **correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services** and also to augment facilities for **quality medical education** in under-served or backward States, in particular.
- PMSSY has two components:
 - **Setting up of AIIMS like Institutions.**
 - **Upgradation of Government Medical College Institutions.**

14. Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

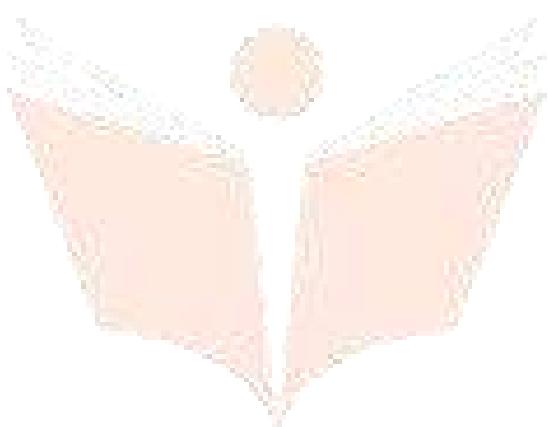
- Recent data put out by the Union Health Ministry's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) has indicated that **food poisoning is one of the commonest outbreaks reported in 2017**. This is apart from acute diarrhoeal disease (ADD).
- The IDSP has interpreted that the incidence of ADD and food poisoning is high in places where food is cooked in bulk, such as canteens, hostels and wedding venues.
- The Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (**IDSP**) is a **disease surveillance scheme** under the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs assisted by the World Bank.
- The Project was undertaken to meet the **World Health Organization Guidelines for South East Asian countries on disease surveillance** to track the outbreak of diseases and its potential Trans-boundary threats.
- The scheme seeks to set up a **Central Disease Surveillance Unit** and a **State Surveillance Unit** in each State where data is collected and analyzed.

15. Swachh Swasth Sarvatra initiative

- It is launched by the **Union Health Ministry** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Human Resource Development**.
- The objective is to **strengthen community health centres in 708 open defecation-free blocks** across the country to enable them to achieve higher levels of cleanliness and hygiene.
- Under it, 10 lakh rupees of financial assistance will be given to the community

health centres so that they can be strengthened to **meet the standards of sanitation, hygiene and infection control.**

- The initiative is a **part of the Swachh Bharat Mission**, under the National Health Mission.

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INSIGHTS
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Ministry of Tribal Affairs

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1. Eklavya Model Residential Schools

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has actively initiated various efforts to make more Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) functional.
- Government has sought to extend the facility of EMRSs in all the 672 Blocks where ST population is more than 50% of the total population in a span of next five years.
- Eklavya Model Residential School Scheme was started in **1998** and **first school was started in the year 2000 in Maharashtra**.
- EMRSs have been functioning as institutions of excellence for tribal students.
- As per existing EMRS Guidelines of 2010, at least one EMRS is to be set up in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area.
- State Government/ UT Administration is solely responsible for the management and effective functioning of the EMRSs, school admissions, appointment of teachers/staff and personnel matters.

Ministry of Civil Aviation

1. 'DigiYatra'

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation is adding a **Digital experience for Air Travellers** through DigiYatra Platform.
- The '**DigiYatra**' is **an industry-led initiative co-ordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation** aimed at transforming the nation into a digitally empowered society.
- 'DigiYatra' initiative aims to bring together entire industry to develop a digital ecosystem that will deliver Indian customers a seamless, consistent and **paperless service experience** at every touch point of their journey.
- The platform will be built on 4 key pillars, like **Connected Passengers, Connected Airports, Connected Flying and Connected Systems**.
- The move is aimed to ease the security and boarding procedure.

2. UDAN Phase 2

- The **civil aviation ministry has relaxed the norms for UDAN** (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) to allow for greater connectivity.
- The relaxations include dilution of the exclusivity clause mandating that only one airline may fly on one route in the initial years. The norms that restricted two airports in close proximity from participating in the bidding has also been relaxed.
- UDAN is an innovative scheme to **develop the regional aviation market**. It is a **market-based mechanism** in which airlines bid for seat subsidies.
- This first-of-its-kind scheme globally will **create affordable yet economically viable** and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
- The scheme would be in operation for a period of 10 years.
- The UDAN scheme will be applicable on flights which cover between 200 km

and 800 km with no lower limit set for hilly, remote, islands and regions which are security sensitive.

- The state governments would reap the benefit of **development of remote areas; enhance trade and commerce and more tourism expansion.**
- The scheme provides connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through **revival of existing air-strips and airports.**
- The operators could seek a **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** apart from getting various concessions.
- The scheme aims to **boost air travel in Tier II and Tier III cities** by capping fares at Rs 2,500 per one hour flight.
- The **Airports Authority of India** is the implementing authority of the scheme.
- As per the scheme, the Union Government will subsidise the losses incurred by airlines flying out of dormant airports.
- About 80% of the subsidy will be collected by charging a levy of up to Rs. 8,500 on each departing flight of domestic airlines and the rest 20% will come from the respective state governments.
- State government are bound to provide free security and fire service and utilities at concessional rates.

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Ministry of Law & Justice

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1. Tele-Law

- In its effort to make **legal aid easily accessible to the marginalized communities** and citizens living **in rural areas**, the Government of India has launched the '**Tele-Law**'.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to provide legal aid services through its Common Service Centres (CSC) at the panchayat level.
- The portal 'Tele-Law' will be available across the Common Service Centre (CSC) network.
- 'Tele-Law' will enable people to seek legal advice from lawyers through video conferencing available at the Common Service Centres (CSC).
- Additionally, law school clinics, District Legal Service Authorities, voluntary service providers and Non-Government Organisations working on legal aid and empowerment can also be connected through the CSCs anywhere and anytime, in order to strengthen access to justice for the marginalized communities.
- The **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** will provide a panel of lawyers from State capitals, who will be available through video conferencing.
- A robust **monitoring and evaluation system** is also being designed which will help in assessing the quality of legal advice provided.
- **PLVs:**
 - Every Common Service Centre (CSC) will engage a **Para Legal Volunteer (PLV)**, who will be the first point of contact for the rural citizens and will help them in understanding the legal issues, explain the advice given by lawyers and assist in further action required in cases as per the advice of the lawyer.
 - **Women PLVs** will be encouraged and trained under the Scheme.
 - The aim is to **promote women entrepreneurship and empowerment** and ensure women participation.
 - A trained PLV will be available in a CSC for ten days in a month under the Scheme.

2. Pro bono legal Services

- The '**Pro bono legal services**' initiative is a **web based platform**, through which interested lawyers can register themselves to volunteer pro bono services for the **underprivileged litigants**, who are unable to afford it.
- The **Department of Justice** has launched the online application for this initiative on its website doj.gov.in.
- Litigants from marginalised communities (including members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, women, children, senior citizens, persons with low income and persons with disabilities) can also apply for legal aid and advice from the pro bono lawyers.

3. Nyaya Mitra scheme

- **Nyaya Mitra** scheme is aimed at **reducing pendency of cases** across selected

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- districts, with special focus on those pending for more than 10 years.
- Functionalized through a **retired judicial or executive officer** (with legal experience) designated as the 'Nyaya Mitra', the project would be operated out of **District Facilitation Centres, housed in Common Service Centres (CSCs)**.
 - **Nyaya Mitra Responsibilities:**
 - **Assistance to litigants** who are suffering due to delay in investigations or trial.
 - **Providing legal advice** and connecting litigants to **District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), CSC Tele Law**, other government agencies and civil society organisations.
 - Refer the marginalized applicants to **Lok Adalats** for dispute resolution.
 - Render assistance towards **prison reforms** within the district, in coordination with the district judiciary and other stakeholders.

Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension

1. Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT)

- A new training programme Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (**COMMIT**) for **State Government officials** has been launched.
- The objective of this training programme is to **improve the public service delivery mechanism and provide citizen centric administration through capacity building of officials** who interact with the citizens on day-to-day basis.
- The COMMIT programme has been developed by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in collaboration with **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- It will supplement the existing 12-Day Induction Training Programme (ITP) launched in 2014-15 for newly recruited state Government officials to develop in them Generic and Domain specific competencies.
- The programme will be implemented through State Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs).
- COMMIT was launched in 6 States of Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal initially on pilot basis during the current financial year 2017-18.

NOTES

Ministry of Power

1. Street Lighting National programme (SLNP)

- Government of India, through the **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** under the Ministry of Power, will retrofit 10 lakh conventional street lights with LED lights in Gram Panchayats of 7 districts in Andhra Pradesh.
- This is the **first project for rural LED street lighting in the country under Street Lighting National Project (SLNP)**.
- The entire upfront capital cost of this project is being funded by French Development Agency Agence Française de Développement (AFD).
- The SLNP was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015.
- It aims to replace 1.34 crore conventional street lights with energy efficient LED lights by March, 2019.
- It is being implemented by EESL.
- It is **world's Largest Street Light Replacement Programme**.
- Rajasthan was the first state to adopt this scheme.
- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):**
 - EESL was set up under Union Ministry of Power to facilitate implementation of energy efficiency projects.
 - It is a **joint venture of NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and POWERGRID**.
 - It acts as the resource centre for capacity building of State DISCOMs.
 - It leads market-related actions of National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).

2. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)

- Ministry of Power launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – “Saubhagya” with an aim at **providing last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households**.
- Under the scheme, government will provide **free electricity to all households** identified under Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data 2011, while others will be charged 500 Rs.
- **Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC)**, a Navaratna CPSE under the Ministry of Power is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.
- The beneficiary household will get five LED lights, one DC fan, one DC power plug.
- It also includes the Repair and Maintenance (R&M) for 5 years.
- The government also launched the '**Saubhagya**' **Web Portal** which will monitor household electrification progress; disseminate information on Household Electrification Status, Household Progress on live basis, State-wise Target vs Achievement, Monthly Electrification Progress, etc.

3. Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)

- DDUGJY aims to provide **24x7 uninterrupted electricity supply** to each rural household across the country **by 2022**.
- It aims to strengthen **sub-transmission and distribution network** to prevent power losses.

- It focuses on **feeder separation for rural households and agricultural purpose.**
- **Metering at all levels** including at input points, feeders and distribution transformers.
- Strengthening of **Micro grid and off grid distribution network** of rural electrification.
- This scheme replaces **Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).**

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4. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all (UJALA) scheme

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) was launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 May 2015, **replacing the "Bachat Lamp Yojana".**
- The main objective of the scheme is to **promote efficient lighting**, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.
- The scheme is being implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture of PSUs under the **Union Ministry of Power**.
- The distribution of LED bulbs will happen through DISCOM offices, DISCOM bill collection centres, designated EESL kiosks, Weekly haat markets, etc.
- **Recent Developments:**
 - EESL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for distribution of energy efficient appliances.
 - **EESL has launched UJALA Scheme in the State of Melaka, Malaysia.**
 - The scheme has seen **successful implementation in the UK.**

5. SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries)

- The **Ministry of Power along with the Ministry of Textiles** have launched Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to help small Industries.
- The **Powerloom sector** in India is predominantly an **unorganized sector** and has a large number of micro and small units which produce 57 percent of the total cloth in the country.
- Under the initiative, **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a public sector entity under the administrative control of Ministry of Power, would procure energy efficient powerlooms, motors and repair kits in bulk and provide them to the small and medium powerloom units at no upfront cost.
- The SAATHI initiative will be jointly implemented by EESL and the office of the Textile Commissioner on a pan-India basis.
- To kick start the implementation, cluster wise demonstration projects and workshops will be organized in key clusters such as Erode, Surat.

6. Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)

- Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) is the **financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies** of India (DISCOMs).
- **State governments** taking over up to **75% of their respective discoms' debt** and **issuing sovereign bonds** to pay back the lenders.

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- **Discoms** are expected to **issue bonds for the remaining 25 percent** of their debt.
- UDAY envisages a **permanent resolution** of past as well as potential future issues of the sector.
- **Highlights:**
 - Reducing the interest burden on the discoms by allowing the states to take over the bulk of their debt.
 - Reducing the cost of power, and **increasing the operational efficiencies** of the discoms by providing capital and infrastructure like **coal linkages**.
 - Reduction in aggregate technical and commercial (**AT&C**) and transmission losses.
 - **Demand side interventions** in UDAY such as usage of energy efficient LED bulbs, agricultural pumps, fans, air-conditioners and efficient industrial equipment.
 - The scheme is optional for the states to join.

7. Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project

- The **60 MW Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project (HEPP)** has been formally dedicated to the Nation.
- The project has been built on **Tuirial River, a tributary of Barak River**.
- The Project is the **biggest power project located in the State of Mizoram** and will feed the entire energy to be generated to the home State, which will help in achieving Government of India's ambitious Mission '24x7 Affordable Clean Power for All'.
- The Tuirial HEPP has been constructed as a **Central Sector Project** and implemented by **North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)**, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.

NOTES

Ministry of Rural Development

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

- DAY-NRLM is a **poverty alleviation scheme** implemented by Union Ministry of Rural Development to **promote self-employment** and organization of rural poor.
- It was launched as NRLM in 2011 but was succeeded by Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana in 2016.
- It is **supported by World Bank**.
- The scheme aims to **organize the poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and make them capable for self-employment.
- Organizing **at least one-woman member from each rural poor household into SHGs**.
- The financial support under the programme is mainly in the form of **Revolving Fund and Community Investment Funds**, given as grants to the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations.
- DAY-NRLM also focuses on **bank linkage** of the institutions.
- The programme has a special focus on **women empowerment** including a dedicated component for **promoting farm and non-farm** based livelihoods for women farmers in rural areas.
- In addition, **start-up enterprises** at village levels are also supported to promote entrepreneurial activities in those areas.
- **All 29 states and 5 UTs (except New Delhi and Chandigarh)** are currently implementing the Mission.
- It is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihood of poor.
- The Mission is expected to mobilize all rural poor households by 2024-25.

2. Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** launched a new **sub-scheme** under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** named as "**Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)**".
- The main objectives of AGEY are to provide an **alternative source of livelihoods** to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM by facilitating them to **operate public transport services in backward rural areas**.
- This will provide **safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services** like e-rickshaws, 3 and 4 wheeler motorised transport vehicles to **connect remote villages** with key services and amenities including access to markets, education and health for the overall economic development of the area.
- The sub-scheme will be implemented in 250 blocks in the country on a pilot basis for a period of 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- The **Community Investment Fund (CIF)** provided to Community Based Organization (CBOs) under DAY-NRLM will be utilized to provide **interest free loan** to SHG member for purchase of transport vehicles.

3. Bharat ke Kaushalzaade

- Rural Skills Division, Ministry of Rural Development has organized '**Bharat ke Kaushalzaade**', an event **honouring beneficiaries** of its key skilling programmes i.e. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI), on the eve of Antyodaya Diwas 2017.
- '**Kaushal Panjee**':
 - The event also witnessed the **mobilization platform** launch, branded '**Kaushal Panjee**' (**Skill Register**).
 - It aims to be citizen centric end-to-end solution **to aid mobilization of candidates for RSETIs and DDU-GKY** through Self Help Group members, Gram Panchayat Functionaries, Block Officials, CSCs and directly by the candidate.
 - Kaushal Panjee is connected to the Social Economic Caste Census (SECC 2011) which will help the States plan and target their mobilizations based on the socio-economic profile of households in their State.

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4. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) announced the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), on 25th September 2014.
- DDU-GKY is a part of **the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**, tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the **incomes of rural poor families** and cater to the **career aspirations of rural youth**.
- DDU-GKY is uniquely **focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years** from poor families.
- **Gram Panchayat** will play a key role in generating awareness about the programme, facilitate mobilization of candidates, and assist in job melas and in tracking candidate placements.
- **Mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups** (SC/ST 50%; Minority 15%; Women 33%).
- Guaranteed Placement for at least 75% trained candidates.
- Greater emphasis on projects for poor rural youth in **Jammu and Kashmir (HIMAYAT)**, the **North-East region** and **27 Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) districts (ROSHINI)**.
- It plays an instrumental role in **supporting the social and economic programs of the government** like the Make In India, Digital India, Smart Cities, Start-Up India and Stand-Up India campaigns.

5. Gram Samridhi Evam Swachhata Pakhwada

- In partnership with State Governments and other Departments, **Department of Rural Development** organized **Gram Samridhi Evam Swachhata Pakhwada** from 1st October to 15th October, 2017.
- **Gram Sabhas** were held in nearly all the Gram Panchayats of the Country on 2nd October.
- It is an effort to **prepare the Gram Panchayat Development Plan through extensive community participation** especially of women and youth.

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- The recommendations of this plan will be given top most priority in finalization of **Annual Action Plan** across schemes and programmes of various Ministries and Departments.
- **During this period:**
 - **DISHA Monitoring Portal and Gram Samvaad App** was introduced on 11th October, 2017.
 - *Disha Monitoring Portal* would enable **Members of Parliament to track progress** in implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes in their constituency.
 - *Gram Samvaad Mobile app* allows a citizen to access information on and implementation of Rural Development schemes at Panchayat level.

6. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- PMGSY was launched in year 2000 with an objective to provide single **all-weather road connectivity** to all eligible unconnected rural habitation with a minimum population of 500 in the plains and 250-plus in hill states, tribal districts and desert areas..
- The Union Ministry of Rural Development is nodal implementing authority.
- It is a **100% centrally sponsored scheme** which involves both new construction and upgradation.
- By March 2019 all States and UTs are expected to complete PMGSY-I.

7. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)

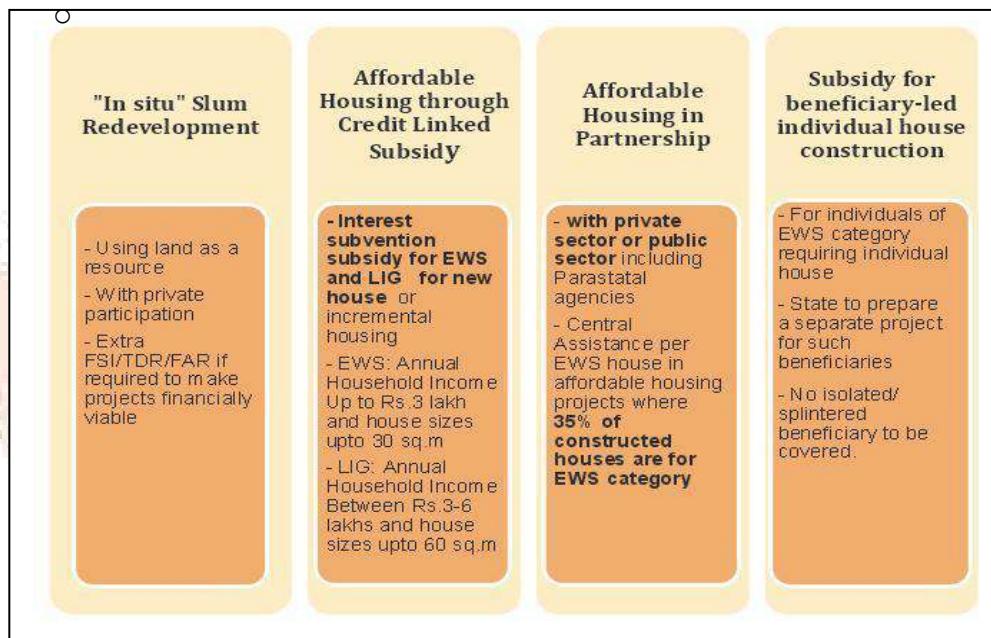
- The government launched “**Housing for All**” in rural areas under which the Government will provide an **environmentally safe and secure pucca house to every rural household by 2022**.
- Named the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)**, in its first phase the target is to complete one crore houses by March 2019.
- Minimum support of nearly Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh to a household is available. There is also a provision of Bank loan upto Rs. 70,000/-, if the beneficiary so desires.
- The **selection of beneficiaries** has been through the **Socio Economic Census 2011** data and validating it through the Gram Sabha.
- The houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana would be allotted to **preferably the female member of the family**.
- The programme provides for **skilling 5 lakh Rural Masons** by 2019.
- A large scale **use of local materials** is envisaged along with a complete home with cooking space, electricity provision, LPG, toilet and bathing area, drinking water etc through convergence.
- The programme uses **ICT and space technology** to further confirm correct selection of beneficiaries and progress of work.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA)

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1. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme envisions Housing for All by 2022.
- The Mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers through following programme verticals:
 - Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource
 - Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker section through credit linked subsidy
 - Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors
 - Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement.



- Beneficiaries include Poor people (BPL), economically weaker section (EWS), low-income groups (LIGs) and Middle Income Groups (MIGs).
- Government will provide subsidy ranging between 1 lakh to 2.30 lakh to people from above categories.
- All 4041 statutory towns as per Census 2011 with focus on 500 Class I cities would be covered in 3 phases.
- **Centre and state will be** funding in the ratio of 75:25 and in case of North Eastern and special category States in the ratio of 90:10.
- The houses will be allocated preferably in the name of Women in the family.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

NOTES

1. Startup India Hub

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry recently launched the **Startup India Virtual Hub**.
- The Hub is an **online platform** for all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover, connect and engage with each other.
- The portal will host Startups, investors, funds, mentors, academia, incubators, accelerators, corporates, Government bodies and more.
- The Hub attempts to **solve the problem of information asymmetry** and lack of access to knowledge, tools, & experts, especially in the nascent ecosystems across **Tier II and III towns**.
- **Startup India Hub comes under Invest India**, the official Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Government of India, mandated to facilitate investments into India.
- Start-up India was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2016 to promote innovation and enhance economic growth and employment opportunities.

2. Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC)

- The **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** has signed an agreement with the Punjab State Council of Science and Technology to establish **India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC programme**.
- **Second agreement** was signed with **Anna University, Chennai** to establish TISC.
- **The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)** is designated as the National Focal Point for the TISC national network.
- CIPAM will also act as the main intermediary between WIPO and TISC host institutions.
- **TISC programme:**
 - WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program provides **innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services**, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create and manage their Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

3. Scheme for IPR Awareness – Creative India; Innovative India

- Taking forward the **National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016**, a 'Scheme for IPR Awareness – Creative India; Innovative India' has been launched by **Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)** under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- The Scheme aims at **raising IPR awareness** amongst students, youth, authors, artists, budding inventors and professionals to inspire them to create, innovate and protect their creations and inventions across India including Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 cities as well as rural areas in the next 3 years.

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

NOTES

4. eBiz project

- eBiz project** was unveiled in 2013 to serve as online, single-point entry for investors looking to set up a business anywhere in the country.
- eBiz is one of the integrated services projects and part of the 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under the National E-Governance Plan (NEGPs) of the Government of India.
- Implementation:** eBiz is being implemented by Infosys Technologies Limited under the guidance and aegis of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The focus of eBiz is to improve the business environment in the country by enabling fast and efficient access to Government-to-Business (G2B) services through an online portal.
- Aim:** This project aims at creating an investor-friendly business environment in India by making all regulatory information easily available to the various stakeholders concerned.

5. Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS)

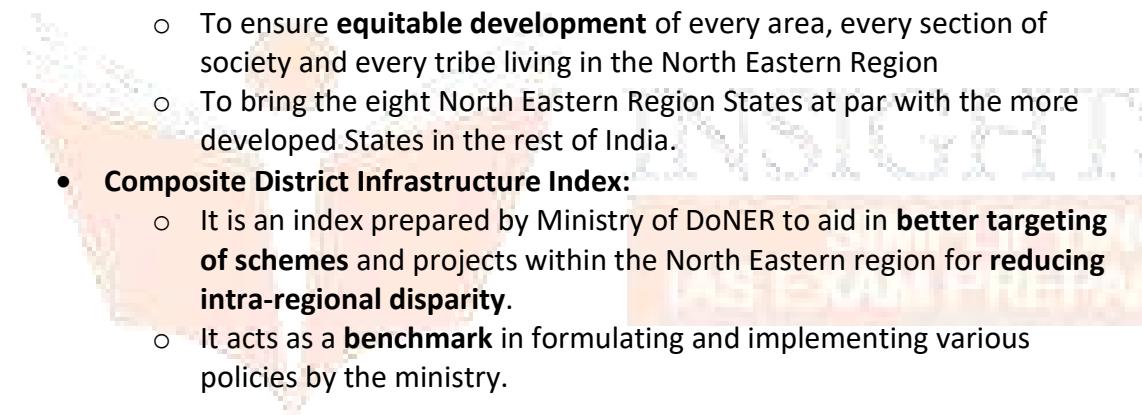
- Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (**MEIS**) under Foreign Trade Policy of India (**FTP 2015-20**) is one of the two schemes introduced in Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015-20.
- MEIS is a major **export promotion scheme** of GOI implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Objective of MEIS is to offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in export of goods/products, which are produced/manufactured in India, especially those having **high export intensity**, employment potential and thereby enhancing India's export competitiveness.
- Incentives under MEIS are available to units located in SEZs also.

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Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)

1. Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

- The Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) launched the “Hill Area Development Programme” (HADP) for Northeast.
- It aims at giving a **focused attention to the lesser developed hilly areas**.
- Due to distinct topography, a **wide gap exists between the hill and valley districts** of Manipur, Tripura and Assam in terms of infrastructure, quality of roads, health and education etc.
- It was found that out of 80 districts of northeast, 3 hilly districts (Tamenglong, Chandel and Churachandpur) of Manipur ranked lowest in the **Composite District Infrastructure Index**.
- The Hill Area Development Programme aims to address these drawbacks with a serious research and deliberation.
- The Programme is aimed at giving a **focused attention to the lesser developed hilly areas** and will be initiated on a pilot basis in the hilly districts of Manipur.
- **The Government will adopt two-fold approach:**
 - To ensure **equitable development** of every area, every section of society and every tribe living in the North Eastern Region
 - To bring the eight North Eastern Region States at par with the more developed States in the rest of India.
- **Composite District Infrastructure Index:**
 - It is an index prepared by Ministry of DoNER to aid in **better targeting of schemes** and projects within the North Eastern region for **reducing intra-regional disparity**.
 - It acts as a **benchmark** in formulating and implementing various policies by the ministry.



NOTES

Ministry of Minority Affairs

1. Jiyo Parsi

- “**Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2**” was recently launched by the government.
- The scheme aims to fulfil the objective of **inclusive growth**.
- Declining population of parsi community in India is a matter of concern.
- Therefore, “**Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-1**” was initiated in 2013 for **containing the declining trend of population of the Parsi community**.
- The main objective of the “**Jiyo Parsi**” scheme is to **reverse the declining trend of Parsi population** by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India.
- The scheme has two components: **Medical Assistance and Advocacy/Counselling**.

2. Nai Roshni Scheme

- NITI Aayog had conducted an **evaluation study on ‘Nai Roshni’**- the scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women in 2015-16.
- The main objective of the study was to assess the **impact of the scheme on minority women** and to identify policy/ programme impediments in implementation of the scheme.
- **Performance of the scheme:**
 - The study indicate that the **programme has been appreciated** by most of the segments of the population of the society and it has **assisted in creating confidence** among minority women and developing leadership spirit in them.
- The scheme **aims to empower and instil confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques** for interacting with Government systems, Banks and other institutions at all levels.
- The scheme is implemented through **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**.
- The scheme is implemented with the involvement of the **Gram Panchayat** at village level and **Local Urban bodies** at the District level.

3. Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres

- Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will provide various **job-oriented skill development courses** and offer **certificate course in Goods and Services Tax accounting/programming** and other related subjects.
- First Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centre was inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.
- Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will be established in 100 Districts of the country.
- The short term courses include certificate course in health services, mobile & laptop repairing, computer hardware & networking, retail management programme, motor driving training, security guard training, courses in housekeeping etc.

4. Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)

- The scheme is a **placement linked skill development** scheme.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs through selected **Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)** all over the country.
- It aims at **upgrading the skills of minority youths** in various **Modular Employable Skills (MES)** depending upon their educational qualification, aptitude and capability, present economic trends and industry readiness.

NOTES

5. USTTAD scheme

- USTTAD stands for **upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development**.
- It was launched by the **Union Ministry of Minority Affairs**.
- The scheme aims at preserving and promoting the rich heritage of the **traditional arts & crafts** of the Minority communities.
- In the light of globalisation & competitive market, these crafts have gradually lost their employability.
- It also envisages at **boosting the skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans** who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.
- The scheme, which will be **funded by the Central Government**, will prepare skilled and unskilled artisans and craftsmen to compete with big companies.

6. Hunar Haat

- The **fourth Hunar Haat exhibition** was recently organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs at India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs **under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)** scheme.
- Hunar Haats have become a successful mission to provide **employment and income generation opportunities** with platforms for marketing the products of master artisans, craftsmen and culinary experts belonging to the minority communities.

7. Nai Manzil Scheme

- Nai Manzil Scheme is an **integrated Education and Livelihood Initiative** for the Minority Communities.
- The scheme aims to benefit the minority youths who are **school-dropouts** or educated in the community education institutions like Madrasas, by providing them an integral input of **formal education (up till Class VIII or X) and skill training along with certification**.
- This will enable them to **seek better employment in the organised sector** and equipping them with better lives.
- The scheme covers the entire country.
- It was launched for the first time **in J&K in 2016**, where girls from minority communities are being imparted three-month skill development training in seven identified sectors relevant to the region.

NOTES**8. Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills (MANAS)**

- MANAS is an innovative **entrepreneurship and skill development programme**.
- MANAS provide an **institutional arrangement** to meet all Skill Development/Up-gradation needs of the Minority communities.
- MANAS comprises of an extensive All India Level, **Training Framework based on Collaboration (PPP mode) with leading and reputed Training Providers** at National/ International level.
- The **National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)** will provide assistance with credit for persons who have undergone training at MANAS and wish to establish their own business or be self employed.

Ministry of Science & Technology**1. Innovate in India (i3)**

- The program named **Innovate in India (i3)** i.e. the **National Biopharma Mission** was recently launched by the government.
- This is the **first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development** in India.
- It aspires to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.
- The **aim of the Mission** is to *“Enable and nurture an ecosystem for developing capabilities in biopharmaceuticals to a globally competitive level over the next decade, and transform the health standards of India’s population through affordable product development”*
- As a flagship program of the Government of India in **collaboration with World Bank**, it promises to boost the growth curve for domestic biopharma in India.
- The Mission to be implemented by **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology.

2. “JIGYASA” – Student-Scientist connect programme

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, has joined hands with **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)** to implement this programme.
- The **focus is on connecting school students and scientists** so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned **research laboratory based learning**.
- The “JIGYASA” would inculcate the **culture of inquisitiveness** on one hand and **scientific temper** on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers.
- The Programme is expected to connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR targeting 100,000 students and nearly 1000 teachers annually.
- The programme will also enable the students and teachers to practically **live the theoretical concepts** taught in science by visiting CSIR laboratories and by

participating in mini-science projects.

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3. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhayay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana

- The government has launched "**Pt Deen Dayal Upadhayay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana**" to formulate and implement appropriate **S&T Interventions for Sustainable Development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand**.
- **Key Facts:**
 - Under the scheme, the **department of science and technology will adopt a few clusters of villages in Uttarakhand** and transform them to become **self-sustainable** in a time bound manner through the tools of Science and Technology (S&T).
 - **Utilise local resources and locally available skill sets** and convert them using science and technology, that substantial value addition takes place in their local produce and services which can sustain the rural population locally.
 - Areas of interventions in these selected clusters would be processing and value addition of milk, honey, mushroom, herbal tea, forest produce, horticulture and local crops, medicinal & aromatic plants and traditional craft and handloom of Uttarakhand.

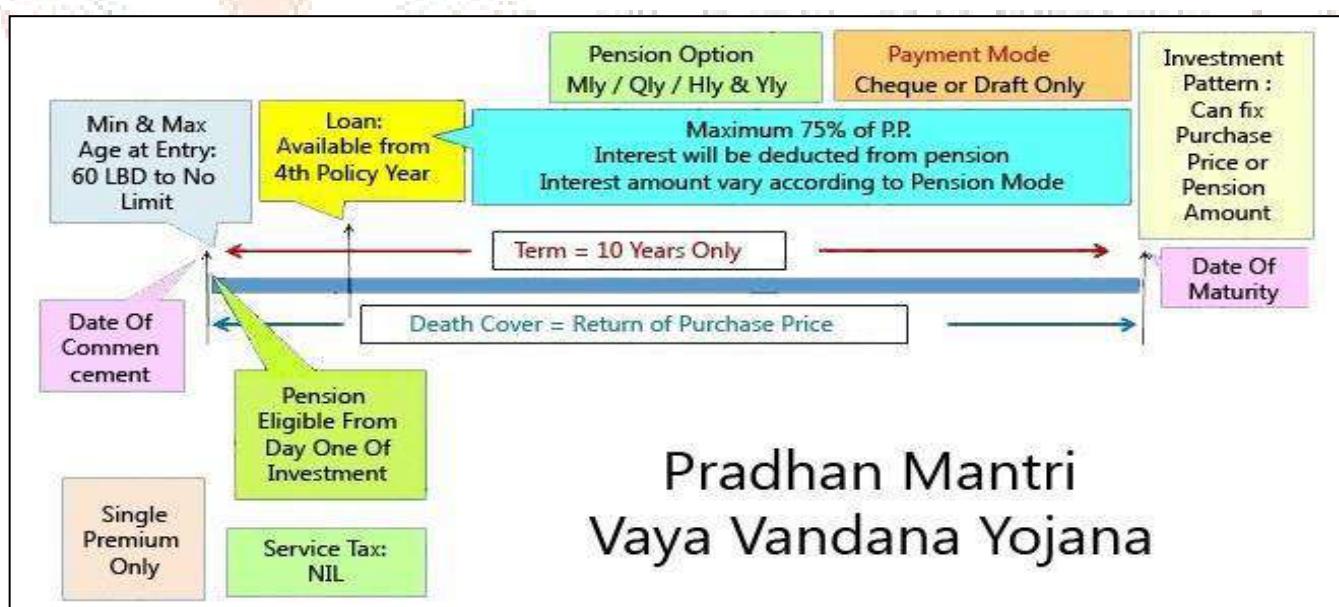
4. Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM)

- Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) – a **nationwide science talent search examination** to give a boost to the learning of science, technology and mathematics among the youth-especially the school students.
- This programme has been organized by eminent scientists and academicians associated with **Vigyan Prasar (VP)** – an autonomous organisation under Department of Science and Technology and National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) of Ministry of Human Resources and Development .

Ministry of Finance

1. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)

- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), is a **pension scheme** exclusively for **senior citizens aged 60 years and above**.
- The Scheme can be **purchased offline as well as online** through **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India which has been given the **sole privilege to operate this Scheme**.
- Scheme provides an assured **return of 8% p.a.** for 10 years.
- **Pension is payable** as per the **frequency of monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly** as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase.
- The scheme is **exempted from Service Tax/ GST**.
- On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, Purchase price along with final pension instalment shall be payable.
- **Loan upto 75% of Purchase Price** shall be allowed after 3 policy years (to meet the liquidity needs). Loan interest shall be recovered from the pension instalments and loan to be recovered from claim proceeds.
- The scheme also allows for **premature exit** for the treatment of any critical/ terminal illness of self or spouse. On such premature exit, 98% of the Purchase Price shall be refunded.
- On death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the Purchase Price shall be paid to the beneficiary.



2. Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme

- The Government announced a few changes in its Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme recently.
- The primary change was the **increase in the limit to 4 kg (from 0.5kg) for individuals, HUF and 20 kg for Trusts**.
- This was probably done to **encourage high net-worth individuals**, rich farmers as well as trusts to invest in these bonds.
- The Government also **introduced flexibility in the scheme** to design and introduce variants to cater to a cross-section of investors.
- SGBs are **government securities** denominated in grams of gold.
- It was first launched under the **gold monetization scheme of 2015**.

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- It is **issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.**
- The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be available both in **demat and paper form.**
- The tenor of the bond is for a **minimum of 8 years** with option to exit in 5th, 6th and 7th years.
- Bonds can be used as **collateral for loans.**
- Tradable through National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- **Fixed Interest rate of 2.5% per annum** payable once in 6 months.
- **Capital Gains Tax exempted** on redemption.
- Investments in such bonds by banks will be counted in calculation in **SLR NOTES (Statutory Liquidity Ratio).**

3. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

- The government has launched promotion campaigns for Mudra Yojana.
- **The promotion campaigns are launched by the department of financial services and state level banking committee (SLBC).**
- The PMMY Scheme was launched in April, 2015. The scheme's objective is to **refinance collateral-free loans** given by the lenders to small borrowers.
- The scheme, which has a corpus of Rs 20,000 crore, can lend between Rs 50,000 and Rs 10 lakh to small entrepreneurs.
- **Banks and MFIs can draw refinance under the MUDRA Scheme** after becoming member-lending institutions of MUDRA.
- Under the scheme, by floating **MUDRA bank**, the Centre has ensured credit flow to SMEs sector and has also identified NBFCs as a good fit to reach out to them.
- People will now be able to get **refinance at subsidised rate** and it would be passed on to the SMEs. Moreover, it would **enable SMEs to expand their activities.**
- **MUDRA cards** are the unique feature of this scheme. The card permits access to working capital through ATMs and card machines.
- **Three types of loans under PMMY:**
 - Shishu (up to Rs.50,000).
 - Kishore (from Rs.50,001 to Rs.5 lakh).
 - Tarun (from Rs.500,001 to Rs.10,00,000).

4. Public Finance Management System (PFMS)

- PFMS is an **electronic fund tracking mechanism** which compiles, collates and makes available in real-time the information on resource availability and utilisation across all government schemes.
- It is a web-based software application developed and implemented by the **Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA).**
- **The government has made it mandatory for all Central Sector Schemes.** It also includes **centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as other expenditures including the Finance Commission Grants.**
- The **actual status of utilization of funds** by the multiple implementing agencies of the Central and the State Governments can be known.

- There will not be much paper work and it would go a long way in monitoring and tracking of any unnecessary parking of funds by the implementing agencies.
- PFMS will progress towards a **Government wide Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS)** – as a comprehensive Payment, Receipt and Accounting System.
- It would also ensure just in time transfer of funds.
- **Background:**
 - Public Financial Management System (PFMS) initially started as **Central Plan Scheme Monitoring System (CPSMS)** of the Planning Commission in 2008-09 as a pilot in four States.

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Ministry of Heavy Industries

1. FAME India Scheme

- The **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) India** was launched in 2015 under the **National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM)**.
- It aims at promoting **eco-friendly vehicles** in the country.
- It is being administered by the **Heavy Industries Ministry**.
- It is intended to support the **hybrid/electric vehicles** market development and its manufacturing eco-system.
- The scheme has **four focus areas**, technology development, demand creation, pilot projects and charging infrastructure.
- It aims at incentivising all vehicle segments, including two-wheelers, three wheeler auto, passenger four-wheeler vehicle, light commercial vehicles and buses.

Ministry of Communications

NOTES

1. BharatNet Project

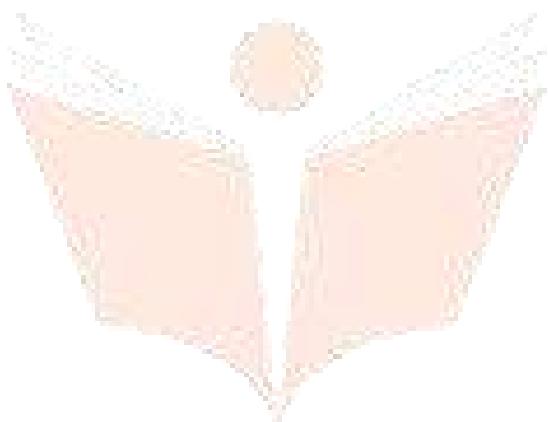
- The Union Cabinet has approved the second phase of the BharatNet project that forms the backbone for the government's **Digital India initiative**.
- Bharat Net Project is the new brand name of **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)** which was launched in October, 2011 to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats.
- BharatNet is Centre's **rural internet connectivity programme** which is implemented by **Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)**.
- It is **world's largest rural broadband connectivity** programme using Optical fibre.
- It seeks to connect all of India's households, particularly the rural areas, through broadband connectivity.
- The project is being funded by **Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.

2. Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana

- In a bid to provide **affordable life insurance services to people**, particularly those living in **rural areas** of the country, the government has launched **Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana** and **expanded the coverage of Postal Life Insurance (PLI)**.
- With this, apart from government employees, **PLI will now cover professionals also**.
- Under the Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, *at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country to cover all households of identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each.*
- Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.
- Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI), introduced on March 24, 1995 on **the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee**, provides insurance cover to people residing in rural areas, especially weaker sections and women living in rural areas.
- **Postal Life Insurance:**
 - Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced on 1st February 1884.
 - In the beginning, the upper limit of life insurance was only Rs 4000, which has now increased to Rs 50 lakh.
 - It covers employees of Central and state governments, Central and state public sector undertakings, universities, government-aided educational institutions, nationalized banks, local bodies, autonomous bodies, joint ventures having a minimum of 10% Govt./PSU stake, credit co-operative societies etc.
 - PLI also extends the facility of insurance to the **officers and staff of the Defence services and para-military forces**.
 - Apart from single insurance policies, Postal Life Insurance also manages a **group insurance** scheme for the extra departmental employees (Gramin Dak Sevaks) of the Department of Posts.

NOTES**3. Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana**

- The government has launched a **Pan India scholarship programme** for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to **increase the reach of Philately**.
- Under the scheme of **SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby)**, it is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.
- To avail this scholarship, a child must be a student of a recognized school within India and the concerned school should have a Philately Club and the candidate should be a member of the Club.
- In case the school Philately Club hasn't been established a student having his own Philately Deposit Account will also be considered.



INSIGHT
SIMPLIFICATION
IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

NOTES

1. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- Under the scheme farmers will have to pay a uniform premium of **2% for all kharif crops** and **1.5% for all Rabi crops**.
- For annual **commercial and horticultural crops**, farmers will have to pay a **premium of 5 %**.
- The **remaining share** of the premium will be borne equally by the Centre and the respective state governments.
- The PMFBY **replaces two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme as well as the Modified NAIS**.
- Under PMFBY, there will **no upper limit on government subsidy** and even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the government.
- Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers.
- It is compulsory for farmers availing crop loans for notified crops in notified areas and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.
- **Use of technology** will be encouraged to a great extent.
- **Smart phones** will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to **reduce the delays** in claim payment to farmers.
- **Remote sensing** will be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments.
- Farm level assessment for **localised calamities** including hailstorms, unseasonal rains, landslides and inundation.

2. Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM)

- Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) was started in the year 2014-15 under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology.
- The objective is to **promote agricultural mechanisation** among **small and marginal farmers** and in the areas where the level of mechanisation is very low.
- Farm mechanisation is also promoted through various other schemes such as **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**, **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**, **National Horticulture Mission (NHM)**, and **National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP)** etc.
- SMAM includes the traditional component of training, testing, demonstration of agricultural machinery and procurement subsidy.
- It also includes **Farm Machinery Banks** for Custom Hiring and **Hi-Tech High Productive Equipments Centres** on custom hiring model for enhancing productivity and creating ownership of appropriate farm equipments among small & marginal farmers.

3. Pashu Sanjivni

- Pashu Sanjivni component under National Mission on Bovine Productivity scheme was initiated by the Government in November 2016.

- Under the scheme **milk producing animals have been identified** and their data has been uploaded on **Information Network on Animal Health and Productivity (INAPH) data base**.
- Under the scheme, 88 million milk producing animals out of 300 million cattle and buffaloes are being identified using **polyurethane tags** with 12 digit unique identification (UID) number.
- The polyurethane tags, which will last for few years, will be affixed by the technicians using a special applicator.
- The purpose of the exercise is to **improve vaccination practices**, and ensure that scientific interventions can be made to **improve both breeding and milk production**.
- The **Pashu Sanjivni** is crucial for **control and spread of animal diseases**, scientific management of animals, enhanced production and productivity, improvement in quality of livestock & livestock products, increase in trade of livestock and livestock products by meeting out sanitary and phtyosanitary issues.
- **Components under National Mission on Bovine Productivity:**
 - **Pashu Sanjivni.**
 - **Advance reproductive Technique.**
 - **Creation of E Pashu Haat Portal:** Linking farmers and breeders of indigenous breeds
 - **Establishment of National Bovine Genomic Centre for Indigenous Breeds (NBGC-IB):** For enhancing milk production and productivity through genomic selection among indigenous breeds.

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4. e-pashuhaar portal

- e-pashuhaar portal was launched the **National Mission on Bovine Productivity to connect farmers and breeders of bovine animals**.
- The Centre through the portal will provide **all details at a single platform**, including availability of bovine germplasm.
- The portal will also connect the farmers with the milk cooperatives in the country.

5. Embryo Transfer Technology in Bovine breeding

- **Department of Animal husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries** in co-operation with 12 States has undertaken a **Mass Embryo Transfer programme** in Indigenous Breeds under the scheme, **National Mission on Bovine Productivity**.
- The programme is implemented with the objective of **conservation and development of indigenous breeds** under Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
- Through the use of Embryo Transfer Technology,
 - A farmer can get a 5-6 fold increase in number of offsprings,
 - The calves so born will be of high genetic merit and
 - The offsprings born will be free from diseases.
- **Embryo transfer technology (ETT):**
 - ETT is one of the reproductive biotechnologies where male and female genetic material can be utilized for faster improvement of livestock.

- It has revolutionized breeding strategies in Bovines as tool to **optimize genetic improvement** in cattle.

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6. Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- The “Rashtriya Gokul Mission” aims to **conserve and develop indigenous breeds** in a focused and scientific manner.
- It is under **National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development**.
- **Objectives :**
 - Development and conservation of indigenous breeds;
 - Undertake **breed improvement programme** for indigenous cattle breeds so as to improve the genetic makeup and increase the stock;
 - **Enhance milk production** and productivity;
 - Distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.
- The Mission will be implemented through the **State Implementing Agency (SIA viz Livestock Development Boards)**.
- Establishment of Integrated Indigenous Cattle Centres viz “**Gokul Gram**”.

7. Soil Health Card Scheme

- **100 million Soil Health Cards are distributed to farmers in the first phase (2015-2017).**
- It is a scheme to provide every farmer a Soil Health Card in a Mission mode.
- The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments for setting up **Soil Testing Laboratories** for issuing Soil Health Cards to farmers.
- The scheme will be implemented in all states to promote soil testing services, issue of soil health cards and development of nutrient management practices.
- State Governments have adopted innovative practices like involvement of agricultural students, NGOs and private sector in soil testing, determining average soil health of villages, etc., to issue Soil Health Cards.
- The scheme assumes importance as the **imbalanced application of fertilisers** have caused deficiency of primary nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), secondary nutrients (such as sulphur), and micro-nutrients (boron, zinc, copper etc.) in most parts of country.
- **Soil Health Card mobile App** has been launched to help the farmers.
- **GPS based soil sample collection** has been made compulsory.
- **Online registration of samples** and test results are uploaded on the **National Portal of the Soil Health Card**.
- A farm will get the soil card once in every 3 years.

8. Zero Hunger Programme

- India's ambitious Zero Hunger Programme through **interventions in farm sector** was launched on occasion of **World Food Day (October 16)** with focus on **agriculture, nutrition and health**.
- This is a dedicated farm-based programme **in sync with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end hunger by 2030**.
- The Programme is initiated by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** in association with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the **M S Swaminathan Research Foundation** and the **Biotechnology Industry**

Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

- The programme consists of organisations of farming system for nutrition, setting up **genetic gardens** for bio-fortified plants and initiation of '**Zero Hunger**' training.
- The Programme initially was launched in three districts – Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Koraput (Odisha) and Thane (Maharashtra). More districts will be covered in future.
- These three districts will act as model of integrated approach to deal with hunger and malnutrition by adopting suitable agricultural or horticultural practices.

NOTES**9. Project CHAMAN**

- To develop India's horticulture sector and help states identify suitable areas and crop types, the agriculture ministry is working on a project which **uses satellites and remote sensing technology**. The project is known as **CHAMAN**.
- CHAMAN or **Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management** is being implemented by the Delhi-based **Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre**.
- Under the project, the ministry will use **remote sensing and geoinformatics data** to integrate information on weather, soil, land-use, and crop mapping to prepare horticulture development plans.
- The idea is to use space technology to **identify crops suitable to different areas** and raise production of horticulture crops.
- The project will help states develop **horticulture clusters** and related infrastructure like cold chains.
- Currently, India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, and a top producer of crops like banana, mango and lemons.
- Various programmes of the Ministry such as PMFBY, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card, Rashtriya KrishiVikasYojana (RKVY) etc. are using remote sensing, GIS and GPS tools for their effective implementation.

10. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR)

- The government has approved **continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (**RKVY-RAFTAAR**) for three years i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- The objective is to **make farming remunerative economic activity** by strengthening farmer's effort, risk mitigation and promoting agribusiness entrepreneurship.
- The scheme will incentivize states to enhance more allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
- The financial allocation will be provided to states as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States).
- The **sub-schemes** includes:
 - Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI),

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- Crop Diversification Program (CDP),
- Reclamation of Problem Soil (RPS),
- Foot & Mouth Disease – Control Program (FMD-CP),
- Saffron Mission,
- Accelerated Fodder Development Programme (AFDP).
- **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):**
 - RKVY was launched during **2007-08** to **achieve 4% annual growth in agricultural** sector by ensuring holistic development.
 - The scheme is under implementation from XI Five Year Plan.
 - It **encouraged decentralized planning** for agriculture and allied sectors through preparation of **District Agriculture Plans (DAPs)** and **State Agriculture Plan (SAP)** based on agro-climatic conditions, availability of appropriate technology and natural resources to ensure accommodation of local needs, cropping pattern, priorities etc.

11. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- The **primary objectives** of PMKSY are to **attract investments** in irrigation system at field level, develop and **expand cultivable land** in the country, **minimize wastage of water**, **enhance crop per drop** by implementing **water-saving technologies** and precision irrigation.
- The goal is to open the doors for **optimal water budgeting** in all sectors.
- **Tagline for PMKSY is "more crop per drop".**
- PMKSY has been conceived **amalgamating ongoing schemes:**
 - **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)**
 - **Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)**
 - **On Farm Water Management (OFWM)**
- States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plan (DIP) and State Irrigation Plan (SIP).
- **PMKSY funds** would be given to states as 75 per cent grant by the central government and the remaining 25 per cent share is to be borne by the state government. But, for the north-eastern region and hilly states, the funding pattern would be 90:10.
- **Har Khet ko Pani:**
 - This component mainly focuses on creation of **new water sources** through minor irrigation that includes both surface and groundwater.
 - It also encompasses the **repair, restoration and renovation** of water bodies;
 - Strengthening carrying capacity of **traditional water sources**,
 - Construction of **rain water harvesting** structures under its Jal Sanchay sub-component.

12. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

- It has been formulated to promote **Organic Farming**.
- The objective is to promote eco-friendly concept of cultivation **reducing the dependency on agro-chemicals and fertilizers** and to optimally utilize the locally available natural resources for input production.
- It will be implemented in a **cluster based approach** and farmers will be

funded to meet the expenditure from farm to market.

- Government is promoting organic farming through various schemes/programmes under:
 - **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/ Paramapragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY),**
 - **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY),**
 - **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH),**
 - **National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP),**
 - **Network Project on Organic Farming of ICAR.**

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13. National Agriculture Market (eNAM)

- National Agriculture Market portal eNAM is to **connect e-mandis in several States.**
- eNAM is an **online inter-connectivity of e-mandis**, aimed at ushering agriculture marketing reforms to enable farmers to get better price of their produce.
- Funded by **Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF)** which is set up through the **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**.
- Farmers can showcase their produce online from their nearest market and traders can quote price from anywhere.
- It will result in increased numbers of traders and greater competition. It will also ensure **open price discovery** and better returns to farmers.
- To integrate a wholesale mandis across the country with the online platform, the state governments have to amend their **Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act**.

14. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme launched in the year 2016 to **promote agricultural education** under which 100 centres are being opened.
- Opening of new Universities and Colleges are being done to promote agriculture education.

15. e-Krishi Samvad

- e-Krishi Samvad is **internet-based interface** and is a unique platform that will **provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers** and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.
- With this, people can get the appropriate solutions from the subject matter specialists and institutes through web or SMS.
- Stakeholders can upload photographs related to diseases of the crops, animals or fishes for diagnostics and remedial measures instantly from the specialists.

Ministry of Human Resource Development

NOTES

1. Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat

- 'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' Programme, an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students was recently launched.
- The programme will provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups and children of different abilities.
- **Objective of the programme:** Making students, teachers and parents aware about the importance of good health and fitness and encouraging 60 minutes of play each day is an objective of the programme.
- **Other objectives:**
 - Imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics amongst students.
 - Bring back the childhood amongst children and make physical activity and recreational games an integral part of learning process.
 - Motivate potentially outstanding performers in various games and sports of excellence, using technology for data capture and analytics, and giving access to schools, parents and teachers are also the objectives of the programmes.

2. Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh

- The Union Cabinet approved for creation of a non-lapsable pool in the Public Account for secondary and higher education known as "Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh" (MUSK).
- All proceeds of "Secondary and Higher Education Cess" will be credited to MUSK.
- The funds arising from the MUSK would be utilized for schemes in the education sector which would be available for the benefit of students of secondary and higher education, all over the country.
- The fund would be operationalised as per the present arrangements under Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) wherein the proceeds of cess are used for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Schemes of the Department of School Education & Literacy.
- The MUSK would be maintained as a Reserve Fund in the non-interest bearing section of the Public Accounts of India.

3. Diksha Portal

- The government has launched Diksha Portal "diksha.gov.in" – National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers.
- Through this portal, all teachers across the nation will be equipped with advanced digital technology.
- Diksha portal tagline "National Digital Infrastructures for Our Teacher Our Heroes".
- The portal will cover the whole teacher's life cycle – from the time they were enrolled as student teachers in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to after they retire as teachers.
- Teacher can learn and train themselves for which assessment resources will

be available.

- **Benefits of this portal:**

- It will help teachers **boost their teaching skills** and create their own profile with their skills and knowledge.
- Diksha portal will help in **improving the quality of education** with the use of latest technologies.
- Not only the government, private institutes and NGO's are also allowed to participate in the Diksha initiative.

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4. National Testing Agency (NTA)

- The Union Cabinet has approved creation of **National Testing Agency (NTA)** as a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It is an autonomous and self-sustained premier **testing organization** to conduct **entrance examinations for higher educational institutions**.
- **Features:**
 - The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE. Other examinations will be taken up gradually after NTA is fully geared up.
 - The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year.
 - In order to serve the requirements of the rural students, it would locate the centres at sub-district/district level
- **Constitution:**
 - NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.
 - The CEO will be the Director General to be appointed by the Government.
 - There will be a Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.
 - The Director General will be assisted by 9 verticals headed by academicians/ experts.
- **Finances:**
 - NTA will be given a one-time grant of Rs.25 crore from the Government of India to start its operation in the first year. Thereafter, it will be financially self-sustainable.

5. Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA)

- HEFA was set in September 2016 to provide **financial assistance to institutes of higher education**.
- It is setup as a **Special Purpose Vehicle** with a public sector bank (Canara Bank).
- It would be jointly funded by the promoter/bank and the MHRD with an authorised capital of ₹2,000 crore. Government equity in it is Rs.1000 crore.
- It is **not-for-profit organisation** that will leverage funds from market and supplement them with donations and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.
- RBI also has granted license under RBI Act for HEFA to operate as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in November 2017.

NOTES

6. Maitreyi Yatra

- The Maitreyi Yatra is a **student exchange programme** for school children as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the J&K government and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The objective of this programme is to **integrate the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the country** and to promote brotherhood and harmony.
- It provides a good opportunity for the youth of J&K to be acquainted with culture, language and development story of different parts of the country.
- The Student Exchange Programme is organized by Ministry of Human Resource development.

7. Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan

- Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA) was launched by the **Union Ministry for Human Resource Development (HRD)** to make people aware about cashless economic system.
- **Young students and faculty members** will be roped to encourage, create awareness and motivate all people to use digitally enabled cashless economic system.
- For active participation of youth and faculty, HRD Minister also **launched a webpage** where students can register themselves.
- **NCC/NSS volunteers** to spread awareness about these digital modes of transactions to shopkeepers, vendors in nearest market place.

8. ShaGun

- The government has launched a dedicated **web portal 'ShaGun'** for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- 'ShaGun' aims to capture and showcase innovations and progress in Elementary Education sector of India by continuous monitoring of the flagship scheme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- ShaGun, which has been coined from the words '**Shala**' meaning Schools and '**Gunvatta**' meaning Quality, has been developed with a twin track approach:
 - First, is the Repository that focuses on **positive stories and developments** in the field of School Education.
 - Secondly, it has an **online monitoring module** to measure state-level performance and progress against key educational indicators.

9. UDAAN (Giving Wings to Girl Students)

- This project aims at **addressing the lower enrolment of girls in engineering colleges/IITs** and technological institutions.
- It involves training 1000 selected girl students to compete for admission at premier Engineering colleges in India by providing **course in an online and offline format**.
- The girl students enrolled in classes XI of kendriya vidyalayas/ Navoday Vidyalays/other Government run Schools affiliated to any Board in India are eligible for the Scheme.

10. SWAYAM

- It stands for **Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds**.
- It is the Indian electronic **e-education platform** which proposes to offer courses from the high school stage to Post-Graduate stage in an interactive electronic platform.
- It aims to **bridge the digital divide** for students in e-education.

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11. Impacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT)-India

- The IMPRINT-India is aimed at **developing a roadmap for research** to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India.
- It is a **joint initiative of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**.
- Under the 'Imprint India' initiative, an **Inter-Ministerial Group** with Rs. 1000 crore corpus was formed.
- The ministerial group included the **Ministry of HRD, the Ministry of Defence, the Dept. of Science & Technology, the Dept. of Biotechnology, and the Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **10 Focus areas are:** Health care, information and communication technology, energy, sustainable habitat, nano-technology hardware, water resources and river systems, advanced materials, manufacturing, security and defence, and environmental science and climate change.



Ministry of Home Affairs

NOTES

1. YUVA – a skill development programme

- The **YUVA** – a skill development programme and an initiative by Delhi Police under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana was recently launched.
- The ‘**YUVA**’ initiative by Delhi Police aims to connect with youth by upgrading their skill as per their competencies.
- It will help them to get a **gainful employment** under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna under the Ministry of Skill Development.
- Delhi Police has tied up with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for providing mass job linked skill training for the selected youth.
- National Skill Development Corporation shall be providing skill training to the youth under ‘Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna’ (PMKSY) and CII will provide job linked training through its Sector Skill Councils who are connected to industry and thereby provide job guarantee.

2. National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH)

- The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) observed the **Communal Harmony Campaign** and Fund Raising Week from November 19-25, 2017.
- The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) is an autonomous organisation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ***It organises the Communal Harmony Campaign*** coinciding with the Qaumi Ekta Week and also observes the Communal Harmony Flag Day.
- The Foundation promotes Communal Harmony and strengthens National Integration.
- ***Under its Project ‘Assist’,*** the NFCH also provides financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation of children rendered orphan or destitute in communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence.

3. Bharat Ke Veer

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched **web portal and mobile application named “Bharat ke Veer”** to enable **people to contribute towards family of martyrs from central paramilitary forces.**
- This domain allows anyone to financially support the bravehearts of his choice or towards the “Bharat Ke Veer” corpus.
- The amount so donated will be credited to the account of ‘Next of Kin’ of those Central Armed Police Force/Central Para Military Force soldiers.
- To ensure maximum coverage, **a cap of 15 lakh rupees** is imposed and the donors would be alerted if the amount exceeds, so that they can choose to divert part of the donation to another braveheart account or to the “Bharat Ke Veer” corpus.
- “Bharat Ke Veer” corpus would be managed by a committee made up of eminent persons of repute and senior Government officials, who would decide to disburse the fund equitably to the braveheart’s family on need basis.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

NOTES

1. FASTags for e-tolling

- The **National Highways Authority of India** has come out with two mobile apps – **MyFASTag** and **FASTag Partner** – as part of its efforts to facilitate availability of the tag towards electronic toll payment.
- **FASTag** is a device that **uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology** for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it.
- It is affixed on the windscreen of vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas without waiting.
- It helps **quicken passage through toll barriers** and helps avoid use of cash.
- **RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Tag):**
 - RFID tagging is an ID system that uses **small radio frequency identification devices** for identification and tracking purposes.
 - An RFID tagging system includes the tag itself, a read/write device, and a host system application for data collection, processing, and transmission.
 - RFID tags that contain their own power source are known as **active tags**.
 - Those without a power source are known as **passive tags**. A passive tag is briefly activated by the radio frequency (RF) scan of the reader.
 - **Jawaharlal Nehru Port** is the first port in the country to implement logistics data tagging of containers.

2. BharatMala Project

- Bharatmala is a name given to **road and highways project** of Government of India.
- The total investment for the Bharatmala plan is estimated at Rs10 trillion, which is the **largest ever outlay for a government road construction scheme**.
- The BharatMala project will include **economic corridors** (9,000 km), **inter-corridor and feeder route** (6,000 km), **national corridors efficiency improvement** (5,000 km), **border roads and international connectivity** (2,000 km), **coastal roads and port connectivity** (2,000 km), **Greenfield expressways** (800 km) and remaining road projects of 10,000 km under National Highways Development Project.
- Bharat Mala will provide **easier access to border areas for armed forces** and boost trade via the land route.
- Roads will be built along borders with Bhutan and Nepal.
- Road connectivity to small industries will be ensured and manufacturing centres will be connected with national highways.
- The project will be executed through Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), NHAI, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and State Public Works Department (PWDs).
- The Centre has set a target for completion of projects in next five years.
- Bharatmala is the largest highways project after the National Highways Development Programme.

3. National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC)

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- The **National Highways Authority of India** has created a National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC) for **attracting domestic and foreign investment** for highways projects.
- The cell will focus on engaging with global institution investors, construction companies, developers and fund managers for building investor participation in road infrastructure projects.
- The NHIPC will be working in close co-ordination with various connected Ministries and Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Apex Business Chambers like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, and InvestIndia etc.
- NHIPC will also work in close co-ordination with Foreign Embassies and Missions in India and Indian Embassies and Missions situated in foreign countries.

4. Vahan and Sarathi

- VAHAN and SARATHI are **e-governance initiative of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- ‘Vahan’ is the **national vehicle registry**, which intends to collate all the information available with road transport authorities for easy access by both citizens and regulators.
- **Driving Licence and related data** are automated through a separate application called ‘Sarathi’.
- This will facilitate **uniformity of the process** across the country and bring harmony of the registration and licensing process.

5. Zojila Pass tunnel

- The government has approved the construction of **Asia’s longest bi-directional Zojila Pass tunnel**.
- It is a 14.2-km long tunnel project in **Jammu and Kashmir** to provide all-weather connectivity between **Srinagar, Kargil and Leh**, which remains cut-off from the rest of India during winters due to heavy snowfall.
- Zojila pass is situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet on **Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway**.
- The project will be implemented by the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRT&H) through the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)**.
- The project would enhance the safety of travellers crossing Zojila Pass and reduce the travel time from 3.5 hours to 15 minutes.



6. Setu Bharatam

- Setu Bharatam Project is to **make all national highways free of railway crossings by 2019**.
- Around 1,500 bridges that are over 50 to 60 years old or of the British era will be overhauled and will be rebuilt.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries

NOTES

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

- Government of India (GOI) has approved a new Central Sector Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)
- It is for the period of **2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.**
- The objective of PMKSY is **to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.**
- The implementation of PMKSY will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management, better prices to farmers, employment opportunities especially in the rural areas and reducing wastage of agricultural produce.
- **PMKSY is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry** like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc. and also new schemes like Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

1. Swachh Bharat Mission

- SBM was launched in October 2014 with an aim to **achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019.**
- The SBM consists of **two sub-missions:**
 - Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation) in rural areas;
 - Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) implemented by Ministries of Urban Development in urban areas.
- The goal includes the **elimination of open defecation**, conversion of insanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, eradicating of manual scavenging and Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM).
- It also seeks to **generate awareness** to motivate communities to adopt sustainable sanitation practices, and encourage the use of appropriate technologies for sanitation.
- The mission has led to doubling of sanitation coverage from 38.70% to 78.98% since its launch.
- The mission will also contribute to India reaching **Sustainable Development Goal Number 6 (SDG 6).**
- **Arunachal Pradesh** was officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) state.
- It is **second State from Northeast**, after Sikkim and **overall fifth state** after Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Haryana to be declared ODF state.

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2. Call Swachh Bharat toilets 'Izzat Ghar': Centre to states

- Every toilet constructed across the country under the Swachh Bharat Mission could now be called '**Izzat Ghar**', or something equivalent in a local language that means **house of dignity**, following a directive from the Centre to the states.
- The Centre has written to all states in this regard, advising Hindi-speaking states to call a toilet an 'Izzat Ghar' while urging other states to come up with other terms in the regional languages with the same meaning.
- This move aims to instil a sense of dignity and pride in the entire family for their toilet, and will also have a positive impact on usage.

3. Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign

- The Union Government launched 'Swachhta Hi Seva' (cleanliness is service), a nation-wide fortnight-long sanitation campaign to **highlight the cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- The campaign is being **coordinated by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**, the convening Ministry for the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Its objective is to **mobilise people and reinforce jan aandolan (mass movement) for sanitation**.
- There will be targeted cleaning of public and tourist places.
- **Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai has been adjudged the cleanest iconic place in the country under Swachhta Hi Seva programme.**
 - The temple earned the top slot from among 10 iconic places selected under the Swachh Bharath Mission in the country.

4. Swachh Shakti 2018

- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in association with **Uttar Pradesh** Government organized Swachh Shakti 2018.
- In Swachh Shakti 2018, 8000 women sarpanches, 3000 women Swachhagrahis and women champions from across country were **recognised for their outstanding contribution towards making Swachh Bharat**.
- The Swachh Shakti initiative was **launched by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in 2017** to recognise and felicitate women sarpanches, women Swachhagrahis and women champions for their contribution towards Swachh Bharat.
- This year, Uttar Pradesh had hosted Swachh Shakti 2018.

5. Swachh Iconic Places (SIP)

- Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Swachh Iconic Places is now in its **second phase**.
- SIP is a collaborative project with **three other central Ministries: Urban Development, Culture, Tourism**; all levels in the concerned States and more importantly, Public Sector and Private Companies as partners.
- **Ten New Iconic sites** identified under Phase II are: 1. Gangotri, 2. Yamunotri, 3. Mahakaleshwar Temple, 4. Charminar, 5. Church and Convent of St. Francis

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of Assissi, 6. Kalady, 7. Gomateshwara, 8. Baijnath Dham, 9. Gaya Tirth and 10. Somnath temple.

- **Phase I iconic places** are: 1. Ajmer Sharif Dargah, 2. CST Mumbai, 3. Golden Temple, 4. Kamakhya Temple, 5. Maikarnika Ghat, 6. Meenakshi Temple, 7. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, 8. Shree Jagannath Temple, 9. The Taj Mahal and 10. Tirupati Temple.

6. National Rural Drinking Water Programme

- The Union Cabinet has accorded its approval for **continuation and restructuring of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)**.
- The restructuring will make the programme flexible, result-oriented, competitive, and will enable the Ministry reach the goal of increasing coverage of sustainable Piped Water Supply.
- NRDWP is to be continued **co-terminus with the 14th Finance Commission cycle** till March 2020.
- With the restructuring of the NRDWP, there will be **2% earmarking of funds for Japanese Encephalitis (JE) /Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) affected areas**.
- A new Sub-programme under NRDWP viz. **National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM)** which has been started by the Ministry in February 2017 will address the urgent need for providing clean drinking water in about **28000 Arsenic & Fluoride affected habitations**.
- **Background:**
 - The NRDWP was started in 2009, with a major emphasis on ensuring sustainability of water availability in terms of potability, adequacy, convenience, affordability and equity.
 - NRDWP is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 50: 50 funds sharing** between the Centre and the States.
 - **The aim and objective** of NRDWP is to provide every rural person with adequate safe water for drinking, cooking and other basic domestic needs on a sustainable basis.

7. Ganga Gram Project

- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched the **Ganga Gram Project under the Namami Gange Programme**, for holistic **sanitation development in villages on the banks of River Ganga**.
- These villages will set the bench mark of cleanliness and integrated effort of development.
- These will be converted into Ganga Grams by 31st December 2018.
- The objectives of Ganga Gram Project include **solid and liquid waste management**, renovation of ponds and water resources, water conservation projects, organic farming, horticulture, and promotion of medicinal plants.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

NOTES

1. LPG Panchayat

- The Central government has launched a **country-wide LPG Panchayat as a backup to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** to distribute LPG connections among the rural areas where conventional fuel is used for domestic purposes.
- The LPG Panchayat is an **interactive communication platform aimed at educating rural LPG users about proper safety precautions to be taken while using LPG**, its benefit to the environment, its effect on women empowerment and health.
- The government aims to reach the doorsteps of **poor and under-privileged women** to educate them about the safety and efficiency on usage of LPG connections.
- **One lakh LPG Panchayats** would be activated across the country under the scheme during the next one and a half years.
- The idea of this platform is to trigger a discussion through **sharing of personal experiences** on the benefits of use of clean fuel compared to traditional fuels like cowdung.

2. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

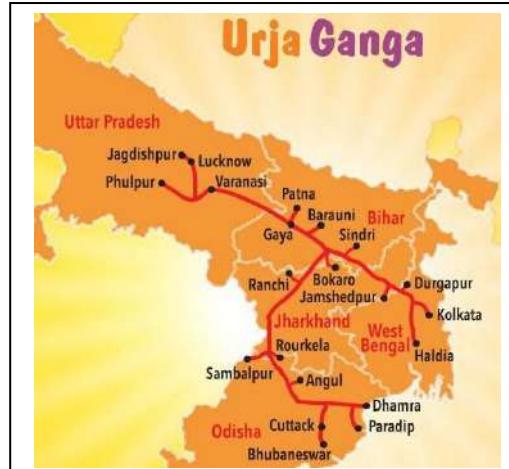
- Under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**, Rs.8,000 crore has been earmarked for providing **50 million LPG connections to BPL households**.
- An **adult woman member of a BPL family** identified through the **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)** is given a **deposit-free LPG connection** with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre.
- Eligible households will be identified in consultation with state governments and Union territories.
- The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- This is the **first time** in the history of the country that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas **implementing welfare scheme** benefitting crores of women belonging to the poorest households.

3. Start-up Sangam initiative

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Start-up Sangam initiative.
- It aims to **develop new business models**, marketing plans, technology and innovations **in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups**.
- A **corpus of 320 crore** has been put together by contribution of various PSUs like - India Oil Corporation, ONGC, and Engineers India etc.
- The selected start-ups will work in various energy fields such as converting **waste plastics to petroleum fuels, solar stove, multipurpose fuel from agricultural waste biomass and leak detectors for liquefied natural gas (LNG) cylinders** etc.
- It is expected to **reduce fuel import dependence** through innovations in alternative fuels.

4. Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga

- The **gas pipeline project** aims to provide **piped cooking gas to residents of Varanasi** and later to millions of people in states like **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha**.
- The project **originates at Jagdishpur** (Uttar Pradesh).
- The main trunk of pipeline ends to Haldia (West Bengal) and Dhamra (Odisha).
- The project is being implemented by **state-run gas utility GAIL**.



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5. Saksham-2018

- Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav)** is an annual flagship event of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, with involvement of the Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments.
- It is for creating **focused attention on fuel conservation** through people centric activities and to sensitize the masses about the **conservation and efficient use of petroleum products** leading to better health and environment.
- Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA):**
 - The PCRA is an organization under the aegis of the Indian Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
 - It was established in 1978.
 - It is engaged in **promoting energy efficiency** in various sectors of the economy.
 - It helps government in **proposing policies and strategies** aimed at reducing India's dependency on oil.

Ministry of Labour & Employment

NOTES

1. PENCIL Portal

- The government has launched a **web portal** called '**PENCIL**' for effective implementation of the **National Child Labour Project, (NCLP)**.
- **PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)** — an electronic platform for no child labour in the country is being developed by **the Labour Ministry**.
- PENCIL portal has five components — **Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project and Convergence.**
- **NCLP:**
 - The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme initiated in 1988 to **rehabilitate working children** by eliminating all forms of child labour through identification and withdrawal of all children in the Project Area from child labour, Preparing children withdrawn from work for **mainstream education along with vocational training**.
 - Under it, **special schools/rehabilitation centres** for rehabilitation of child labourers are opened.
 - These centres also provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition and stipend to children withdrawn from employment.

2. Shram Awards

- The Government has announced the **Prime Minister's Shram Awards** for the year 2016 to be awarded to 50 workers employed in the **Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers**.
- The Prime Minister's Shram Awards were instituted in **1985** by the Government of India.
- This national award is conferred on **workers for outstanding contributions** that improve productivity, innovation, and indigenization, resulting in saving foreign exchange.
- The award is also given for **long-term exceptional dedicated work**.
- There are four types of awards:
 - **Shram Ratna:** Rs. Two lakhs and recognition of their contribution to their field (a Sanad).
 - **Shram Bhushan:** RS. 100000 and a Sanad.
 - **Shram Vir / Shram Veerangana:** RS. 60000 and a Sanad.
 - **Shram Devi / Shram Shree:** RS. 40000 and a Sanad.

3. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram

- Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram was launched in October 2014.
- Objective of this scheme is to **create conducive environment for industrial development** and ease of doing business.
- This is an **umbrella scheme with five scheme under it** as follows:
- **Shram Suvidha Portal:**

- Allocation of Unique **Labour Identification Number (LIN)** to Units to facilitate online registration.
- Filing of **self-certified and simplified Single Online Return** by the industry.
- Mandatory uploading of inspection Reports within 72 hours by the Labour inspectors.
- Timely redressal of grievances will be ensured with the help of the portal.
- **Random Inspection Scheme:**
 - It is to bring transparency in the labour inspection.
 - A computerized list of inspections will be generated randomly based on pre-determined objective criteria.
- **Universal Account Number:**
 - An UAN is allotted to EPF subscribers to make Provident Fund account more portable and universally accessible by centrally compiling & digitizing their information.
- **Apprentice Protsahan Yojana:**
 - It is for imparting **on-the-job training** to apprentices.
 - It will support manufacturing units mainly and other establishments by reimbursing 50% of the stipend paid to apprentices during first two years of their training.
- **Revamped Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana:**
 - Single central smart card to be issued to include other welfare schemes like Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and National Old Age Pension Scheme.

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Ministry of Electronics & IT

NOTES

1. Nation-Wide Hackathon #OpenGovDataHack

- As part of the Startup Eco-system Development program, **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and Internet & Mobile Association of India (**IAMAI**) collaborated to conduct Nation Wide Hackathon **#OpenGovDataHack** across seven states of India.
- It aims to Support & Showcase potentially great Ideas/Talent from Inner India.
- A **24hours Hackathon** themed on **Drinking Water & Sanitation, Transport, Education, Crime & Health** was held in seven cities.
- It is to enable them making their **ideas developed into Apps/Infographics** primarily by use of Open Government Data.

2. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan

- PMGDISHA is government initiative with **an objective to impart digital literacy among the people residing in rural areas**.
- It is an important initiative under '**Digital India**' that intends at making one person in every family digitally literate.
- This scheme would cover 6 crore households in rural areas to make them digitally literate.
- People in the rural area will be trained to operate a computer, tablet, smartphones, etc.
- They will be taught how to access the Internet, government services, undertake digital payment, compose e-mails, etc.
- The **marginalised sections of society** like Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST), Minorities, Below Poverty Line (BPL), differently-abled, all will be a part of this scheme.
- The scheme aims to **empower women** in the rural India.
- Illiterate people between the **age group 14-60 years, nominated from every eligible rural household**, are qualified for the scheme.
- The implementation of the Scheme would be carried out under the overall supervision of Ministry of Electronics and IT in active collaboration with States/UTs through their designated State Implementing Agencies, District e-Governance Society (DeGS), etc.

3. Stree Swabhiman Initiative

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has launched Stree Swabhiman Initiative.
- Its aim is to **create sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products** by leveraging Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- Common Service Centres (CSC) will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
- Under the 'Stree Swabhiman' project, **sanitary napkin micro manufacturing units** are being set up at CSCs across India, particularly those operated by women entrepreneurs.

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- The initiative is driven by **awareness and personalised outreach by women entrepreneurs** who produce and market sanitary napkins themselves.
- **About CSCs:**
 - Common Services Centers (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme.
 - They are the **access points for delivery of various electronic services** to villages in India, thereby contributing to a **digitally and financially inclusive society**.

4. Cyber Surakshit Bharat

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative in association with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** and industry partners.
- The mission is to spread **awareness about cybercrime** and building capacity for safety measures for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT staff across all government departments.
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat will be operated on the **three principles of Awareness, Education and Enablement**.
- It will include an awareness programme on the importance of cyber security; a series of workshops on best practices and enablement of the officials with cyber security health tool kits to manage and mitigate cyber threats.
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat is the first public-private partnership of its kind and will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cyber security.

5. Cyber Swachhta Kendra

- Extending the ‘Swachh Bharat’ campaign to the cyber world, the government has launched the **Cyber Swachhta Kendra – Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre** for analysis of malware and botnets that affect networks and systems.
- This is a part of **MeitY’s Digital India initiative** aimed at creating a secure cyber space by detecting botnet infections in India and to notify, enables cleaning and securing systems of end-users to prevent further infections.
- The centre is operated by the Indian **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**.
- The Centre will also work in close **collaboration with the Banks** to detect malware infections in their banking network and enable remedial actions.

Ministry of Tourism

NOTES

1. Paryatan Parv

- ‘Paryatan Parv’ of the Ministry of Tourism in coordination with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders has begun across the country.
- The Paryatan Parv will **showcase the cultural diversity of the country**, showcasing folk and classical dance & music, handicrafts & handlooms and cuisine from all regions and States of the country.
- The programme is being organized with the objective of reinforcing the principle of “**Tourism for All**”.
- In the overseas markets, **Union Ministry of External Affairs** through Indian Missions will be conducting outreach programmes to encourage people to visit India, with special focus on PIOs who have never visited the country.
- **Paryatan Parv has three main components:**
 - **Dekho Apna Desh:**
 - To encourage Indians to visit their own country.
 - This includes Video, Photograph and Blog Competitions of sites visited during the Event, Stories of India through Travelers' Eyes, Tourism related Quiz, Essay, Debate and Painting Competitions for Students to promote travel to J&K and N.E. States.
 - **Tourism for All:**
 - **Tourism Events at sites across all States** in the country.
 - The activities at these sites include Cultural Programmes of Dance, Music, Theatre, Story Telling, and Sensitisation Programmes for Stakeholders around the Sites, Tourism Exhibitions etc.
 - **Tourism & Governance:**
 - Interactive Sessions & Workshops with Stakeholders on varied themes.

2. Adopt a Heritage Scheme (Apni Dharohar Apni Pehchan Project)

- The Scheme was launched on **World Tourism Day** i.e. 27th September, 2017 by Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- It envisages **developing monuments, heritage and tourist sites** across India and making them tourist friendly.
- Ministry of Tourism invited **Private, Public Sector Companies and Corporate individuals** to **adopt the sites** and to take up the responsibility for making our heritage and tourism more sustainable through conservation and development.
- The project primarily focuses on **development and maintenance of world-class tourist infrastructure and amenities** for an overall inclusive tourist experience.
- Seven shortlisted companies were given ‘Letters of Intent’ for fourteen monuments under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’.

- These companies will be the future '**Monument Mitras**' who would associate pride with their CSR activities.
- 14 adopted monuments include: Jantar Mantar, Purana Quila, Safdarjung Tomb, Agrasen ki Baoli, and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Hampi (Karnataka), Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra), Sun Temple, Raja Rani Temple and Ratnagiri Monuments (Odisha), Leh Palace and Mt. Stok Kangri (Jammu & Kashmir), Mattancherry Palace Museum (Kerala), Gangotri Temple Area and Trail (Uttarakhand).

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3. 'Prasad' scheme

- **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (Prasad)** scheme aims to create spiritual centres for tourism development within the nation.
- To implement the PRASAD scheme a **Mission Directorate** has been set up in the Ministry of Tourism.
- **Twelve cities** namely Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Gaya(Bihar), Dwaraka(Gujarat), Amritsar(Punjab), Ajmer(Rajasthan), Kanchipuram(Tamil Nadu), Vellankani(Tamil Nadu), Puri(Odisha), Varanasi(Uttar Prades), Mathura(Uttar Pradesh), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand) and Kamakhya (Assam) have been identified for development under the scheme by the Ministry of Tourism.
- The focus is on **development and beautification** of the identified pilgrimage destinations.

4. Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- The thrust is on development of particular **thematic circuit** consisting of various **religious/spiritual destinations** in a State and Union Territory.
- Promote local arts, culture, handicrafts, cuisine, etc., to generate livelihood in the identified regions.
- **13 thematic circuits** have been identified for development, namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

NOTES

Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship

1. SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved two new **World Bank supported** schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore – **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)** and **Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)**.
- SANKALP is centrally sponsored scheme whereas STRIVE is central sector scheme.
- SANKALP and STRIVE are **outcome focused schemes** marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.
- SANKALP will provide **market relevant training** to 3.5 crore youth.
- STRIVE will focus to improve on the **quality and the market relevance of vocational training** provided in ITIs and **strengthen the apprenticeship programme** through industry-cluster approach.
- The schemes shall provide the required impetus to the **National Skill Development Mission, 2015** and its various sub missions.
- The schemes are aligned to Government of India programs such as Make in India and Swachhta Abhiyan and aim at **developing globally competitive workforce** for domestic and overseas requirements.

2. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra

- **India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK)** has been set up under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council.
- **It is set up for Skilling in Smart Cities.**
- The PMKK Centre for Smart Cities will provide **skill training for unemployed youth** and contribute to **capacity building of municipal employees**.

3. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKViY)

- PMKViY is flagship Skill Certification Scheme of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched in July 2015.
- It is to make country's youth employable and strengthen them economically by providing them a meaningful, **industry relevant, skill based training**.
- The beneficiaries under the scheme are successfully trained, assessed, certified and awarded financially by the government.
- Under this Scheme, individuals with prior learning experience or skills are also assessed and certified under **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.
- Government will pay complete training and assessment fees.
- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is the implementing agency** for the scheme.
- PMKViY has a crucial role to improve productivity through creation of a pool of industry and **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)** aligned skilled workforce.

4. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a one-of-its-kind, **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** model in India, under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- A **not-for-profit company** set up by the Ministry of Finance in 2008, under Section 25 of the Companies Act.
- It has been formed as 51:49 shareholdings of private and government.
- **It aims** to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions.
- Its mandate is also to enable support system which focuses on quality assurance, information systems and train the trainer academies either directly or through partnerships.
- It will also develop appropriate models to enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives.

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5. UDAAN

- The programme aims to provide **skills training and enhance the employability of unemployed youth of J&K**.
- The key stakeholders are Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), State Government (Jammu & Kashmir), Corporates and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

6. Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana to **scale up an ecosystem of entrepreneurship for youngsters**.
- The scheme spans over **five years (2016-17 to 2020-21)**.
- It will provide entrepreneurship education and training to over 7 lakh students in 5 years through 3,050 institutes.
- It will also include easy access to **information and mentor network**, credit, incubator and accelerator and advocacy to create a pathway for the youth.
- The institutes under the PM's Yuva Yojana include 2,200 institutes of higher learning (colleges, universities, and premier institutes), 300 schools, 500 ITIs and 50 entrepreneurship development centres through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

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Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

1. Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD)

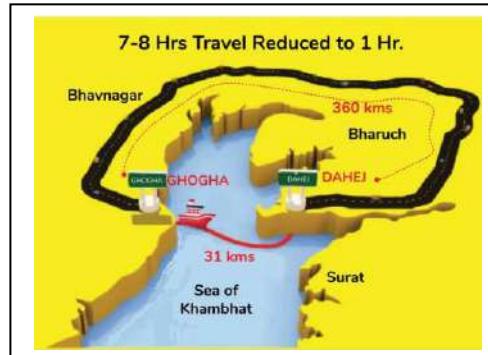
- Recently **Central Information Commission (CIC)** has made recommendations regarding MPLADS Funds. It “strongly recommended” to legislature parties to ensure “100 per cent proper utilisation” of MPLAD funds.
- MPLADS is a **centrally-sponsored plan scheme fully funded by the government of India** under which funds are released in the form of **grants in-aid** directly to the district authorities.
- It was launched in **December, 1993**, to provide a mechanism for the **Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature** for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, **based on locally felt needs**.
- **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)** has been looking into its working.
- **Preference** under the scheme is given to works relating to **national priorities**, such as provision of **drinking water, public health, education, sanitation, roads, etc.**
- The **funds** released under the scheme are **non-lapsable**. The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility.
- The **MPs** have a **recommendatory role under the scheme**. They recommend their choice of works to the concerned **district authorities who implement these works** by following the established procedures of the concerned state government.
- The district authorities get the works executed through the line departments, local self governments or other government agencies. In some cases, the district authorities get the works executed through reputed non government organisations.
- The **Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies.**
- The **elected members of the Rajya Sabha** can recommend works **anywhere in the state from which they are elected**.
- **Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha** may select works for implementation **anywhere in the country**.

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Ministry of Shipping

1. RO RO Ferry Service

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today inaugurated **Phase 1 of the RO RO (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service** between Ghogha and Dahej.
- This ferry service shall **reduce the travel time** between Ghogha in Saurashtra, and Dahej in South Gujarat, from about seven or eight hours, to just over an hour.
- It has been launched by as part of **Sagarmala Project**.
- **RO RO Ferry Service** refers to **vessels used to carry wheeled cargo** like cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars, that are driven on (rolled on) and off (rolled off) the ferry on their own wheels or using a platform vehicle.



2. Sagarmala Programme

- The Sagarmala project seeks to develop a **string of ports around India's coast**.
- Promote "**Port-led development**" along India's 7500 km long coastline.
- The **Union Ministry of Shipping** is the nodal ministry for this initiative.
- Sustainable development of the population living in the **Coastal Economic Zone (CEZ)**.
- **Improve port connectivity** through rail corridors, freight-friendly expressways and inland waterways.
- **Develop skills of fishermen and other coastal and island communities**.
- **Three pillars of development:**
 - Enabling Port-led Development through appropriate policy and institutional interventions.
 - Modernization and setting up of new ports.
 - Evacuation to and from hinterland.
- At apex level, a **National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC)** will provide overall policy guidance. It will be headed by shipping minister.
- At the state level, state governments will set up **State Sagarmala committees**, headed by the chief minister or the minister in charge of ports.

3. Coastal Berth Scheme of Sagarmala

- The Ministry of Shipping has extended the period of the Coastal Berth scheme of Sagarmala Programme for three years, upto 31st March, 2020.
- The Coastal Berth Scheme aims to provide **financial support to ports or state governments for creation of infrastructure for movement of cargo and passenger** by sea or national waterways.
- The projects under the Scheme are distributed over **eight states** with the highest number of projects in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh & Goa.
- The admissible financial assistance from Central Government is 50% of the

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total cost of the project.

- The balance expenditure has to be incurred by the respective Ports/concerned State Governments (including State Maritime Boards) from their own resources.
- The scheme aims to **promote coastal shipping** and increase its share in domestic cargo movement in India.

4. Center of Excellence in Maritime and Ship Building (CEMS)

- A world class Center of Excellence in Maritime and Ship Building (CEMS) is being set up by Ministry of Shipping in collaboration with Siemens and Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) under Sagarmala Programme.
- CEMS will have campuses at Vishakhapatnam and Mumbai.
- CEMS will provide **industry-relevant skill development**, equip students with employable engineering and technical skills in the port and maritime sector and contribute to the Government of India's ambitious Sagarmala programme.
- CEMS is being set up to meet the **domestic skill requirement in ship design, manufacturing, operating and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO)**.
- CEMS will provide skilled manpower to make vessels for inland waterways, ships, fishing boats and other ancillary manufacturing sectors.

5. Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)

- The Jal Marg Vikas Project seeks to facilitate plying of vessels with capacity of 1,500-2,000 tonnes in the **Haldia- Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW1) on Ganga River**.
- JMVP was announced by Government in 2014-15 Budget.
- The project envisages the **development of waterway** between Allahabad and Haldia on Ganga River that will cover a distance of 1620 km.
- The major works being taken up under JMVP are development of fairway, Multi-Modal Terminals, strengthening of river navigation system, conservancy works, modern River Information System (RIS), Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS), night navigation facilities, modern methods of channel marking etc.
- The **World Bank has provided technical assistance and financial support** to the project.
- **NW 1:**
 - Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia was declared as National Waterway No.1.
 - The NW-1 passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal and serves major cities and their industrial hinterlands.

Ministry of Mines

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1. Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKY)

- The programme is meant to provide for the **welfare of areas and people affected by mining** related operations, using the funds generated by **District Mineral Foundations (DMFs)**.
- **Objectives of the scheme:**
 - To implement various **developmental and welfare projects** in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government.
 - To **minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts**, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts.
 - To ensure **long-term sustainable livelihoods** for the affected people in mining areas.
- **Areas of focus:**
 - High priority areas like drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people, skill development and environment conservation will get at least 60 % share of the funds.
 - Balance funds will be spent on making roads, bridges, railways, waterways projects, irrigation and alternative energy sources.
- **District Mineral Foundations (DMFs):**
 - The **Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015**, mandated the setting up of District Mineral Foundations (**DMFs**) in all districts in the country affected by mining related operations.
 - In case of all mining leases executed before 12th January, 2015 (the date of coming into force of the Amendment Act) miners will have to contribute an amount equal to 30% of the royalty payable by them to the DMFs.
 - Where mining leases are granted after 12.01.2015, the rate of contribution would be 10% of the royalty payable.

2. TAMRA Portal and Mobile App

- The Ministry of Mines has launched **Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation (TAMRA)** Portal and Mobile Application to ensure transparent award of statutory Clearances for mining operations.
- The portal also enables successful bidder to give suggestions and inputs. It will help to establish a participative and informative network among all stakeholders.

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Ministry of Railways

1. Project Saksham

- It is the country's largest time-bound “upskilling” exercise for government employees launched by the Indian Railways.
- It aims to upgrade the skillsets of its 13 lakh workforce.
- Employees from the rank of a peon to the Railway Board Members and everyone in between will undergo the training.
- It will be a five-day-on-the-job or classroom training in Railway Training Centres, depending on the nature of their employment.

2. National Rail and Transportation University

- The government has approved the Ministry of Railways' initiative to set up the **first ever National Rail and Transport University (NRTU) in Vadodara** to skill its human resources and build capability.
- The University will be set up as a **Deemed to Be University** under de novo category as per the UGC [Institutions Deemed to be Universities] Regulations, 2016.
- The funding of the new University/Institute is to entirely come from Ministry of Railways.

3. SFOORTI Application

- To help plan the traffic flows and **optimize freight operations**, Ministry of Railways have launched **Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App**.
- It provides features for **monitoring and managing freight business** using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard.
- SFOORTI application will help to **track movement of freight trains** over Zones/Divisions/Sections on GIS View.
- Even **passenger trains** can be tracked using it.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

1. Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative

- **1.5 MW Small Hydro Power Plant in Biaras Drass, Kargil (J&K)** has become the first project to be commissioned under Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative.
- The plant will power the Drass town in Kargil, which is one of the coldest places in India.
- The project has been developed by **Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA)** under Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.
- **Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative:**
 - The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the project.
 - It aims to **minimize dependence on diesel** in the Ladakh region and meet power requirement through local renewable sources.

- The approach is to meet power requirements through small / micro hydel and solar photovoltaic power projects /systems and use solar thermal systems for water heating / space heating / cooking requirements.
- The project also envisages setting up of **10 solar photovoltaic power plants in defence establishments.**

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2. Sustainable Rooftop Implementation for Solar Transfiguration of India (SRISTI)

- SRISTI - Sustainable Rooftop Implementation for Solar Transfiguration of India is a proposed scheme by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The proposed scheme will **incentivise the installation of roof top solar projects** in India.
- It aims to achieve a **national solar rooftop target of 40 GW** till 2021-2022.
- It is proposed that a **Central Financial Assistance** will be provided only for installation of roof top solar plants in residential sectors.
- Performance based **financial support to DisComs** to accelerate deployment of Rooftop Solar (RTS) plants.

Ministry of AYUSH

1. National Ayush Mission (NAM)

- The government has approved the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission (NAM) from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020
- National AYUSH mission was launched in September 2014 by the government of India.
- It is aimed at **addressing the gaps in health services** by supporting AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) care and education, particularly in vulnerable and far-flung areas.
- Under the mission, special focus will be given to **specific needs of vulnerable areas** and allocation of higher resources in their annual plans.
- The Mission will help in the **improvement of AYUSH education** through enhancement in the number of upgraded educational institutions.
- It will provide **better access to AYUSH services** through increase in number of **AYUSH hospitals** and dispensaries, availability of drugs and manpower.
- It provides sustained availability of quality raw material for AYUSH systems of medicine.

2. Mission Madhumeha

- The Mission Madhumeha was launched on 28th October, 2016 on the occasion of first National Ayurveda Day.
- A protocol on '**Prevention and Control of Diabetes through Ayurveda**' was released for implementing the 'Mission Madhumeha'.
- The **Madhumeha Assessment Tool (MAT)** based on Ayurvedic philosophy has also been developed for the self assessment of the people with regards to possibilities of diabetes.

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Ministry for Development of North-East Region (DoNER)

1. North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)

- The government approved the new **Central Sector Scheme** - “North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme” (NESIDS) from 2017-18 with 100% funding from the Central Government to **fill up the gaps in creation of infrastructure** in specified sectors till March, 2020.
- The scheme will cover creation of infrastructure under following sectors:
 - **Physical infrastructure** relating to water supply, power, connectivity and specially the projects promoting tourism;
 - **Infrastructure of social sectors** of education and health.
- The assets created under the scheme will not only strengthen health care and education facilities in the region but will also encourage tourism thereby the employment opportunities for local youth.

2. Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **continuation of the existing Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme** with funding pattern of 90:10 till March, 2020.
- It would enable **completion of ongoing projects**.
- Its objective is to ensure **speedy development of infrastructure** in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim by increasing flow of budgetary financing.
- Both **physical and social infrastructure** is considered for providing support under the Central Pool.
- It is utilized by the Ministry of DoNER under the two Schemes of **NLCPR – State** (fund the priority projects of North Eastern States) and **NLCPR-Central** (funds projects of national and regional importance by the central ministries).
- Recently a NLCPR - Central funded **Tuirial Hydro Electric Project** was inaugurated in Mizoram.

Ministry of External Affairs

1. SAMEEP – ‘Students and MEA Engagement Programme’

- With an aim to **bring foreign policy to the masses** the External Affairs Ministry has come up with an initiative – SAMEEP.
- The main objective of SAMEEP is to **take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students** across the country.
- Under the programme, all the ministry officers – under-secretary and above – will be asked to go to their hometowns, particularly their alma maters (the university, school, or college that one formerly attended).
- They will be expected to interact with the students about the way the MEA works, basic elements of its policies, how diplomacy is conducted, and give students an idea of what a career in the MEA would look like.
- The agenda of the programme is not only to **make students interested and aware of India’s place in the world** and its global ambitions, but also to **drive interest in diplomacy** as a career option.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)

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1. e-Sansad and e-Vidhan

- Government has rolled out e-Sansad and e-Vidhan in Parliament and State Legislatures to digitize and make their functioning paperless.
- e-Sansad and e-Vidhan are mission mode projects of Government of India under Digital India, to make the **functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures paperless**.
- MoPA is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of both the projects.

NITI Aayog

1. SATH Programme

- NITI Aayog has launched SATH, a program providing '**Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital**' with the State Governments.
- The vision of the program is **to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors**.
- The program addresses the need expressed by many states for **technical support from NITI**.
- The program will be implemented by NITI along with **McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium**, who were selected through a competitive bidding process.
- SATH Program aims to build three selected states viz. **Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka as future 'role model' states for health systems**.
- In Education, **Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Jharkhand** has been selected for support to better learning outcomes.
- NITI will work in close collaboration with their state machinery to design a robust roadmap of intervention, develop a programme governance structure, set up monitoring and tracking mechanisms, hand-hold state institutions through the execution stage and provide support on a range of institutional measures to achieve the end objectives.

2. "Mentor India" Campaign

- NITI Aayog launched the Mentor India Campaign, a **strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs**, established across the country as a part of the **Atal Innovation Mission**.
- Mentor India is **aimed at maximizing the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs**.
- The idea is to engage leaders who will nurture and guide students in the Atal Tinkering Labs.
- These labs are non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be **enablers rather than instructors**.
- NITI Aayog is looking for leaders who can spend anywhere between one to two hours every week in one or more such labs to enable students experience, learn and practice future skills such as design and computational thinking.

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- **Atal Tinkering Labs:**
 - **Atal Tinkering Labs** are dedicated works spaces where students from **Class 6th to Class 12th** learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
 - More than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission.
 - The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, Internet of things & sensors etc.

3. Atal Innovation Mission

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) aims to **promote innovation and entrepreneurship** nationwide in schools, universities and industry.
- AIM includes establishing **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** and **Atal Incubation Centers (AICs)**, for providing support to established Incubation Centers.
- It promotes a network of world-class innovation hubs, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

4. Champions of Change initiative

- The Prime Minister interacted with Young CEOs at the "**Champions of Change**" initiative organised by **NITI Aayog**.
- "Champions of Change" initiative is an effort to bring together diverse strengths for the benefit of the nation and society.
- Themes of discussion include - Soft Power: Incredible India 2.0; Education and Skill Development; Health and Nutrition; Energizing a sustainable tomorrow; and Digital India; New India by 2022.

5. National Nutrition Strategy

- With a renewed focus on nutrition, **NITI Aayog has launched the National Nutrition Strategy**.
- **Need for the National Nutrition Strategy:**
 - The recently published **NFHS-4** results reflect some progress, with a decline in the overall levels of under nutrition in both women and children.
 - However, the pace of decline is far below what numerous countries with similar growth trajectories to India have achieved.
- **Highlights of the strategy:**
 - **The nutrition strategy envisages a framework wherein the four proximate determinants of nutrition** – uptake of health services, food, drinking water & sanitation and income & livelihoods – work together to accelerate decline of under nutrition in India.
 - The strategy gives prominence to **community mobilisation** as a key determinant to address India's nutritional needs.
 - The Nutrition Strategy framework envisages a **Kuposhan Mukt Bharat** – linked to Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharat.
 - The aim is to ensure that States create customized **State/ District Action Plans** to address local needs and challenges.

6. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

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- NITI Aayog and the International Road Federation, Geneva signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to cooperate in the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).
- The objective of the SoI is to **create a national platform**, involving all relevant Government of India stakeholders, Indian and foreign companies active in the sector, and relevant technical experts for the purpose of **developing a National ITS Policy** covering:
 - Traffic Management.
 - Parking Management.
 - Electronic Enforcement of Traffic Rules and Regulations.
 - Fleet Management and Monitoring.
 - Innovation in the field of ITS.
 - Education in the field of ITS.
- **International Road federation:**
 - The International Road Federation (IRF) is a **nongovernmental, not-for-profit organisation with the mission to encourage and promote development and maintenance of better, safer and more sustainable roads and road networks.**
 - It helps put in place **technological solutions and management practices** that provide maximum economic and social returns from national road investments.

President's Secretariat

1. SMARTGRAM Initiative

- It is an initiative of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Under the project the selected villages will see new ventures in **agriculture, skill development, energy, education, health, employment generation, and entrepreneurship.**
- The model is based on the **convergence of resources and effort** by the central government, state government, district administration, Panchayati raj institutions, public sector, private sector and enlightened villagers to **enhance the environment, connectivity and wellbeing of each village.**
- A 'smart gram' would have the required **basic physical and social infrastructure** with a layer of smart information and communication embedded to improve governance and delivery of services, livelihood and economic opportunities.
- Foundation stone of a Driver's Training Institute and a Secondary School under the SMARTGRAM Initiative at village Dhaura, Gurugram (Haryana) was laid recently.

Prime Minister's Office

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1. PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)

- PRAGATI is a unique **interactive platform** aimed at **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**.
- The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: **Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology**.
- Prime Minister is able to discuss the issues with the concerned Central and State officials with full information and latest visuals of the ground level situation.
- It is a **three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States)**.
- The system will strengthen and re-engineer the data bases of the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (**CPGRAMS**) for grievances, Project Monitoring Group (PMG) and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. PRAGATI provides an interface and platform for all these three aspects.
- It will also take into consideration various correspondences to PM's office by the common people or from high dignitaries of States and/or developers of public projects.
- The system has been designed in-house by the PMO team with the help of National Informatics Center (NIC).

State Government Schemes

1. Kanyashree Scheme

- The **West Bengal government** received the prestigious **UN Public Service Award** for its initiative to **combat child marriage** and ensure **education to the girl child** in the state.
- The West Bengal government was recognised by the world body on **UN Public Service Day, commemorated on June 23rd**.
- India was named **first in the Asia-Pacific group** for the category: 'Reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable through Inclusive Services and Participation'.
- **Background:**
 - West Bengal has been awarded for the '**Kanyashree Prakalpa**' initiative that sought to **reduce the high child marriage rates** and **low female education rates** in the state.
 - Through the initiative, **cash was deposited into the bank account of girls for every year they remained in school and were unmarried**.
 - This initiative led to a "drastic reduction in child marriage, increase in female education and female empowerment."
- **UN Public Service Awards:**
 - The UN Public Service Awards are given by the world body to institutions from across the world for their **innovation and excellence**

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in providing public services.

- It highlights the pivotal role of public services in the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The **UN Public Service Day** is celebrated every year to recognise public service innovations and excellence that have led to more effective and inclusive public service delivery contributing to the achievement of the SDGs in countries worldwide.

2. Mission Kakatiya

- Mission Kakatiya is the **Telangana government's** flagship programme aimed at **restoring minor irrigation sources** like tanks and other water bodies to help small and marginal farmers.
- The name 'Mission Kakatiya' is given in the remembrance and tribute to the **Kakatiya rulers** who developed large number of the irrigation tanks.

3. Mission Bhagiratha

- The Telangana government launched Mission Bhagiratha with an objective to provide **safe drinking water to all**.
- Its objective is to provide 100 litres of clean drinking water per person in rural households and 150 litres per person in urban households.
- Apart from providing a sustainable and permanent solution to the drinking water woes, it also aims to **rejuvenate more than 45000 water tanks**.

Miscellaneous

1. Aji Dam under Sauni Yojana

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the filling of **Aji Dam near Rajkot under Sauni Yojana**.
- The **Narmada water** reaching the dam will resolve the water woes of the people of this city in Saurashtra region.
- **SAUNI Yojana:**
 - SAUNI Yojana is **multipurpose project that aims to solve the water problems** of the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.
 - The project is not a part of the Narmada project but is based on it.
 - 1 MAFT (million acre feet) flood water has been allotted to Saurashtra and this water will be pumped to major reservoirs in the region under the SAUNI Yojna.
 - SAUNI is technically a '**linking**' **project**, where the water will be filled in irrigation dams that are already equipped with canal network.
 - This **network of canals** will then help channel water into farms.
 - SAUNI project involves making **pipe canals instead of the conventional open canals**.
 - The pipelines in the SAUNI project are underground, which means that **no land needs to be acquired**.

2. ISARC in Varanasi

- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC)** at campus of

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National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

- A **Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA)** will be set up in Varanasi.
- This will include a modern and sophisticated laboratory with capacity to **determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw**.
- The Centre will also undertake **capacity building exercises** for stakeholders across the rice value chain.
- **This Center will be the first international Center in the eastern India** and it will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region.
- This will reduce wastage, add value and generate higher income for the farmers.
- It is expected to be a boon for **food production and skill development** in the eastern India and similar ecologies in other South Asian and African countries.

3. Scientific Validation and Research on Panchgavya

- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India constituted a National Steering Committee to initiate a National Programme on “Scientific Validation and Research on Panchgavya” (SVAROP).
- The committee will select projects that can help scientifically validate the benefits of *panchgavya* — the concoction of cow dung, cow urine, milk, curd and ghee.

4. National registry of skilled people

- **Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD)** is planning to form a **national registry of skilled people** to help upgrade the large number of unskilled population in the country.
- ISTD aims to bring out a registry of trainers in every skill so as to improve the economic condition of such workers.
- **About ISTD:**
 - The Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD), established in April 1970, is a **national level professional & non-profit society** registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
 - It has a large membership of individuals and institutions involved in the area of training and development of Human Resource from Government, Public and Private Sector Organization & Enterprises; Educational and Training Institutions and other Professional Bodies.
 - The Society is affiliated to the **International Federation of Training and Development Organizations (IFTDO)**, USA and **Asian Regional Training and Development Organizations (ARTDO)**, Manila.
 - ISTD has been designated as the **National Nodal Agency to 'Testing and Certification' of Skilled Workers** in the organized and unorganized sectors.

5. Transparency of Rules Act (TORA)

- The second volume of **Economic Survey 2016-17** proposed **Transparency of Rules Act (TORA)**, a legislation to **end any asymmetry of information**

regarding rules and regulations faced by an average citizen.

- The TORA is an attempt to change the relationship between the average normal citizen and the State.
- TORA will require **all departments to mandatorily place all citizen-facing rules on their website**. Officials will not be able to impose any rule not mentioned beforehand.
- All laws will have to be updated by the department while providing access to history of the same webpage.
- Once a department has shifted to the platform, it can be deemed "**TORA compliant**" and citizens can be sure that the information is authentic and updated.

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6. National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)

- The **World Bank and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** recently launched the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
- The project that will benefit all 75 agricultural universities under ICAR in the country.
- The funding for NAHEP will be **equally shared by Government of India and World Bank**.
- NAHEP is aimed at improving the relevance and quality of higher education in agriculture.

