

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

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Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. NetSCoFAN

Union Health Minister has launched **NetSCoFAN, a network of research & academic institutions working in the area of food & nutrition.**

What is NetSCoFAN?

It would comprise of **eight groups of institutions** working in different areas viz. biological, chemical, nutrition & labelling, food of animal origin, food of plant origin, water & beverages, food testing, and safer & sustainable packaging.

FSSAI has identified eight Nodal Institutions who would develop a '**Ready Reckoner**' that will have inventory of all research work, **experts and institutions** and would carry out and facilitate research, survey and related activities.

- It would identify research gaps in respective areas and collect, collate and develop database on food safety issues for risk assessment activities.

Need for and significance:

The need to identify research gaps in respective areas and collect, collate and develop database on food safety issues for risk assessment activities, will be addressed by NetSCoFAN.

2. Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a campaign named **Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS).**

Aims:

1. To **reduce child mortality due to pneumonia**, which contributes to around 15% of deaths of children under the age of five annually.
2. To mobilise people to **protect children from pneumonia**, and train health personnel and other stakeholders to provide prioritised treatment to control the disease.

Key features of the programme:

- A child suffering from pneumonia will be treated with **a pre-referral dose of antibiotic amoxicillin** by **Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers.**
- **Pulse Oximeter (device to monitor oxygen saturation)** will be used at the Health and Wellness Centre for identification of low oxygen levels in the blood of child and if required, the child can be treated by the use of oxygen cylinders.
- A **mass awareness campaign** will be launched about **the effective solutions for pneumonia prevention** like breastfeeding, age-appropriate complementary feeding and immunization etc.

3. Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)

The Union Government has launched **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** to provide quality healthcare at zero cost to pregnant women, new mothers and newborns .

About the scheme:

It aims to provide dignified and quality health care **at no cost to every woman and newborn visiting a public health facility.**

Under the scheme, the **beneficiaries visiting public health facilities are entitled to several free services.**

These include at least four ante natal check-ups that also includes one checkup during the 1st trimester, at least one checkup under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva A bhiyan, Iron Folic Acid supplementation, Tetanus diphtheria injection.

Eligibility:

All pregnant women, newborns and mothers up to 6 months of delivery will be able to avail several free health care services.

Features and benefits:

- The scheme will enable **zero expense** access to the identification and management of complications during and after the pregnancy.
- The government will also provide **free transport to pregnant women** from home to the health facility and drop back after discharge (minimum 48 hrs).
- The pregnant women will be able to avail a **zero expense delivery** and C-section facility in case of complications **at public health facilities**.
- The scheme will ensure that there is **zero-tolerance** for denial of services to such patients.

4. National Nutrition Survey

With the help of **UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** recently conducted the first-ever comprehensive **National Nutrition Survey**.

The survey recorded **malnutrition** that included **micronutrient deficiencies and details of non-communicable diseases** such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents.

Key findings of the survey:

1. Around 10% of children in the age group of 5 to 9 years and adolescents in the age group 10 to 19 years are pre – diabetic. 5% of them were overweight and 5% suffered from blood pressure.
2. The survey for the first time proved the **coexistence of obesity and under nutrition**.
3. One in five children in the age group 5 to 9 years were stunted.
4. Tamil Nadu and Goa had the highest number of adolescents who were obese or overweight.

The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition:

On 1 April 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed **2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition**.

Led by WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition calls for policy action across 6 key areas:

1. creating sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets;
2. providing social protection and nutrition-related education for all;
3. aligning health systems to nutrition needs, and providing universal coverage of essential nutrition interventions;
4. ensuring that trade and investment policies improve nutrition;
5. building safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages; and
6. strengthening and promoting nutrition governance and accountability, everywhere.

5. Ayushman Bharat

One Year of **Ayushman Bharat**.

Arogya Manthan event was organised by **the National Health Authority**, to mark the completion of one year of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana).

The purpose of the event is to provide a platform to meet for all the important stakeholders of PM - JAY to meet and discuss the challenges faced in the implementation of the scheme in the past year and to forge new understanding and pathways to improving implementation.

About Ayushman Bharat:

Launched as recommended by **the National Health Policy 2017**, to achieve the vision of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**.

This initiative has been *designed on the lines as to meet SDG and its underlining commitment, which is "leave no one behind"*.

Aim: to undertake path breaking interventions to holistically address health (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care), **at primary, secondary and tertiary level**.

Includes the on-going centrally sponsored schemes - **Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)**.

Ayushman Bharat adopts **a continuum of care approach**, comprising of two inter-related components, which are:

1. Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs).
2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM -JAY).

Key Features of PM-JAY:

1. The **world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government**.
2. It provides cover of **Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization** across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
3. **Coverage:** Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
4. Provides **cashless access** to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Eligibility:

1. No restrictions on family size, age or gender.
2. All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
3. Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
4. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
5. Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
6. Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

6. Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0

To ensure that not a single child in the country misses out on vaccination, the government launched the '**Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0**' with **a special focus on improving coverage in areas with "low" immunisation**. Focus on urban, underserved population and tribal areas.

Key facts:

- Through 'IMI 2.0', the health ministry aims to reach **each and every child below the age of two years** and all pregnant women still uncovered/partially covered in 271 districts of the country and 652 blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- IMI 2.0 will include **four rounds of vaccination**, with each round involving a seven-day immunisation drive to be conducted each month.

Objective: To **prevent 8 diseases** under mission as well as to escalate efforts to achieve goal of **attaining 90% national immunization coverage across India**.

It will cover vaccines for **measles, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, Hepatitis B, tuberculosis (Tb), meningitis and poliomyelitis**. In selected areas, vaccines for Japanese encephalitis (JE) and Hemophilus influenza will also be provided.

Enhanced focus will also be on left outs, dropouts, and resistant families & hard to reach areas.

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7. Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has come out with a set of guidelines for establishing *peritoneal dialysis services* under *the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme*. The new guidelines, *envisage providing training to community health workers to provide support to persons on peritoneal dialysis at home or in primary health care settings*.

Significance of these guidelines:

- The guidelines aim to serve as a **comprehensive manual** to states that intend to set up peritoneal dialysis services and for providers of peritoneal dialysis as a 'best practice' document to ensure delivery of high quality and cost-effective services.
- It also aims to achieve equity in patient access to home-based peritoneal dialysis, reduce the overall cost of care to the system by focusing on **efficient leveraging of resources**, and bring in consistency of practice, pricing and a full range of product availability.

How is peritoneal dialysis performed?

During peritoneal dialysis, *a cleansing fluid (dialysate) is circulated through a tube (catheter) inside a part of the abdominal cavity* (peritonealcavity). The *dialysate absorbs waste* products from blood vessels in the abdominal lining (peritoneum) and then is drawn back out of the body and discarded.

Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme:

Rolled out in 2016 as part of *the National Health Mission (NHM)* for provision of free dialysis services to the poor. The Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme envisage provision of *dialysis services under NHM in PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode*.

8. Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme

Food Safety Mitra (FSM) scheme for strengthening and scaling up 'Eat Right India' movement launched.

What is FSM scheme?

A scheme *to support small and medium scale food businesses* to comply with the food safety laws and facilitate licensing and registration, hygiene ratings and training.

Significance of the scheme:

Apart from strengthening food safety, this scheme would also create new employment opportunities for youth, particularly with food and nutrition background.

How it works?

Food Safety Mitras will be chosen. They undergo training and certification by FSSAI to do their work and get paid by food businesses for their services.

About Eat Right Movement:

It was launched by the *Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)*. The movement aims *to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years*. It also aims *to engage and enable citizens* to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.

9. RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) initiative

Concerns associated with the consumption of used cooking oil (UCO):

- During frying, several properties of oil are altered, *Total Polar Compounds (TPC)* are formed on repeated frying.

GUPTA CLASSES

- The toxicity of these compounds is associated with several diseases such as hypertension, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, liver diseases;

Limit set by FSSAI:

FSSAI has fixed a limit for Total Polar Compounds at **25 percent** beyond which the vegetable oil shall not be used.

What are Total Polar Compounds (TPC)₹

1. The level of TPC increases every time oil is re-heated.
2. TPC accumulation in oil without food is slower than that in oil frying with food.

About RUCO:

1. **Launched** by FSSAI.
2. The initiative will **enable collection and conversion of used cooking oil to bio-diesel**.
3. FSSAI wants businesses using more than 100 litres of oil for frying, to maintain a stock register and ensure that UCO is handed over to only registered collecting agencies.

10. National Digital Health Blueprint

The government released **NDHB** which aims to create **National Digital Health Eco- System**.

Highlights of the National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB):

1. It lays out the 'building blocks' for the implementation of **the National Health Stack (NHS)**, which aims to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) in leveraging health records.
2. Keeping true to the government's larger agenda, of 'data as a public good', the blueprint proposes the **linking of multiple databases to generate greater and granular data that can be leveraged by the public as well as private sector** – including insurance companies, hospitals, apps and researchers.
3. The blueprint proposes **a National Digital Health Mission** "as a purely government organisation with complete functional autonomy adopting some features of some of the existing National Information Utilities like UIDII and GSTN;"

11. "LaQshya" (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative)

- Government of India has launched "**LaQshya**" (**Labour room Quality improvement Initiative**) to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities.

About LaQshya:

- It's a **multipronged approach focused at Intrapartum and immediate postpartum period**.
- **Aim:** To **reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths** associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity Operation Theatre and ensure respectful maternity care.

Objectives:

- To reduce maternal and newborn mortality & morbidity due to hemorrhage, retained placenta, preterm, preeclampsia and eclampsia, obstructed labour, puerperal sepsis, newborn asphyxia, and newborn sepsis, etc.
- To **improve Quality of care during the delivery** and immediate post-partum care, stabilization of complications and ensure timely referrals, and enable an effective two-way follow-up system.
- To enhance satisfaction of beneficiaries visiting the health facilities and provide **Respectful Maternity Care (RMC)** to all pregnant women attending the public health facilities.

Following types of healthcare facilities have been identified for implementation of LaQshya program:

- Government medical college hospitals.
- District Hospitals & equivalent health facilities.
- Designated First Referral Units (FRUs) and high case load Community Health Centre (CHCs) with over 100 deliveries/month (60 in hills and desert areas)

12. Population Research Centres (PRCs)

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** established a network of **Population Research Centres (PRCs)** with the mandate to provide, inter alia, critical research-based inputs related to the Health and Family Welfare Programs and Policies at the national and state levels.
- Their main role is to **undertake research projects** relating to family planning, demographic research and biological studies & qualitative aspect of population control, with a view to gainfully utilize the feedback from these research studies for plan formulation, strategies and modifications of on-going schemes.
- **Functioning:** Autonomous in their functioning, these PRCs are provided 100 per cent central assistance in the form of grant-in-aid on a year-to year basis.
- **Activities of PRCs are monitored by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** through regular periodical progress reports and meeting, seminars etc. Besides, guidance is also provided by various institutions as well as committees both at State and national level constituted by the Ministry from time to time.
- **Administratively**, these PRCs are under the control of their host University/Institutions where they are located.
- However, as the PRCs are established as well as fully funded by the Ministry of health & family Welfare, they are governed by the guidelines issued by the Ministry from time to time.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

1. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Cabinet Approves Changes in **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** to address the existing challenges in implementation.

Changes approved:

1. Allocation of business to Insurance Companies to be done for three years .
2. Central Subsidy under PMFBY/RWBCIS to be limited for premium rates upto 30% for unirrigated areas/crops and 25% for irrigated areas/crops.
3. Districts having 50% or more irrigated area will be considered as irrigated area/district .
4. Flexibility to States/UTs to implement the Scheme with option to select any or many of additional risk covers/features like prevented sowing, localised calamity, mid -season adversity, and post-harvest losses.
5. For estimation of crop losses/admissible claims, two-Step Process to be adopted based on defined Deviation matrix" using specific triggers like weather indicators, satellite indicators, etc. for each area along with normal ranges and deviation ranges.
6. Enrolment under the Scheme to be made **voluntary for all farmers**.
7. Central Share in Premium Subsidy to be increased to 90% for North Eastern States from the existing sharing pattern of 50:50.

Background:

Under the PMFBY, it is mandatory for loanee farmers to take insurance cover under this scheme. Currently, 58 percent of the total farmers are loanee. Various farmers' body and states were raising some concerns on this.

Maharashtra has become **the first state in the country to integrate its land records** with the web portal of **the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**. This will help in checking the cases of "over-insurance" — insurance of more land than in possession — as well as insurance of ineligible people.

About PMFBY:

Launched in April, 2016. It was formulated in line with One Nation–One Scheme theme by replacing earlier two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).

Coverage:

The Scheme covers all Food & Oilseeds crops and Annual Commercial/Horticultural Crops for which past yield data is available and for which requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) are being conducted under General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES).

Premium:

- 2% for Kharif crops.
- 1.5% for Rabi crops.
- 5% for commercial and horticultural crops.

2. Soil Health Cards (SHC) scheme

In the second phase of the scheme's implementation, 11;69 crore **Soil Health Cards** were distributed to farmers in two years.

And the scheme has led to a decline of 8-10% in the use of chemical fertilizers and also raised productivity by 5-6%.

About the scheme:

Launched in 2015.

Under the scheme, the government plans **to issue soil cards to farmers which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilisers required for the individual farms.**

This will help farmers to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs.

About the Soil Health Card:

1. A Soil Health Card is used to **assess the current status of soil health** and, when used over time, to determine changes in soil health that are affected by land management.
2. It displays **soil health indicators** and associated descriptive terms.
3. The card lists soil health indicators that can be assessed without the aid of technical or laboratory equipment.

What it contains

It will contain the status of his soil with respect to **12 parameters, namely N,P,K (Macro-nutrients); S (Secondary- nutrient); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters).** Based on this, the SHC will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm.

3. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

PM-KISAN Scheme completes one year on February 24, 2020.

So far, over 8 crore 46 lakh farmers covered under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.**

About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:

The scheme was started with a view to augment the income of the farmers by providing **income support to all farmers' families across the country**, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs.

Under the Scheme an amount of Rs.6000/- per year is transferred in three 4-monthly installments of Rs.2000/- directly into the bank accounts of the farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status.

The **entire responsibility of identification of beneficiaries rests with the State / UT Governments.**

Ambit:

The Scheme initially provided income support to all Small and Marginal Farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land upto 2 hectares. Its ambit was later expanded w.e.f. 01.06.2019 **to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings.**

Exceptions:

Affluent farmers have been excluded from the scheme such as Income Tax payers in last assessment year, professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants etc , pensioners drawing at least Rs.10,000/- per month (excluding MTS/Class IV/Group D employees) and All Institutional Land holders.

What is a small and marginal landholder family

It comprises of husband, wife and minor children up to 18 years of age, who collectively own cultivable land up to two hectares as per the land records of the concerned states.

Similar programmes by states:

1. **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana in Madhya Pradesh** was sought to provide relief to farmers by providing the differential between MSPs and market prices.
2. **The Rythu Bandhu scheme of the Telangana** provides ₹4,000 per acre for every season to all the farmers of the state. Similar initiatives have also been framed in Jharkhand and Odisha.

3. **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income augmentation (KALIA) of Odisha** is more complicated in design and implementation. It commits to give Rs 5,000 per SMF, twice a year, that is Rs 10,000 a year.

4. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) is an **old age pension scheme for all land holding Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)** in the country.
- The scheme is **voluntary and contributory** for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years.
- A **monthly pension of Rs. 3000/-** will be provided to them **on attaining the age of 60 years**.
- **The spouse is also eligible to get a separate pension** of Rs.3000/- upon making separate contributions to the Fund.
- **Initial contribution:** The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55 to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date i.e. the age of 60 years.
- **The Central Government will also make an equal contribution** of the same amount in the pension fund.
- **The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.
- **If there is no spouse**, then total contribution along with interest will be paid to the nominee.
- If the farmer dies after the retirement date, **the spouse will receive 50% of the pension as Family Pension**.
- After the death of both the farmer and the spouse, the accumulated corpus shall be credited back to the Pension Fund.
- The beneficiaries may opt **voluntarily to exit the Scheme after a minimum period of 5 years of regular contributions**.
- **In case of default in making regular contributions**, the beneficiaries are allowed to regularize the contributions by paying the outstanding dues along with prescribed interest.

5. Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS)

- **Union Agriculture Ministry's** PGS is a process of certifying organic products, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards.
- The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement.
- According to the **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)**, the Bonn-based global umbrella organisation for the organic agriculture movement, PGSs are **"locally focused quality assurance systems" that "certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange"**.

6. Schemes to support Organic Farming in the Country

- Government of India has been encouraging/ promoting organic farming under two dedicated Schemes, namely, **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)** and **Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** since 2015.
- Organic Farming has also been supported under other Schemes viz **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** and **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)**, Network Project on Organic Farming under ICAR. Third party certification of organic farming is promoted by Agriculture Processed Food and Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce.

About MOVCDNER:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched this Central Sector Scheme named "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region" (MOVCDNER) for

implementation in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

- The scheme aims at **development of certified organic production** in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification and creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative.
- The assistance is provided for cluster development, on/off farm input production, supply of seeds/planting materials, setting up of functional infrastructure, establishment of integrated processing unit, refrigerated transportation, pre-cooling/ cold stores chamber, branding, labelling and packaging, hiring of space, hand holdings, organic certification through third party, mobilization of farmers/processors etc.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):

- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana is an elaborated **component of Soil Health Management (SHM)** of major project National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

Implementation:

- Under PKVY Organic farming is promoted through the adoption of the organic village by cluster approach and PGS certification.
- Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50-acre land to take up the organic farming under the scheme.
- The produce will be pesticide residue free and will contribute to improving the health of the consumer.



Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

1. Skills Build platform

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship launches **Skills Build platform** in Collaboration with IBM.

Key facts:

- Launched by **Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).**
- As part of the programme, **a two-year advanced diploma in IT, networking and cloud computing**, co-created and designed by IBM, will be offered at the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) & National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
- The platform will be extended to train ITI & NSTI faculty on building skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

2. Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launches **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme** with IIM Bangalore.

Details of the programme:

- It is a two-year fellowship programme to boost skill development at the district level.
- Designed under **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP).**
- It aims to address the challenge of non-availability of personnel for implementation of various programmes at national, state and district levels.
- It has an **in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.**
- Launched on a pilot basis in 75 districts across Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- **Eligibility:** Eligible fellows for the programme have to be in 21-30 years age-group, have a graduation degree from a recognized university and be citizens of India. Proficiency in official language of state of fieldwork will be mandatory.

3. SANKALP scheme

SANKALP is **a Centrally sponsored scheme** of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It is **an outcome focused scheme** marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.

It will **provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth.**

Objective: To enhance institutional mechanisms for skills development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for the work force.

Implementation:

1. It provides the required impetus to the **National Skill Development Mission, 2015** and its various sub missions.
2. It is aligned to flagship Government of India programs such as Make in India and Swachhta Abhiyan and aims at developing globally competitive workforce for domestic and overseas requirements.

Under SANKALP four key result areas have been identified viz: (i) Institutional Strengthening (at National, State & District level); (ii) Quality Assurance of skill development programs; (iii) Inclusion of marginalised population in skill development; and (iv) Expanding Skills through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

4. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)

- Formerly under the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Jan Shikshan Sansthan was transferred to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in 2018.
- Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) were established to provide **vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate, as well as school dropouts** by identifying skills as would have a market in the region of their establishment.
- They were formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth.
- The JSSs are unique, they **link literacy with vocational skills** and provide large doses of Life Enrichment Education (LEE) to the people.
- They aim for convergence with other stakeholders in society. It is their endeavour to shape their beneficiaries into **self-reliant and self-assured employees and entrepreneurs**.



Ministry of Human Resources Development

1. Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme

Launched in order to **empower the Higher Educational Institutions** and to help them become world-class teaching and research institutions.

Institutions of Eminence scheme:

1. **Aims** to project Indian institutes to global recognition.
2. The **selected institutes will enjoy complete academic and administrative autonomy.**
3. They will **receive special funding.**
4. **The selection** shall be made through challenge method mode by the Empowered Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.
5. Higher education institutions currently placed in the top 500 of global rankings or top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are eligible to apply for the eminence tag.
6. **The private Institutions of Eminence** can also come up as greenfield ventures provided the sponsoring organisation submits a convincing perspective plan for 15 years.
7. Under the scheme, **Public Institutions of Eminence are eligible for a grant of ₹1,000 crore from the government and no funds will be given to Private Institutions of Eminence.**
8. The IoEs will **enjoy complete academic and administrative freedom.**

Objectives:

1. **Excellence and Innovation:** To provide for higher education leading to excellence and innovations in such branches of knowledge as may be deemed fit at post-graduate, graduate and research degree levels.
2. **Specialization:** To engage in areas of specialization to make distinctive contributions to the objectives of the university education system.
3. **Global Rating:** To aim to be rated internationally for its teaching and research as a top hundred Institution in the world over time.
4. **Quality teaching and Research:** To provide for high quality teaching and research and for the advancement of knowledge and its dissemination.

Other benefits include the freedom to:

1. to recruit faculty from outside India (limit of 25% of its faculty strength for public institution).
2. to enter into academic collaborations with other Institutions within the country.
3. to admit additionally foreign students on merit subject to a maximum of 30% of the strength of admitted domestic students.
4. to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction.
5. To fix curriculum and syllabus, with no UGC mandated curriculum structure.
6. to offer online courses as part of their programmes with a restriction that not more than 20% of the programme should be in online mode.
7. UGC Inspection shall not apply to Institutions of Eminence.

2. School Health Ambassador Initiative

The central Government launched **the School Health Ambassador Initiative.**

Aim: To spread awareness about the preventive health aspects.

The initiative has been launched as a part of **Ayushman Bharat.**

It will be **jointly run by the Union ministries of Health and Human Resources Development.**

The initiative will be **linked with other government initiatives** such as the Eat Right campaign, Fit India movement and Poshan !bhiyaan for the overall development of children's health;

Implementation:

1. Two teachers will be selected as "**health and wellness ambassadors**" in every government school to raise awareness about preventive health aspects.
2. These ambassadors will receive support from class monitors, who will serve as "**Health and Wellness Messengers**".
3. The health and wellness ambassadors will spread awareness regarding preventive health by organising culturally sensitive activity sessions for one hour every week for 24 weeks in a year to promote joyful learning.
4. The NCERT has constituted **a National Resource Group (NRG)** comprising 40 members who have sound training skills and experience in adolescent health. The NRG will then train the state resource group.

3. NISHTHA– National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic

Advancement

- NISHTHA is **the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world.**
- It has been **launched to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level.**
- The basic objective of this massive training programme is **to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.**
- **The initiative is first of its kind wherein standardized training modules are developed at national level for all States and UTs.** However, States and UTs can contextualize the training modules and use their own material and resource persons also, keeping in view the core topics and expected outcomes of NISHTHA.

The prominent features of this integrated programme are:

Activity based modules including educational games and quizzes, Social-emotional learning, motivational interactions, team building, preparation for school based assessment, in-built continuous feedback mechanism, online monitoring and support system, training need and impact analysis (Pre and Post training).

Expected outcomes:

1. This integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all Government schools, faculty members of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as Block Resource Coordinators and Cluster Resource Coordinators in all States and UTs.

4. Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme - 'DHRUV'

Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme- 'DHRUV', a 14 day learning programme, was launched recently from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Headquarters at Bengaluru.

About DHRUV:

- The programme is called DHRUV and every student to be called 'DHRUV TARA'.
- 60 students, 30 each from Science and Performing Arts discipline, have been selected for this ambitious programme in the first batch.
- The programme begins with a tour at ISRO followed by a stay in Delhi, where the selected students will be mentored by renowned experts.
- It is being started to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge.

5. National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme

- Ministry of HRD announces National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme for **using better technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education .**

- The objective is to **use Artificial Intelligence** to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.

How it works?

- **MHRD would act as a facilitator** to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students.
- MHRD would create and maintain a **National NEAT platform** that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.
- EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal.
- They would be free to charge fees as per their policy.
- As their contribution towards the National cause, they would have to offer free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution through NEAT portal.
- MHRD would distribute the free coupons for learning to the most socially/economically backward students.
- **AICTE would be the implementing agency** for NEAT programme.

6. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020

- ARIIA considers all major indicators which are commonly used globally to **rank most innovative education institutions/ universities in the world**.
- More than quantity, ARIIA will focus on quality of innovations and will try to measure the real impact created by these innovations nationally and internationally.

ARIIA will primarily focus on 5 main parameters:

- Budget Expenses and Revenue generated through Innovation and entrepreneurship development.
- Facilitating access to advance centres / facilities and entrepreneurial support system.
- Idea to Entrepreneurship.
- Development of Innovation Ecosystems Supported through Teaching & Learning.
- Best innovative solutions Developed In-house for Improving Governance of Your Institution.

7. IMPRINT

- TechEx – technology exhibition at IIT Delhi, was recently organized to demonstrate products and prototypes developed under the two flagship schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) namely **IMPActing Research, INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT)** and **UchhatarAvishkar Yojana (UAY)**.

About IMPRINT India:

- The initiative, 'IMPRINT India', is a pan-IIT and IISc joint collaboration **to develop a blueprint for research of immediate relevance to society** requiring innovation, direct scientific research into identified areas, ensure higher funding support for research into these areas and measure outcomes of the research efforts with reference to the impact on the standard of living in rural/urban areas.
- IMPRINT scheme was **launched in November, 2015** with a view **to providing solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges by translating knowledge into viable technology (products or processes) in 10 selected technology domains**, namely health care, energy, sustainable habitat, nano-technology hardware, water resources and river systems, advanced materials, Information and Communication Technology, manufacturing, security and defence, and environmental science and climate change.

UchhatarAvishkar Yojana (UAY):

- It was announced on October 6, 2015 with a view **to promoting innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing.**
- UAY projects are **funded jointly by MHRD, participating Ministries and the Industry in the ratio of 50:25:25.**
- The scheme **focuses** on a viable industry-academic collaboration where industry shares a part of the cost of research.

8. Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE)

- UGC announced – Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE) to **boost research culture in India.**

Key features:

- STRIDE will provide **support to research projects** that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
- STRIDE shall support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with **focus on inclusive human development.**
- STRIDE shall support creation, development and integration of new ideas, concepts and practices for public good and strengthening civil society.

STRIDE Objectives:

- To identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development;
- To fund multi institutional network high-impact research projects in humanities and human sciences.

9. Paramarsh Scheme

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched '**Paramarsh**' – a **University Grants Commission (UGC) scheme.**

About Paramarsh:

- The scheme is for **Mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) Accreditation Aspirant Institutions** to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education.
- The scheme will be a paradigm shift in the concept of **mentoring of institution by another well performing institution to upgrade their academic performance** and enable them to get accredited by focusing in the area of curricular aspects, teaching-learning & evaluation, research, innovation, institutional values & practices etc.

Implementation:

- The Scheme will be operationalized through a **"Hub & Spoke" model** wherein the Mentor Institution, called the "Hub" is centralized and will have the responsibility of guiding the Mentee institution through the secondary branches the "Spoke" through the services provided to the mentee for self-improvement.

10. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan

- It was launched in 2015.
- It is a **convergent framework across School Education and Higher Education** to motivate children of the age group from 6-18 years in learning Science, Mathematics and Technology through observation, experimentation, inference drawing, model building, etc. both through inside and outside classroom activities and processes.

- It seeks to create curiosity, excitement and spirit of innovation and exploration amongst school children by encouraging higher education institutions to become Mentoring Institutions and assist secondary and elementary schools in the study of Science and Mathematics.
- Major interventions under RAA provided under **Integrated scheme for School Education** – Samagra Shiksha, include conduct of Science Exhibition, Book Fair, Quiz Competition, exposure/study visits for students to Higher Education institutions, participation of students in Inter-school/State/National level Science & Maths Competitions/Olympiads, strengthening of School Science and Mathematics laboratories, use of teaching-learning equipment and material including Digital models and use of technology in Science and Mathematics teaching.



Ministry of Women and Child Development

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme

Launched in January, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana. All India Expansion of BBBP covering all 640 districts (as per Census 2011) was launched at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan on 8th March 2018.

It is a **tri-ministerial effort** of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

Implementation:

It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% financial assistance for District level component and the fund are directly released to the DC/DM's account for smooth operation of the Scheme;

Objectives:

- Main Objective of the scheme is to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum.
- The specific objectives of the scheme include preventing gender biased sex selective elimination; ensuring survival and protection of the girl child and ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

Target group:

- Primary: Young and newly married couples; Pregnant and Lactating mothers; parents
- Secondary: Youth, adolescents (girls and boys), in-laws, medical doctors/ practitioners, private hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centres
- Tertiary: Officials, PRIs; frontline workers, women SHGs/Collectives, religious leaders, voluntary organizations, media, medical associations, industry associations, general public as a whole.

Strategies

- Implement a sustained Social Mobilization and Communication Campaign to create equal value for the girl child & promote her education.
- Place the issue of decline in CSR/SRB in public discourse, improvement of which would be a indicator for good governance.
- Focus on Gender Critical Districts and Cities low on CSR for intensive & integrated action.
- Adopt Innovative Interventions/Actions by the districts as per their local needs, context and sensibilities.
- Mobilize & Train Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban local bodies/ Grassroot workers as catalysts for social change, in partnership with local community/women's/youth groups;
- Engage with Communities to challenge gender stereotypes and social norms.
- Ensure service delivery structures/schemes & programmes are sufficiently responsive to issues of gender and children's rights;
- Enable Inter-sectoral and inter-institutional convergence at District/Block/Grassroot levels.

2. One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme

The Government of India is implementing **One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme** for setting up One Stop Centre since 1st April 2015 to support women affected by violence.

About the scheme:

Popularly known as **Sakhi**, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has formulated this **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.

It is a **sub – scheme of Umbrella Scheme for National Mission for Empowerment of women** including Indira Gandhi Mattritav Sahyaog Yojana.

Under the scheme, **One Stop Centres** are being established across the country **to provide integrated support and assistance** under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in phased manner.

Target group: The OSC will support all women including girls below 18 years of age affected by violence, irrespective of caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation or marital status.

The Centres will be integrated with a Women Helpline to facilitate access to following services:

1. Emergency response and rescue services.
2. Medical assistance.
3. Assistance to women in lodging the FIR.
4. Psycho- social support and counselling.
5. Legal aid and counselling.
6. Shelter.
7. Video conferencing facility.

Funds:

The Scheme will be funded through **Nirbhaya Fund**. The Central Government will provide **100% financial assistance to the State Government /UT Administrations under the Scheme**.

3. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

As per a survey, the PMMVY has been able to reach **less than a third of the eligible beneficiaries**.

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is **a maternity benefit** rechristened from erstwhile **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)**.
- PMMVY is implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- The scheme is **a conditional cash transfer scheme** for pregnant and lactating women.
- It provides partial compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery of the **first living child**.
- They receive **a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three instalments on fulfilling the respective conditionality**, viz. early registration of pregnancy, ante -natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The eligible beneficiaries also receive **cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**. Thus, **on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000**.

Exceptions: The maternity benefits are available to all Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) except those in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.

Funding: The scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which cost sharing ratio between the Centre and the States & UTs with Legislature is 60:40 while for North -Eastern States & three Himalayan States; it is 90:10. It is 100% Central assistance for Union Territories without Legislature.

4. POSHAN Atlas

The ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) in association with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Deendayal Research Institute is developing **a POSHAN atlas** under **POSHAN abhiyan**.

About the POSHAN Atlas:

Aim: to map the crops and food grains grown in different regions of the country so that nutritious protein rich food in local areas can be promoted.

5. Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month)

- Objective: To take the **messages of POSHAN to the grass root level.**
- The programme is an initiative of WCD Ministry and NITI Aayog is supported by 18 line Ministries/Departments/Government Organizations.
- It seeks to synergise all efforts by leveraging technology and intends to take nutrition awareness to the level of Jan Indolan or People's Movement.
- The programme focuses on **8 themes** – Antenatal Care, Optimal Breastfeeding (Early & Exclusive), Complementary Feeding, Anemia, Growth Monitoring, Girls- education, diet, right age of Marriage, Hygiene & Sanitation, Food Fortification.

About POSHAN Abhiyan:

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched on 8th March, 2018.
- Objectives: The programme through use of technology, a targeted approach and convergence strives to **reduce the level of Stunting, Under-nutrition, Anaemia and Low Birth Weight** in Children from 0-6 years, as also, focus on Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers, thus holistically addressing malnutrition.
- Aims: POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays -down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters over the next few years.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. Although the target to reduce Stunting is at least 2% p.a., Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).
- Coverage: To ensure a holistic approach, all 36 States/UTs and 718 districts will be covered in a phased manner by the year 2020.

6. National Creche Scheme

- National Crèche Scheme is being implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** through States/UTs with effect from 01.01.2017.
- The Scheme is being **implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
- It aims at **providing a safe place for mothers to leave their children while they are at work**, and thus, is a measure for empowering women as it enables them to take up employment.
- Coverage: It is an intervention towards protection and development of children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years.

Features:

- Provides for **day care facilities** to the children of working mothers.
- Provides supplementary nutrition, health care inputs like immunization, polio drops, basic health monitoring, sleeping facilities, early stimulation (for children below 3 years), pre-school education for children aged between 3-6 yrs.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The State Government, Voluntary Institutions, Mahila Mandals with the know report of service in the field of child welfare department and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or registered as a Public Trust at least for the period for last 2 years are eligible for applying for the financial assistance from the fund.

Fund sharing:

- The fund sharing pattern under National Creche Scheme amongst Centre, States/UTs & Non - Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations for all recurring components of the

scheme is in the ratio of 60:30:10 for States, 80:10:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States and 90:0:10 for UTs.

NOTES



GUPTA CLASSES

Ministry of Rural Development

1. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

Launched in **2016**, the programme is designed to **deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.**

It is now a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.**

There is a funding support of up to 30% of the estimated investment for each Rurban cluster, given as **Critical Gap Funding (CGF)**, while 70% of the funds is mobilized by the States through convergence with synergic State and Central programmes and private investment and institutional funding.

Funding: Shared between the Centre and the State in a ratio of 60:40 for Plain area States and 90:10 for Himalayan and NE States.

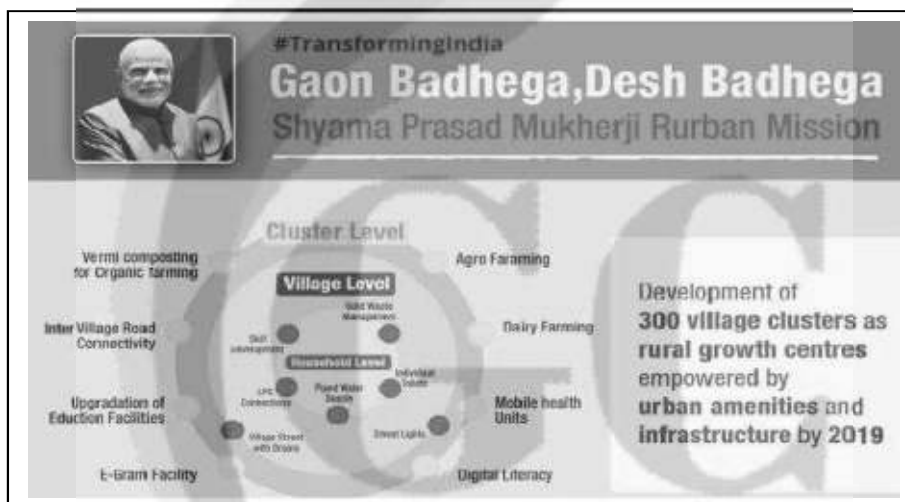
The Mission aims at **development of 300 Rurban clusters, in five years.**

The objective is to give a boost to economic activities, skill development and infrastructure amenities in the regions.

Development: Under the mission, the Central government in coordination with the district administration has taken measures to bring about multi-layered phased development of the rural gram panchayats and villages on the lines of urban cities with proper civic amenities keeping the soul of villages intact.

What are Rurban areas? Why develop them?

A 'Rurban cluster', would be a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and with a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.



The larger outcomes envisaged under this Mission are:

1. Bridging the rural-urban divide-viz: economic, technological and those related to facilities and services.
2. Stimulating local economic development with emphasis on reduction of poverty and unemployment in rural areas.
3. Spreading development in the region.
4. Attracting investment in rural areas.

2. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

Launched in 2014, it is a **village development project** under which **each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in three villages by 2019.**

The goal is to develop three Adarsh Grams or model villages by March 2019, of which one would be achieved by 2016. Thereafter, five such Adarsh Grams (one per year) will be selected and developed by 2024.

The Project was **launched on the occasion of birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan.**

Implementation:

1. The scheme will be implemented through **a village development plan** that would be prepared for every identified gram panchayat with special focus on enabling every poor household to come out of poverty.
2. The **constituency fund, MPLADS**, would be available to fill critical financing gaps.
3. The planning process in each village will be a participatory exercise coordinated by **the District Collector. The MP will play an active facilitating role in this exercise.**
4. Adoption and adaptation of technology and introduction of innovations are critical to this programme. This will include use of space application and remote sensing for planning, mobile based technology for monitoring, agriculture technology for increasing productivity etc.
5. At the state level there will be **an Empowered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary consisting of the relevant Departments and including experts**, as required with at least two Civil Society representatives.
6. **The district Collector will be the nodal officer for implementing the SAGY.** He will conduct a monthly review meeting with representatives of the participating Line Departments. The Members of Parliament concerned will chair the review meetings.
7. SAGY gives focus to **community participation. Social mobilization of village community** can trigger a chain of other development activities in the village.

	Phase-1	Phase-2	Phase-3	Phase-4
MPs adopted gram panchayats	703	497	301	252
LSMPs selected gram panchayats	500	364	239	208
RS MPs selected gram panchayats	203	133	62	44

3. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

In line with the provisions of **National Policy for Farmers (NPF) (2007)**, the **Department of Rural Development**, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a programme exclusively for women farmers namely, **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)**.

Funding support to the tune of up to 60% (90% for North Eastern States) for such projects is provided by the Government of India.

About Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana:

It is **a sub component of the Deendayal Antodaya Yojana -NRLM (DAY-NRLM)**.

It seeks **to improve the present status of women in Agriculture**, and to enhance the opportunities available to empower her.

MKSP recognizes **the identity of "Mahila" as "Kisan"** and strives to build the capacity of women in the domain of agro-ecologically sustainable practices.

Objectives and significance:

- The focus of MKSP is on capacitating smallholders to adopt sustainable climate resilient agro-ecology and eventually create a pool of skilled community professionals.
- Its objective is to strengthen smallholder agriculture through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices such as Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), Non Pesticide Management (NPM), Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), Pashu -Sakhi model for doorstep animal care services, Sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non -Timber Forest Produce.

4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana -III (PMGSY-III)

Phase III of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** has been launched.

Features of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana -III (PMGSY-III):

1. Under the PMGSY-III Scheme, it is proposed to consolidate **1,25,000 Km road length in the States.**
2. It involves consolidation of Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations to **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.**
3. The **funds would be shared in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and State for all States except for 8 North Eastern states and Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand for which it is 90:10.**

Background:

A total of 5,99,090 Km road length has been constructed under the scheme since inception till April, 2019 (inclusive of **PMGSY-I, PMGSY-II and RCPLWEA Scheme.**)

PMGSY-I:

PMGSY was **launched in December, 2000** with an objective **to provide single all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitation of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East, hill, tribal and desert areas as per Census, 2001) for overall socio-economic development of the areas.**

Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Area (RCPLWEA):

Launched in the year **2016** as **a separate vertical under PMGSY** to provide all-weather road connectivity with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures in 44 districts (35 are worst IWE affected districts and 09 are adjoining districts), which are critical from security and communication point of view. Under the Scheme, 5,066 Km road length has been sanctioned.

5. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- The NSAP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development. It came into effect from 15th August, 1995.
- It represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the DPSP in Article 41 of the Constitution. In particular, Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the State to provide **public assistance to its citizens** in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development.
- It aims to provide **financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities** in the form of social pensions.

Presently NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely:

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS).
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS).
- Annapurna

Ministry of Jal Shakti

1. Jal Shakti Ministry

- The Centre has created a new Ministry called 'Jal Shakti';
- It has been created by **merger of Ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation along with Drinking Water and Sanitation.**

2. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Government of India has restructured and subsumed the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) into Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to provide **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household** i.e., Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (HGNSJ) by 2024.

The following kinds of works/ schemes are proposed to be taken up under JJM:

- In-village water supply (PWS) infrastructure for tap water connection to every household;
- Reliable drinking water source development/ augmentation of existing sources;
- Transfer of water (multi-village scheme; where quantity & quality issues are there in the local water sources);
- Technological intervention for treatment to make water potable (where water quality is an issue, but quantity is sufficient);
- Retrofitting of completed and ongoing piped water supply schemes to provide FHTC and raise the service level;
- Grey water management;
- Capacity building of various stakeholders and support activities to facilitate the implementation.

Service level delivery under JJM: The goal of JJM is to provide functional household tap connection to every household with service level at the rate of 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd).

The institutional mechanism under JJM:

- National level:** National Jal Jeevan Mission
- State level:** State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM)
- District level:** District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM)
- Gram Panchayat level:** Paani Samiti/ Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ User group

Funding Pattern under JJM: The fund sharing pattern between Centre and State is 90:10 for Himalayan (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh) and North-Eastern States, 100:0 for UTs and 50:50 for rest of the States.

There are people who would like to contribute and donate voluntarily for water supply in the rural areas. To facilitate this, '**Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh**' will mobilize and accept donations/ contributions received from various sources to fund JJM.

3. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

The Centre has approved the second phase of **the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural)** with an estimated central and state budget of Rs 52,497 crore .

Key facts:

- The **second phase will be implemented on a mission mode between 2020-21 and 2024-25.**
- The second phase will focus on **Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus)**, which includes ODF sustainability and solid and liquid waste management (SLWM).

- The ODF Plus programme will **converge with MGNREGA**, especially for grey water management, and will complement **the newly launched Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- The programme will also work towards ensuring that **no one is left behind and everyone uses a toilet**.
- **The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and States** will be 90:10 for North-Eastern States and Himalayan States and UT of J&K; 60:40 for other States; and 100:0 for other Union Territories, for all the components.

About SBM- Rural:

Launched on 2nd October, 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to focus on sanitation.

- The aim is **to achieve a clean and open defecation free (ODF) India**.
- Implemented by **the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**.

Objectives:

It seeks to improve the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities and making Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF), clean and sanitised.

Incentive:

Eligibility: Incentive as provided under the Mission for the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) shall be available for all Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households and Above Poverty Line (APL) households restricted to SCs/STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women headed households.

- The Incentive amount provided under SBM(G) to Below Poverty Line (BPL) /identified APLs households shall be up to Rs.12,000 for construction of one unit of IHHL and provide for water availability, including for storing for hand -washing and cleaning of the toilet.
- Central Share of this Incentive for IHHLs shall be Rs.9,000/- (75%) from Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). The State share will be Rs.3,000/- (25%).
- For North Eastern State, and Special category States, the Central share will be Rs. 10,800/- and the State share Rs.1,200/- (90%: 10%).

4. Swachh Iconic Places

It is an initiative of **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission**.

Aims to take iconic places and their surroundings to higher standards of Swachhata, so that all visitors benefit and also take away home the message of cleanliness.

Implementation of the project: It 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.

Initiatives taken up under Swachh Iconic Places initiative:

Improved sewage infrastructure, installation of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), drainage facilities, improved sanitation facilities, water vending machines, solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) set-up, structure restoration, lighting arrangements, beautification of parks, roads maintenance, better transport facilities in approach and access areas besides at the main sites.

Places selected:

Phase I iconic places are: Ajmer Sharif Dargah, CST Mumbai, Golden Temple, Kamakhya Temple, Maikarnika Ghat, Meenakshi Temple, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Shree Jagannath Temple, The Taj Mahal and Tirupati Temple.

Phase II included Gangotri, Yamunotri, Mahakaleshwar Temple, Charminar, Convent and Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Kalady, Gommateswara, Baidyanath Dham, Gaya Tirth and Somnath temple.

Phase III includes RaghavendraSwamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh); Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal); Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana); VidurKuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh); Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand); Pangong Lake (Leh -Ladakh, J&K); Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh); ImaKeithal/market (Imphal, Manipur); Sabarimala Temple (Kerala); and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand).

5. Atal Bhujal Yojana

It is a Rs.6000 crore **World Bank** approved **Central Sector Scheme** of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

The **funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank**.

Aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation.

Priority areas:

- The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- These States represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of ground water in India.
- They also cover two major types of groundwater systems found in India – alluvial and hard rock aquifers- and have varying degrees of institutional readiness and experience in groundwater management.

Implementation of the scheme:

Funds under the scheme will be provided to the states for **strengthening the institutions responsible for ground water governance**, as well as for encouraging **community involvement** for improving ground water management to **foster behavioural changes** that promote conservation and efficient use of water.

The scheme will also facilitate convergence of ongoing Government schemes in the states by incentivizing their focussed implementation in identified priority areas.

6. Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** for Water Conservation Launched.
- It is a time-bound, **mission-mode campaign** that would focus on 1,592 “water-stressed” blocks in 257 districts.
- The campaign will run **through citizen participation** during the monsoon season, from 1st July, 2019 to 15th September, 2019.
- Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a **collaborative effort of various Ministries** of the Government of India and State Governments, being coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- Under the campaign, teams of officers from the central government will visit and work with district administration in **water stressed blocks**, to ensure **five important water conservation interventions**.
- **These will be** water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks, reuse, bore well recharge structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation.
- **Other measures:** These water conservation efforts will also be supplemented with special interventions including the development of Block and District Water Conservation Plans, promotion of efficient water use for irrigation and better choice of crops through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
- A large-scale **communications campaign** has also been planned alongside the JSA involving mass mobilisation of different groups including school students, college students, swachhagrahis, Self Help Groups, Panchayati Raj Institution members, youth groups (NSS/NYKS/NCC), defence personnel, ex- servicemen and pensioners, among various others.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1. Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/appliances (ADIP Scheme)

Being implemented by **the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.**

Objective: to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.

Implementation: The scheme is implemented through implementing agencies such as NGOs, National Institutes under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and ALIMCO (a PSU that manufactures artificial limbs).

Eligibility:

A person satisfying all the following conditions are eligible:

1. Indian citizen of any age
2. Has 40% disability or more (must have the requisite certificate)
3. Monthly income, not more than Rs.20000.
4. In the case of dependents, income of parents/guardians should not exceed Rs.20000.
5. Must not have received assistance during the last 3 years for the same purpose from any source. However, for children below 12years of age, this limit would be one year.

2. Accessible India Campaign (AIC)

- Accessible India Campaign (AIC) is the nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Aim:** The aim of the Campaign is to make a **barrier free and conducive environment for Divyangjans** all over the country. 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.
- **Implementation:** For creating universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, the campaign has been divided into three verticals: Built Environment; Transport and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem.
- Accessible India Campaign is in line with the **Article 9 of UNCRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to which India is a signatory since 2007.**

Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 under Sections 44, 45 and 46 categorically provides for non-discrimination in transport, non-discrimination on the road and non-discrimination in built environment respectively.

As per Section 46 of the PwD Act, the States are required to provide for –

- Ramps in public buildings;
- Adaptation of toilets for wheel chair users;
- Braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators or lifts;
- Ramps in hospitals, primary health centres and other medical care and rehabilitation institutions

Section 44 and 45 of the said Act cast **responsibility on the States to take measures to make public transport accessible for PwDs** and also make provision for auditory signals at red lights in public roads, curb cuts and slopes in pavements, engraving on the surface at zebra crossings etc.

3. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

Coverage: Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age -related disability/infirmity Low vision, Hearing impairment, Loss of teeth and Locomotor disability.

What assistance is provided? Assisted-living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/infirmity manifested. They are **free-of cost**.

Funding: This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund";

Other key facts:

- **In case of multiple disabilities/infirmities** manifested in the same person, the assistive devices will be given in respect of each disability/impairment.
- Beneficiaries in each district will be **identified by the State Governments/UT Administrations through a Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector.**
- As far as possible, **30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.**

4. Vayoshreshtha Samman

It is **a Scheme of National Awards instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (D/o Social Justice & Empowerment).**

- It was **upgraded to the status of National Awards in 2013.**
- The award is for **institutions involved in rendering distinguished service for the cause of elderly persons** especially indigent senior citizens and **to eminent citizens in recognition of their service/achievements.**
- These awards are presented as part of the celebration of **the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP)** on 1st October.

Ministry of Minority Affairs

1. Hunar Haat

Organised by **ministry of minority affairs under “USTT!D” scheme** at different parts of the country.

It is an **exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the minority communities.**

These Haat aim to provide **market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.**

Significance:

“Hunar Haat” have become a **successful mission to provide employment and employment opportunities at national as well international markets for thousands of master artisans, craftsmen and culinary experts.**

What is USTTAD SCHEME?

USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme aims to preserve heritage of traditional arts and crafts of minority communities and build capacity of traditional craftspersons and artisans and establish linkages of traditional skills with the global market.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

1. National Green Corps ‘Ecoclub’

Launched under **the Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT)**, the National Green Corps (NGC) popularly known as **“a programme of Ecoclubs”** is a nationwide initiative.

Objectives:

- To impart knowledge to school children, through hands-on experience, about their immediate environment, interactions within it and the problems therein.
- To develop requisite skills of observation, experimentation, survey, recording, analysis and reasoning for conserving the environment through various activities.
- To inculcate the proper attitude towards the environment and its conservation through community interactions.
- To sensitize children to issues related to environment and development through field visits and demonstrations.
- To promote logical and independent thinking among children so that they are able to make the right choices in a spirit of scientific inquiry.
- To motivate and stimulate young minds by involving them in action projects related to environmental conservation.

Methodology:

1. The scheme is being **operated through Eco-clubs of 50-60 students** having interest in environment related issues, formed in member schools.
2. Eco clubs are supervised by a **Teacher In-charge**, who is selected from among the teachers of the member school.
3. **There is District Implementation and Monitoring Committee** to supervise, organise training for In-charge teachers, and monitor periodically the implementation of scheme at the District level.
4. **There is a State Steering Committee** for guidance, direction and to oversee the implementation of the scheme.

5. **The State Nodal Agency** coordinates the implementation of the scheme in the State and organize related activities like training to Master Trainers.
6. **The National Steering Committee** will give overall direction to the programme and ensure linkages at all levels.

2. Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan

The Environment Ministry undertook a mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 50 identified beaches under the “**Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan**”;

About Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan:

1. **Aim:** To make beaches clean and create awareness amongst citizens about the importance of coastal ecosystems – in Beaches across 10 states / UTs.
2. The campaign will be organized in the beaches after consultation with the state governments.
3. **Environment Education Division and Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)** under the Environment Ministry will be responsible for its implementation.
4. At end of the drive, **the best three beaches will be suitably awarded** along with a certificate of appreciation for all the participating eco-clubs.
5. The implementation of the drive will be **monitored by the MoEF&CC officials**.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

1. HS Code

The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has allocated **a separate Harmonised System (HS) code** for Khadi.

Khadi is **India’s signature handspun and handwoven cloth** that was made iconic by Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom struggle.

What does this mean for Khadi?

The move is expected **to boost Khadi exports in the coming years**. Earlier, Khadi did not have its exclusive HS code.

What does the HS code mean?

The **Harmonised System, or simply ‘HS’, is a six-digit identification code**. Of the six digits, the first two denote the HS Chapter, the next two give the HS heading, and the last two give the HS subheading.

Developed by **the World Customs Organization (WCO)**.

Called **the “universal economic language” for goods**.

It is **a multipurpose international product nomenclature**.

The system **currently comprises of around 5,000 commodity groups**.

HS code are used by Customs authorities, statistical agencies, and other government regulatory bodies, to monitor and control the import and export of commodities through:

1. Customs tariffs
2. Collection of international trade statistics
3. Rules of origin
4. Collection of internal taxes
5. Trade negotiations (e.g., the World Trade Organization schedules of tariff concessions)
6. Transport tariffs and statistics
7. Monitoring of controlled goods (e.g., wastes, narcotics, chemical weapons, ozone layer depleting substances, endangered species, wildlife trade)

8. Areas of Customs controls and procedures, including risk assessment, information technology and compliance.

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

1. Apiary on Wheels

It is a unique concept designed by **the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for the easy upkeep and migration of Bee Boxes having live Bee colonies.

- It is a platform which can carry 20 Bee Boxes from one place to another without any difficulty.
- It is like an attachment which can be easily connected with a Tractor or a Trolley and may be pulled to any suitable destination.

Background:

The KVIC launched **Honey Mission** in 2017 and has been training beekeepers, distributing Bee Boxes and helping rural, educated but unemployed youth to earn extra income through beekeeping activities, at their doorstep.

Ministry of Mines

1. District Mineral Foundations

Rajasthan to create **pneumoconiosis fund with DMF money.**

The fund will be **used to execute a comprehensive policy on the disease, which is widely prevalent in the mining state.**

Pneumoconiosis, a lung disease, mostly affects workers who work in the mining and construction sectors and deal with soil, silica, coal dust and asbestos. The disease includes asbestosis, silicosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis.

About DMFs:

DMFs were **instituted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act 2015.**

They are **non-profit trusts** to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining-related operations.

Objective: to work for the interest of the benefit of the persons and areas affected mining related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.

Jurisdiction: Its manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.

The various state DMF rules and the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Khestra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines stipulate some "high priority" issues for DMFs, including (At least 60% of PMKKKY funds will be utilized for high priority areas):

Drinking water; Health; Women and child welfare; Education; Livelihood and skill development; Welfare of aged and disabled; and Sanitation.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY):

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:

1. To implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government.
2. To minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts.
3. To ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

Amendments to **District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Trust Rules, 2015**, by Chhattisgarh government has made it more inclusive, people-centric and will also empower people affected by mining in the state.

Background:

- Chhattisgarh became the first state in July 2019, to amend DMF rules.
- The new rule mandates the inclusion of 10 Gram Sabha members directly from mining-affected areas in the DMF Governing Council (GC).
- In Scheduled Areas, at least 50 per cent of the Gram Sabha members must be from Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- To ensure better public accountability, a two-step social audit process has been mandated.
- Provisions have also been introduced for five-year plan, which can be subjected to a third party review if the secretary of the mines department considers it to be necessary.
- The rules have also specified 'sustainable livelihood' as a high priority issue, including for forest rights holders.

Ministry of Power

1. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All' (UJALA) scheme

Fifth anniversary of the Centre's zero subsidy '*Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All' (UJALA) scheme and 'LED Street Lighting National Programme' (SLNP).*

About UJALA scheme:

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.

UJALA is a flagship project of the Govt. of India where it wants ***every home in India to use LED bulbs so that the net power or energy consumption rate comes down and the carbon emission rates can also be checked.***

About SLNP:

Launched in 2015, EESL's ***Street Light National Programme (SLNP)*** has been instrumental in replacing over 50 lakh street lights in over 500 cities in India, leading to 135 crore kWh of energy savings and cost saving of INR 742 crore every year.

Under the programme, ***EESL replaces the conventional street lights with LEDs at its own costs,*** with no upfront investment by the municipalities, thereby making their adoption even more attractive.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

1. Swachh Survekshan

- 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020' was conducted in three quarters (April-June, July-September and October-December) with the objective of sustaining the on-ground performance of cities along with monitoring of when it comes to cleanliness.
- SS 2020 parameters where **wastewater treatment and reuse, and faecal sludge management** have been given special attention.
- Swachh Survekshan is a ranking exercise taken up by the Government of India to **assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness** and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a **timely and innovative manner**.
- The objective of the survey is to encourage **large scale citizen participation and create awareness** amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.
- The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India takes up the Swachh Survekshan in urban areas and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in rural areas. The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** has been commissioned the responsibility of carrying out the assessment.
- Swachh Survekshan 2020 is the 5th edition of the annual urban cleanliness survey.

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

The Centre has decided to extend the mission period of its flagship initiative Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) by two more years.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is the new avatar of **the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**. But, in a significant departure from the earlier mission, **the Centre will not appraise individual projects.**

The Mission will focus on the following Thrust Areas:

1. Water Supply.
2. Sewerage and septage management.
3. Storm Water Drainage to reduce flooding
4. Non-motorized Urban Transport.
5. Green space/parks.

Five hundred cities have been selected under AMRUT. The category of cities that have been selected under AMRUT is given below:

1. All Cities and Towns with a population of over one lakh with notified Municipalities as per Census 2011, including Cantonment Boards (Civilian areas).
2. All Capital Cities/Towns of States/ UTs, not covered in above.
3. All Cities/ Towns classified as Heritage Cities by MoHUA under the HRIDAY Scheme.
4. Thirteen Cities and Towns on the stem of the main rivers with a population above 75,000 and less than 1 lakh.
5. Ten Cities from hill states, islands and tourist destinations (not more than one from each State).

Implementation:

1. AMRUT 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.**
2. Under this mission, **10% of the budget allocation will be given to states and union territories as incentive based on the achievement of reforms during the previous year.**

3. States will only submit **state annual action Plans to the centre for broad concurrence based on which funds will be released.**
4. 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.**
5. Under the mission, **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.

3. Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)

The Union Government has launched the **Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal (CLAP)** for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana -Housing for All (Urban).

- The portal was launched along with the signing of agreements between the Union Housing Affairs Ministry and state governments for the construction of LightHouse projects under **GHTC-India.**

Key features of the Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC) are:

- GHTC aims to **fast-track the construction of affordable housing and meet the target of constructing 1.2 crore houses by 2022.**
- GHTC **focuses on identifying and mainstreaming proven demonstrable technologies** for lighthouse projects and spotting potential future technologies for incubation and acceleration support through ASHA (Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerator s) — India.

Objectives:

1. To enable adoption of construction techniques for housing that are affordable and takes minimum time as less as three months instead of the conventional three years for construction.
2. Bring a paradigm shift in technology transition using large-scale construction under the PMAY-U as an opportunity to get the best available construction technologies across the globe.

About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY -U):

It is being **implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA).** It envisions **provision of Housing for All by 2022**, when the Nation completes 75 years of its Independence.

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 and benefits:

- The beneficiaries are **poor and people living under EWS and LIG categories in the country.**
- The government is providing an interest subsidy of 6.5% on housing loans which can be availed by beneficiaries for 15 years from start of loan date.
- The government will grant Rs 1 lakh to all the beneficiaries of the scheme. In addition, Rs 1.5 lakh will be given to all eligible urban poor who want to construct their houses in urban areas or plan to go for renovation in their existing houses.
- One can also avail loans under this scheme to build toilets in existing houses.

Ownership of houses:

- House is to be **allotted in the name of adult female member or in joint name and all houses to have toilet facility, drinking water and power supply** . Preference is given to persons with disabilities, ST/ SC/ OBCs, minorities and transgender.

4. Angikaar campaign

- The government has launched “**angikaar**” a campaign for change management.
- Angikaar has been launched for **social behaviour change**, focusing on issues such as water & energy conservation, waste management, health, tree plantation, sanitation and hygiene.
- **Target group:** It has been launched **for beneficiaries of completed houses under PMAY (U)** , through community mobilisation and IEC activities.
- **Implementation:** The campaign will converge with schemes and Missions of other Ministries dealing with these subjects. The convergence would especially focus on **Ujjwala** for gas connection and **Ayushman Bharat** for health insurance to the beneficiaries of PMAY (U).
- The campaign will include **door to door activities, ward and city level events**.

5. National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Conferred the Prestigious **SKOCH Governance Gold Award**.
- The award has been conferred for its **Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA)**.

About DAY- NULM:

- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) is renamed as **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - (DAY-NULM)** and in Hindi as – **Rashtriya Shahri Aajeevika Mission**.
- **Coverage:** Under the scheme urban areas extends the coverage to all the 4041 statutory cities and towns, there by covering almost the entire urban population.

Aims:

- To reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access **gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities**, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots level.
- To provide the **shelter** equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner.
- To address the **livelihood concern of the urban street vendors** by facilitating with suitable space, institutional credit, and social security and skills to the urban street vendor for accessing emerging market opportunities.

What is PaiSA portal?

- Launched in November 2018, it is a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Mission.
- It offers end to end online solution for processing, payment, monitoring and tracking of interest subvention claims from banks on a monthly basis.
- It is designed and developed by Allahabad Bank (Nodal bank).

Ministry of Finance

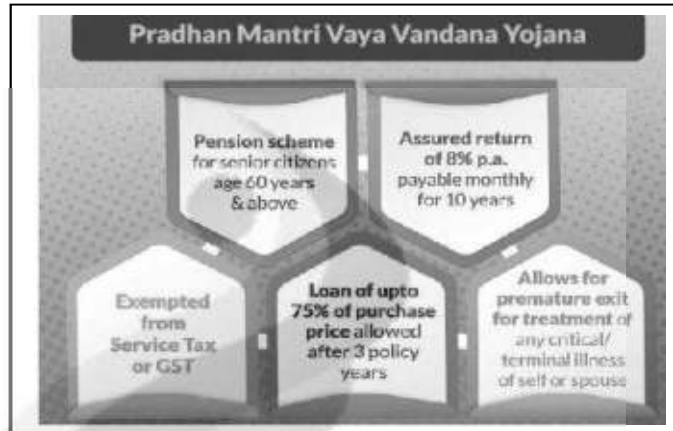
1. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)

It is **a Pension Scheme exclusively for the 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.

Key features of the scheme:

1. Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years.
2. Pension is payable at the end of each period, during the policy term of 10 years, as per the frequency of monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase.
3. The scheme is exempted from Service Tax/ GST.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. On death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the Purchase Price shall be paid to the beneficiary.



2. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

RBI Deputy Governor has expressed concerns over growing non-performing assets (NPAs) in Mudra category.

About the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) scheme:

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.**
- Mudra Loans are **available for non-agricultural activities upto Rs. 10 lakh and activities allied to agriculture** such as Dairy, Poultry, Bee Keeping etc, are also covered.
- Mudra's **unique features** include a Mudra Card which permits access to Working Capital through ATMs and Card Machines.

There are three types of loans under PMMY:

1. Shishu (up to Rs.50,000).
2. Kishore (from Rs.50,001 to Rs.5 lakh).
3. Tarun (from Rs.500,001 to Rs.10,00,000).

Objectives of the scheme:

Fund the unfunded: Those who have a business plan to generate income from a non-farm activity like manufacturing, processing, trading or service sector but don't have enough capital to invest can take loans up to Rs 10 lakh.

Micro finance institutions (MFI) monitoring and regulation: With the help of MUDRA bank, the network of microfinance institutions will be monitored. New registration will also be done .

Promote financial inclusion: With the aim to reach Last mile credit delivery to micro businesses taking help of technology solutions, it further adds to the vision of financial inclusion.

Reduce jobless economic growth: Providing micro enterprises with credit facility will help generate employment sources and an overall increase in GDP.

Integration of Informal economy into Formal sector: It will help India also grow its tax base as incomes from the informal sector are non-taxed.

3. National Pension Scheme (NPS)

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has now permitted **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** to enrol in **National Pension Scheme (NPS)** at par with Non-Resident Indians.

What is National Pension System (NPS)?

- It is a **government-sponsored pension scheme**. It was **launched in January 2004 for government employees**. However, **in 2009, it was opened to all sections**.
- The scheme **allows subscribers to contribute regularly in a pension account during their working life**. On retirement, subscribers can withdraw a part of the corpus in a lumpsum and use the remaining corpus to buy an annuity to secure a regular income after retirement.
- This system is **managed by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority)**.

Who can join NPS?

1. Any Individual citizen of India between 18 and 65 years can join NPS.
2. An NRI can join NPS. However, the account will be closed if there is a change in the citizenship status of the NRI. Contributions made by NRI are subject to regulatory requirements as prescribed by RBI and FEMA from time to time.
3. Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) will now be allowed to invest into National Pension Scheme Tier 1 scheme.
4. However, the option of NPS Tier II account will not be available to NRI and OCI subscribers.

4. Public Finance Management System (PFMS)

It is an **end-to-end solution** for processing payments, tracking, monitoring, accounting, reconciliation and reporting.

Administered by **the Department of Expenditure**.

It is **implemented by the Controller General of Accounts**.

Functions:

- It provides scheme managers a unified platform for tracking releases and monitoring their last mile utilisation.
- It provides platform for efficient management of funds through tracking of funds and real time reporting of expenditure and receipts through treasury and bank interface.
- The line ministries/departments utilise this platform to monitor the utilisation of funds provided to the implementing agencies and state governments.
- PFMS is also used for DBT payments under MGNREGA and other notified schemes of the Government of India.

5. National e-Assessment Scheme (NeAC)

National e-Assessment Centre of IT Department inaugurated recently.

About NeAC:

1. NeAC will be an independent office that will look after the work of e-Assessment scheme which is recently notified for faceless e-assessment for income tax payers.
2. There would be a NeAC in Delhi to be headed by Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (Pr.C CIT).
3. There are 8 Regional e-Assessment Centres (ReAC) set up at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata Ahmedabad, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad which would comprise Assessment unit, Review unit, Technical unit and Verification units.
4. Each ReAC will be headed by Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (CCIT).
5. Cases for the specified work shall be assigned by the NeAC to different units by way of automated allocation systems.



Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

1. Bharatmala Pariyojana

- The Government of India has approved Phase-I of **Bharatmala Pariyojana** with financial outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore to develop 24,800 km Highways along with 10,000 km residual NHDP stretches over a period of five years.

What is Bharatmala project?

- Bharatmala Project is **the second largest highways construction project** in the country since NHDP, under which almost 50,000 km of highway roads were targeted across the country.
- Bharatmala will look to improve connectivity particularly on economic corridors, border areas and far flung areas with an aim of quicker movement of cargo and boosting exports.



About NHAI:

- The **National Highways Authority of India** was constituted by an act of Parliament, the **National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988**.
- It is responsible for the development, maintenance and management of National Highways entrusted to it and for matters connected or incidental thereto.
- The Authority was operationalised in Feb, 1995.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

1. Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project

Northeast gas pipeline grid project:

The proposed gas pipeline grid will **connect Guwahati to the major Northeast cities and major load centers**. It is 1, 656 km long.

The project is being implemented under ambitious **Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project**.

- Besides connecting all the state capitals in the region, the pipeline will also connect with **the National Gas Grid** through Barauni-Guwahati Gas Pipeline, which is being laid by GAIL.
- The pipeline will enable the supply of piped cooking gas to households and CNG to automobiles, besides fuel to industry.

Implementation: The North-East pipeline grid is to be implemented by Indradhanush Gas Grid, a joint venture of state-owned GAIL India, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL).

About the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project:

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**.

- From Varanasi's perspective, an 800 -km long MDPI pipeline will be laid and 50,000 households and 20,000 vehicles will get PNG and CNG gas respectively. The government estimates that around 5 lakh gas cylinders will be sent at rural areas annually.
- According to GAIL, with the Urja Ganga project, 20 lakh households will get PNG connections. The project is said to be a major step towards collective growth and development of the Eastern region of India.
- GAIL has built a network of trunk pipelines covering the length of around 11,000 km. With Urja Ganga project, this number will further increase by 2540 km.

2. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana(PMUJ)

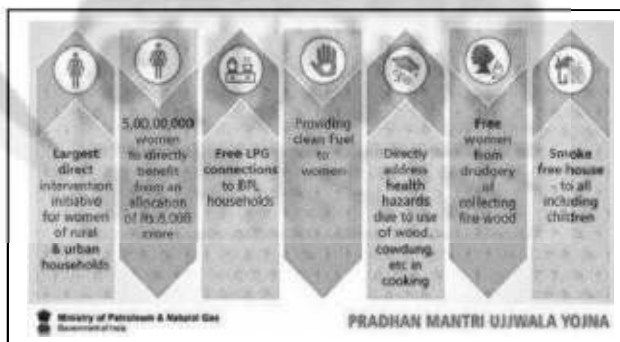
Aim: To provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households.

Key features: A **deposit-free LPG connection** is given to eligible with **financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre**.

The scheme gained traction with its **ambit being expanded to include 80 million poor families from the earlier target of 50 million families with an additional allocation of Rs4,800 crore**.

Eligibility criteria:

- An adult woman belonging to a poor family not having LPG connection in her household.
- The household income of the family, per month, must not exceed a certain limit as defined by the government of the Union Territories and State Government.
- The name of the applicant must be in the list of SECC-2011 data and should match with the information available in the BPL database that Oil Marketing Companies have.
- Applicant must not be a recipient of other similar schemes provided by the government.



Release of LPG connection under this Scheme shall be in the name of the women belonging to the BPL family.

3. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) is an initiative aimed at **setting up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants** and make it available in the market for use in automotive fuels by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.
- The initiative was launched in October 2018 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in association with Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- The initiative is aimed at providing **a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** as a developmental effort that would **benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.**

How it works?

- CBG produced at these plants will be transported through cascades of cylinders to the fuel station networks of OMCs for marketing as a green transport fuel alternative.
- The entrepreneurs would be able to separately market the other by-products from these plants, including bio-manure, carbon-dioxide, etc., to enhance returns on investment.
- This initiative is expected to generate direct employment for 75,000 people and produce 50 million tonnes of bio-manure for crops.

What is Bio- Gas?

- Bio-gas is produced naturally through a process of **anaerobic decomposition** from waste / bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc. After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has pure methane content of over 95%.

What is CBG?

- Compressed Bio-Gas is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential. With calorific value (~52,000 KJ/kg) and other properties similar to CNG, Compressed Bio-Gas can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel.

Ministry of Tourism

1. Swadesh Darshan Scheme

Tourism Ministry launched the scheme in 2015.

Objective: to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

Under the Scheme 15 circuits have been identified for development namely Himalayan Circuit, North East Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit and Sufi Circuit.

Features of Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- **100% centrally funded** for the project components undertaken for public funding.
- To leverage the voluntary funding available for **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and corporate sector.
- **Funding of individual project will vary from state to state** and will be finalised on the basis of detailed project reports prepared by **PMC (Programme Management Consultant)**.
- PMC will be a national level consultant to be appointed by the Mission Directorate.
- **A National Steering Committee (NSC)** will be constituted with Minister in charge of M/O Tourism as Chairman, to steer the mission objectives and vision of the scheme.
- **A Mission Directorate** headed by the Member Secretary, NSC as a nodal officer will help in identification of projects in consultation with the States/ UTs governments and other stake holders.

2. Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme

- Introduced in 2015, the **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** is a government scheme that focuses on identifying and developing the pilgrim sites across the country to enrich the religious tourism experience.
- It was launched by **Union Ministry of Tourism**.
- It aims at **integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in planned, prioritised and sustainable manner** to provide complete religious tourism experience.

Objectives:

- Harness pilgrimage tourism for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development.
- Enhance tourist attractiveness in sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the religious destinations.
- It also seeks to promote local art, culture, handicraft, cuisine, etc.

Funding:

- Under it, Ministry of Tourism provides **Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** to State Governments for promoting tourism at identified destinations. For components within public funding under this scheme, Central Government will provide **100% fund**. For improved sustainability of project, it also seeks to involve Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as well.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

1. One Nation One Ration Card

- One Nation One Ration Card (RC) will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice.
- To set the scheme operational, the government has first set the target to ensure that all the PDS shops are equipped with Point of Sales machine.
- The scheme would be an extension of the already existing **Integrated Management of PDS (IMPDS) programme** under which beneficiaries can avail their share of food grain from any district.
- **Benefits:** no poor person is deprived of getting subsidised foodgrains under the food security scheme when they shift from one place to another. It also aims to remove the chance of anyone holding more than one ration card to avail benefits from different states.
- **Significance:** This will provide freedom to the beneficiaries as they will not be tied to any one PDS shop and reduce their dependence on shop owners and curtail instances of corruption.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

1. Khelo India Programme

- First-ever Khelo India University Games was held in Odisha.

About Khelo India programme:

Introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in the country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

- It is implemented by **the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- Under the scheme, the talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels will be provided annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.

It will be a **Central Sector Scheme** (Scheme implemented by the Central Government machinery and 100% funding by the union government).

2. Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)

- Launched by **Ministry of Sports within the ambit of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)**.
- It aims **at identifying and supporting potential medal prospects** for upcoming Olympic Games.
- It will **provide selected sportspersons customized training at institutes having world class facilities and also other necessary support** is being provided to the elite athletes. It will also provide a benchmark for selection of athletes on par with international standards.
- Under it, **Sports Authority of India (SAI) and federations, which are members of Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), will be nodal agencies** for disbursement of fund. They will make payments directly to beneficiary person and institution concerned on behalf of athletes.

3. National Service Scheme (NSS)

- It is a Central- Sector scheme.
- Launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year in 1969.
- **Background:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) headed by Dr. Radhakrishnan recommended introduction of national service in the academic institutions on a voluntary basis.
- **Aim:** To develop healthy contacts between the students and teachers on the one hand and establishing a constructive linkage between the campus and the community on the other hand.
- Motto of NSS: **"Not Me But You"**.
- **The broad objectives of NSS are to:**

- Understand the community in which they work.
- Understand themselves in relation to their community.
- Identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem solving process.
- Develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility.
- Utilize their knowledge in finding practical solution to individual and community problems.
- Develop competence required for group living and sharing of responsibilities.
- Gain skills in mobilizing community participation.
- Acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude.
- Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters.

Ministry of Textiles

1. Project SURE

- The SURE project is a commitment by India's apparel industry to set a sustainable pathway for the Indian fashion industry.
- **SURE stands for 'Sustainable Resolution'** – a firm commitment from the industry to move towards fashion that contributes to a clean environment.
- The project has been launched by the union **Textiles Ministry**, along with **Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI); United Nations in India; and IMG Reliance**.
- **Significance:** It will be the first holistic effort by the apparel industry towards gradually introducing a broader framework for establishing critical sustainability goals for the industry.
- This framework would help the industry reduce its carbon emissions, increase resource efficiency, tackle waste and water management, and create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.

2. Silk Samagra

- It is initiated by the **Central Silk Board**.
- The scheme comprises **four major components** viz. (i) Research & Development, Training, Transfer of Technology and Information Technology Initiatives, (ii) Seed Organizations, (iii) Coordination and Market Development and (iv) Quality Certification Systems (QCS) / Export Brand Promotion and Technology Up-gradation.
- The main objective of the scheme is to maintain Breeders stock, Breed improvement through R&D Projects, Development of mechanized practices, Technology translation through Sericulture Information Linkages and Knowledge System (SILKS) Portal, Mobile Application for Stakeholders and for seed quality monitoring etc.
- The main aim of "Silk Samagra" Scheme is to **empower downtrodden, poor & backward tribal families** through various activities of sericulture in the country including women.

Key facts:

- India is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world after China.
- It is largest consumer of silk in the world.
- It is the only country in the world that produces all 5 varieties of silk on a commercial scale – Mulberry, Oak Tasar & Tropical Tasar, Muga and Eri.
- Holds the global monopoly for production of the famed golden 'Muga' silk;

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

1. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project

- The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-Vidhan.

What is e-Vidhan?

- It is a **Mission Mode Project (MMP)** comes under the Digital India Programme.
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the States/UTs with Legislatures.
- The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The funding of NeVA is through Central Sponsored Scheme, 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.
- **Aim of the project:** To bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

Key features:

- **Paperless Assembly or e-Assembly** is a concept involving of electronic means to facilitate the work of Assembly.
- It enables **automation of entire law-making process**, tracking of decisions and documents, sharing of information.
- Through the **cloud technology (Meghraj)**, data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time.
- Himachal Pradesh is already the first Digital Legislature of the country.

State Government's Role in the implementation of e-Vidhan:

- The State Government will appoint a Secretary level officer to be designated as the nodal officer/representative for e-Vidhan implementation in the State Legislature(s).
- State Government will bear the funds required for running of e-Vidhan MMP after 3 years.
- The State Government will ensure capacity building for the effective implementation of e-Vidhan MMP module.
- State Government/Legislature will undertake maintenance and replacement of ICT equipment after 3 years.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1. Van Dhan Internship Programme

Van Dhan Internship Programme of TRIFED launched.

Key features of the programme:

- Organised by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- 18 interns (to be called **Minister's interns**) from some of the reputed Institutes of Rural Management/ Management Institutions/ Institutes of Social Work/ Social Services of the country are participating.
- These Interns will help the tribal population in becoming self reliant and entrepreneurs.
- They will support the TRIFED activities on livelihood promotion, value addition of *Non-Timber Forest Products* (NTFTs), marketing and credit linkages.
- They will develop tools and techniques on institutional development including mechanism for determination of a just price or producer price of Minor Forest Products.

About Van Dhan Vikas Kendras initiative:

The initiative **aims to promote MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans.**

It mainstreams the tribal community by **promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level.**

Significance: Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20% to around 60%.

Implementation:

Implemented through **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** as Nodal Department at the Central Level and **TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.**

At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to implement at grassroot level.

Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by **a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.**

Composition: As per the plan, TRIFED will facilitate establishment of MFP-led multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, a cluster of 10 SHGs comprising of 30 tribal MFP gatherers each, in the tribal areas.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

It is a comprehensive package aiming to create **modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management** from farm gate to retail outlet.

It is an umbrella scheme with its period coterminous with the cycle of 14th finance commission (2016-20). It has various schemes within its gamut.



The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri - Waste.

Under PMKSY the following schemes are to be implemented:

1. Mega Food Parks
2. Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure
3. Creation/Expansion of Food Processing/Preservation Capacities
4. Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters
5. Scheme for Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages
6. Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure
7. Human Resources and Institutions

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM - Kusum)

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for farmers for **installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants** in the country.
- It is a ₹1.4 lakh-crore scheme for promoting decentralised solar power production of up to 28,250 MW to help farmers.
- **Benefits:** It would provide extra income to farmers, by giving them an option to sell additional power to the grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands. It would help in de-dieselising the sector as also the DISCOMS.
- **Components of the scheme:** The components of the scheme include building 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands and providing sops to DISCOMS to purchase the electricity produced, 'solarising' existing pumps of 7250 MW as well as government tube wells with a capacity of 8250 MW and distributing 17.5 lakh solar pumps. The 60% subsidy on the solar pumps provided to farmers will be shared between the Centre and the States while 30% would be provided through bank loans. The balance cost has to be borne by the farmers.
- **Significance of the scheme:** Expected positive outcomes of the scheme include promotion of decentralised solar power production, reduction of transmission losses as well as providing support to the financial health of DISCOMs by reducing the subsidy burden to the agriculture sector. The scheme would also promote energy efficiency and water conservation and provide water security to farmers.

The scheme provides for:

- Setting up of grid-connected renewable power plants each of 500KW to 2 MW in the rural area.
- Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid.
- Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also sell surplus solar power generated to Discom and get extra income.

2. Rooftop Solar projects

- Government has set a target for installation of **Rooftop Solar projects (RTS) of 40,000 MegaWatt (MW) by 2022** in the country including installation of RTS on rooftop of houses.

What is rooftop solar?

- Rooftop solar installations — as opposed to large-scale solar power generation plants — can be installed on the roofs of buildings. As such, they fall under two brackets: **commercial and**

residential. This simply has to do with whether the solar panels are being installed on top of commercial buildings or residential complexes.

Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

1. FAME-II Scheme

To give a further push to clean mobility in Road Transport Sector, **the Department of Heavy Industries** has sanctioned 2636 charging stations in 62 cities across 24 States/UTs under **FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme phase II.**

What are the salient features of FAME 2 scheme?

- **Aims to** boost electric mobility and increase the number of electric vehicles in commercial fleets.
- **Target:** The outlay of ₹10,000 crore has been made for three years till 2022 for FIME 2 scheme.
- The government will offer the incentives for electric buses, three-wheelers and four-wheelers to be used for commercial purposes.
- Plug-in hybrid vehicles and those with a sizeable lithium-ion battery and electric motor will also be included in the scheme and fiscal support offered depending on the size of the battery.

How will FAME 2 scheme help improve charging infrastructure?

1. The centre will invest in setting up charging stations, with the active participation of public sector units and private players.
2. It has also been proposed to provide one slow-charging unit for every electric bus and one fast-charging station for 10 electric buses.
3. Projects for charging infrastructure will include those needed to extend electrification for running vehicles such as pantograph charging and flash charging.
4. FAME 2 will also encourage interlinking of renewable energy sources with charging infrastructure.

Background:

FAME India is a part of **the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan.** Main thrust of FAME is **to encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies.**

FAME **focuses on 4 areas i.e.** Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

1. SPICe+ web form

As part of the Government of India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiatives, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified a new Web Form christened **'SPICe+' (pronounced 'SPICe Plus')** replacing the existing SPICe form.

What is it?

SPICe+ would be **an integrated Web Form.**

- It would offer 10 services by 3 Central Government Ministries & Departments (Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance) and One State Government (Maharashtra).

- It aims to save as many procedures, time and cost for Starting a Business in India and would be applicable for all new company incorporations.
- The new web form would facilitate onscreen filing and real-time data validation for the seamless incorporation of companies.

Ministry of Shipping

1. Sagarmala

- The Sagarmala project seeks to develop **a string of ports around India's coast**.
- The objective of this initiative is to promote **"Port-led development" along India's 7500 km long coastline**.
- It aims to develop access to new development regions with intermodal solutions and promotion of the optimum modal split, enhanced connectivity with main economic centres and beyond through expansion of rail, inland water, coastal and road services.
- **Nodal ministry:** The Union Ministry of Shipping has been appointed as the nodal ministry for this initiative.
- To implement this, State governments would set up **State Sagarmala committees**, headed by the chief minister or the minister in charge of ports.
- At the central level, **a Sagarmala Development Company (SDC)** will be setup to provide equity support to assist various special purpose vehicles (SPVs) setup for various projects.

The Sagarmala initiative will address challenges by focusing on three pillars of development, namely:

- Supporting and enabling **Port-led Development** through appropriate policy and institutional interventions and providing for an institutional framework for ensuring inter-agency and ministries/departments/states' collaboration for integrated development.
- **Port Infrastructure Enhancement**, including modernization and setting up of new ports.
- **Efficient Evacuation** to and from hinterland.

Ministry of Communications

1. National Broadband Mission (NBM)

The union government has launched **the National Broadband Mission (NBM)**.

What is NBM?

The mission will facilitate **universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, especially in rural and remote areas**.

It also involves laying of incremental 30 lakh route km of optical fibre cable and increasing tower density from 0.42 to 1 tower per thousand population by 2024.

The mission also **envisages increasing fiberisation of towers to 70% from 30% at present**.

The mission will envisage stakeholder investment of \$100 billion (Rs 7 lakh crore) including Rs 70,000 crore from **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** in the coming years.

- The mission also involves the development of **a Broadband Readiness Index** to measure the availability of digital communication infrastructure and foster conducive policy ecosystem within a state/UT.
- It will also strive for the creation of **a digital fibre map of the communications network and infrastructure**, including optical fibre cables and towers across the country.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

1. Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- To **conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds**, government has launched 'Rashtriya Gokul Mission' under the **National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBD)**.

The Mission is being implemented with the objectives to:

- 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.
- upgrade nondescript cattle using elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi.
- distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

Implementation:

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission will be implemented through the "**State Implementing Agency (SIA viz Livestock Development Boards)**". State Gauseva Ayogs will be given the mandate to sponsor proposals to the SI's (LDB's) and monitor implementation of the sponsored proposal. All agencies having a role in indigenous cattle development will be the "Participating Agencies" like CFSPTI, CCBFs, ICIR, Universities, Colleges, NGO's, Cooperative Societies and Gaushalas with best germplasm.

Gokul Gram:

- Funds under the scheme will be allocated for the establishment of **Integrated Indigenous Cattle Centres viz "Gokul Gram"**.
- Gokul Grams will be established in: i) the native breeding tracts and ii) near metropolitan cities for housing the urban cattle.
- Gokul Gram will act as Centres for development of Indigenous Breeds and a dependable source for supply of high genetic breeding stock to the farmers in the breeding tract.
- The Gokul Gram will be self sustaining and will generate economic resources from sale of A2 milk (A2 milk is cow's milk that mostly lacks a form of β -casein proteins called A1 and instead has mostly the A2 form), organic manure, vermi-composting, urine distillates, and production of electricity from bio gas for in house consumption and sale of animal products.
- The Gokul Gram will also function as state of the art in situ training centre for Farmers, Breeders and MIIIRI's;
- The Gokul Gram will maintain milch and unproductive animals in the ratio of 60:40 and will have the capacity to maintain about 1000 animals. Nutritional requirements of the animals will be provided in the Gokul Gram through in house fodder production.
- Gokul Gram will also be set up near to metropolitan cities for managing urban cattle. Metropolitan Gokul Gram will focus on genetic upgradation of urban cattle.

Ministry of Steel

1. Mission Purvodaya

- The Centre unveils **Mission Purvodaya to develop eastern region into an integrated steel hub.**
- The eastern belt has **the potential to add over 75 percent of the country's incremental steel capacity envisioned by the National Steel Policy.**
- Through this programme, the government aims **to transform logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the eastern India.**
- The steps, under mission, also **include growth of steel industry along with employment opportunities across the entire value chain.**

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

1. North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)

- A study finds that North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) improves livelihoods of 300,000 households in 11 districts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

About NERLP:

- It is a **World Bank aided**, multi-state livelihood project under the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**, launched in 2012.
- **Implemented in** 11 districts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.
- **Aim:** to improve rural livelihoods especially that of women, unemployed youth and the most disadvantaged, in four North Eastern States.
- **The project has focussed on five development strategies**, namely, social empowerment, economic empowerment, partnership development, project management and livelihood & value chain developments.

Ministry of Civil Aviation

1. Regional Connectivity Scheme "UDAN"

- Giving further fillip to Regional Connectivity in the country, 8 more routes (including 2 DoNER Routes) became functional Under **Regional Connectivity Scheme/UdeDeshKaAamNagrik-UDAN scheme** of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

About UDAN:

- UDAN, launched in April 2017, is a flagship scheme of the Union Government **to enable air operations on unserved routes, connecting regional areas, to promote balanced regional growth and to make flying affordable for masses.**
- The UDAN Scheme is a **key component of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)** which was launched in June 2016.

Objectives of the scheme:

- The primary objective of RCS is to **facilitate / stimulate regional air connectivity** by making it cheap and affordable.
- Promoting affordability of regional air connectivity is envisioned under RCS by supporting airline operators through: Concessions and Financial (viability gap funding or VGF) support.

Ministry of Culture

1. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

10th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was held in Jabalpur, MP.

Organised by Ministry of Culture under the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative**.

Background: Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was conceived in the year 2015. It is organised with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz, Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place.

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme was launched by the Prime Minister on October 31, 2016 to promote engagement amongst the people of different States and UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.

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.

The activity will be very useful to link various States and Districts in annual programmes that will connect people through exchanges in areas of culture, tourism, language, education trade etc. and citizens will be able to experience the cultural diversity of a much larger number of States/UTs while realising that India is one.

Ministry of Earth Sciences

1. 'Samudrayaan' project

- India to undertake deep ocean mining with 'Samudrayaan' project.

About Samudrayaan:

- It is a pilot **project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for deep ocean mining for rare minerals.**
- It proposes to **send men into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for ocean studies.**
- The project is expected to become a reality by 2021-22.
- The project has been undertaken by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).**

What are PMN?

- Polymetallic nodules (also known as manganese nodules) are potato-shaped, largely porous nodules found in abundance carpeting the sea floor of world oceans in deep sea.
- Composition: Besides manganese and iron, they contain nickel, copper, cobalt, lead, molybdenum, cadmium, vanadium, titanium, of which nickel, cobalt and copper are considered to be of economic and strategic importance.
- Potential: It is envisaged that 10% of recovery of that large reserve can meet the energy requirement of India for the next 100 years. It has been estimated that 380 million metric tonnes of polymetallic nodules are available at the bottom of the seas in the Central Indian Ocean.

Ministry of Science and Technology

1. SUTRA PIC

The government has unveiled **a programme to research on 'indigenous' cows- SUTRA PIC.**

About SUTRA PIC- Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows:

- It is led by **the Department of Science and Technology (DST).**
- **It is supported by** the Department of Biotechnology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy) among others and the Indian Council of Medical Research as partners.

It has five themes:

1. Uniqueness of Indigenous Cows.
2. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Medicine and Health.
3. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Agricultural Applications.
4. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Food and Nutrition.
5. Prime-products from indigenous cows-based utility items.

Aims and objectives:

- Scientific research on the complete characterisation of milk and milk products derived from Indian indigenous cows.
- Scientific research on nutritional and therapeutic properties of curd and ghee prepared from indigenous breeds of cows by traditional methods.
- Development of standards for traditionally processed dairy products of Indian-origin cows, etc.

2. 'UMMID' initiative

- Government launches 'UMMID' initiative to **tackle inherited genetic diseases of new born babies.**

UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders) initiative:

- Department of Biotechnology has started the UMMID Initiative which is designed on the concept of 'Prevention is better than Cure';
- UMMID aims to create awareness about genetic disorders amongst clinicians and establish molecular diagnostics in hospitals so that the fruits of developments in medical genetics reach the patients in India.

UMMID initiative aims to:

- Establish **NIDAN (National Inherited Diseases Administration) Kendras** to provide counselling, prenatal testing and diagnosis, management, and multidisciplinary care in Government Hospitals wherein the influx of patients is more.
- Produce skilled clinicians in Human Genetics.
- Undertake screening of pregnant women and new born babies for inherited genetic diseases in hospitals at aspirational districts.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

1. 'Build for Digital India' programme

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google have signed a statement of intent to roll-out 'Build for Digital India' programme;
- The programme will **give engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions** that address key social problems.
- Applicants will take part in online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies such as machine learning, cloud and android.
- These will be offered through Google's Developer Student Club network and other Google Developer networks.
- Google will also offer **mentorship sessions in product design, strategy and technology** to the most promising products and prototypes.

2. Common Service Centres

- 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.
- **They are multiple-services-single-point model for providing facilities for multiple transactions at a single geographical location**. They are the access points for delivery of essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education and agriculture services, apart from host of B2C services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

CSCs enable the three vision areas of the Digital India programme:

- Digital infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen.
- Governance and services on demand.
- Digital empowerment of citizens.

Key facts:

- The CSC project, which forms a strategic component of the National eGovernance Plan was approved by the Government in May 2006, as part of its commitment in the **National Common Minimum Programme** to introduce e-governance on a massive scale.
- It is also one of the approved projects under the **Integrated Mission Mode Projects of the National eGovernance Plan**.

CSC 2.0 Scheme:

- Based on the assessment of CSC scheme, the Government launched the CSC 2.0 scheme in 2015 to expand the outreach of **CSCs to all Gram Panchayats across the country**. Under CSC 2.0 scheme, **at least one CSC will be set up in each of the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country by 2019**. CSCs functioning under the existing scheme will also be strengthened and integrated with additional 1.5 lakh CSCs across the country.

Ministry of Chemical and fertilizers

1. Janaushadhi Sugam

- Union Ministry for Chemicals and Fertilizers has launched a mobile application “Janaushadhi Sugam”;
- The application aims to enable people to **search Janaushadhi generic medicines and the stores** at the tip of their fingers.
- It will also help **analyse product comparison of Generic vs Branded medicine** in form of MRP & overall Savings.

About PMBJP:

- ‘Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana’ is a **campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices** to the masses through special kendra’s known as **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra**.
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) have been **set up to provide generic drugs**, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementing agency of PMBJP. BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.

Salient features of the Scheme:

- Ensure access to quality medicines.
- Extend coverage of quality generic medicines so as to reduce the out of pocket expenditure on medicines and thereby redefine the unit cost of treatment per person.
- Create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity so that quality is not synonymous with only high price.
- A public programme involving Government, PSUs, Private Sector, NGO, Societies, Co -operative Bodies and other Institutions.
- Create demand for generic medicines by improving access to better healthcare through low treatment cost and easy availability wherever needed in all therapeutic categories.

What is a Generic Medicine?

- Generic medicines are unbranded medicines which are equally safe and having the same efficacy as that of branded medicines in terms of their therapeutic value. The prices of generic medicines are much cheaper than their branded equivalent.

Ministry of Labour & Employment

1. Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana

It is **a voluntary and contribution based central sector scheme.**

The government launched the scheme, entailing monthly **minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 for the entry age group of 18-40 years after attaining the age of 60 years, with effect from July 22, 2019.**

Under the scheme, **the government makes matching contribution in the subscribers' account.**

The scheme is based on **self-declaration** as no documents are required except bank account and Aadhaar Card.

Eligibility:

- All small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders aged between 18-40 years and with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below Rs.1.5 crore can enrol for pension scheme.
- To be eligible, the applicants should not be covered under the National Pension Scheme, Employees' State Insurance Scheme and the Employees' Provident Fund or be an Income Tax assessee.

2. Ital Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana' (IBVKY)

- The **Employee's State Insurance (ESI)** has approved this scheme for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948;
- It aims to **financially support those who lost their jobs or rendered jobless** for whatsoever reasons due to changing employment pattern.
- Its beneficiaries will be insured persons covered under Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 for period of two years continuously.

Key features:

- **Cash assistance:** Under the scheme, relief will be payable in cash directly to bank account of insured persons in case of unemployment. This financial assistance will be given to insured persons even while they search for new engagement. Beneficiary insured workers will be paid money, from their own contribution towards ESI scheme, in cash through bank account transfer.
- Under this scheme, workers will be able to draw 47% of their total contributions towards ESIC after remaining unemployed for at least three months from date of leaving their previous jobs. They can choose to receive the cash at one go or in instalments. It will be applicable to all factories and establishments employing at least 10 workers.

The eligibility conditions and other features of the scheme are as under:

- The Insured Person should have been rendered unemployed during the period the relief is claimed.
- The Insured Person should have been in insurable employment for a minimum period of two years.
- The Insured Person should have contributed not less than 78 days during each of the preceding four contribution periods.
- The contribution in respect of him should have been paid or payable by the employer.
- The contingency of the unemployment should not have been as a result of any punishment for misconduct or superannuation or voluntary retirement.
- In case the IP is working for more than one employers and is covered under the ESI scheme he will be considered unemployed only in case he is rendered unemployed with all employers.

About ESI:

- ESI is self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers.
- It is autonomous corporation by statutory creation under Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
- It is managed by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) according to rules and regulations stipulated there in the ESI Act 1948.



NITI Aayog

1. Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

1. Launched in January 2018, the ‘Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.
2. The broad contours of the programme are **Convergence** (of Central & State Schemes), **Collaboration** (of Central, State level ‘Prabharī’ Officers & District Collectors), and **Competition** among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan.
3. With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.

Focus of the programme:

To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focuses closely on improving people’s ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy; Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme’s core areas of focus;

2. School Education Quality Index (SEQI)

NITI Aayog releases the first edition of *School Education Quality Index (SEQI)*.

About the School Education Quality Index (SEQI):

1. Developed by NITI Aayog **to evaluate the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) in the school education sector.**
2. **Aim:** To bring an ‘outcomes’ focus to education policy by providing States and UTs with a platform to identify their strengths and weaknesses and undertake requisite course corrections or policy interventions.
3. The index is developed through a collaborative process, including key stakeholders such as **Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD), the World Bank and sector experts.**

It consists of **30 critical indicators** that assess the delivery of quality education. These indicators are categorized as below:

Category 1: Outcomes;

1. Domain 1: Learning outcomes
2. Domain 2: Access outcomes
3. Domain 3: Infrastructure and facilities for outcomes
4. Domain 4: Equity outcomes

Category 2: Governance processes aiding outcomes.

Significance of the index:

Schooling should result in successful learning outcomes. In this regard, SEQI acts as a credible system of assessment and helps to design necessary remedial actions.

3. Youth Co:Lab

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, UNDP India Jointly Launch **Youth Co:Lab** to **accelerate youth-led social entrepreneurship and innovation in India.**

How it works?

1. Youth Co:Lab will convene social innovation challenges at the national and sub-national level, which will invite young people in the age group of 18-29 years and start-ups to showcase their proposed ideas and solutions to tackle some of the region's biggest social challenges.
2. Through Youth Co:Lab, young entrepreneurs and innovators will get a chance to connect with governments, mentors, incubators and investors, who will help equip them with entrepreneurial skills.

The first phase of Youth Co:Lab will focus on six SDGs:

1. SDG 5 (Gender Equality).
2. SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).
3. SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).
4. SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
5. SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production).
6. SDG 13 (Climate Action).

What is Youth Co : Lab initiative?

It is an innovative platform for young people to explore their ideas and potentials, and bring to scale viable solutions, to accelerate India's progress on the SDGs;

Co-created in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation.

Operational in 25 countries across the Asia Pacific region.

Aims to create an enabling ecosystem to promote youth leadership, innovation, and social entrepreneurship.

4. The Gandhian Challenge

On the **150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, IIM, NITI layog's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and UNICEF India, including Generation Unlimited, have launched '**The Gandhian Challenge**';

What is it?

- This innovation challenge provides **a platform for every child across India to ideate innovative solutions for a sustainable India of their dreams, using Gandhi's principles.**
- The winners of The Gandhian Challenge will be awarded in New Delhi by NITI layog's Atal Innovation Mission and UNICEF on the occasion of **Children's Day** in November.
- The contest – **open for every child in India from 2 October to 20 October** – also celebrates 70 years of partnership between Government of India and UNICEF India to enable Every Right for Every Child.
- **Ideas and solutions to the Gandhian Challenge may be expressed through broad categories:** Art & Innovation (Letters, poems, painting, videos and photos, among others) and Science, Technology & Innovation (Robotics, IoT, sensors and 3D printers, among others).

About AIM:

IIM is the Government of India's flagship initiative **to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.** **Objective:** to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country.

Six major initiatives of AIM:

1. **Atal Tinkering Labs**-Creating problem-solving mindset across schools in India.
2. **Atal Incubation Centers**- Fostering world class start-ups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.

3. **Atal New India Challenges**-Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
4. **Mentor India Campaign**- A national Mentor network in collaboration with public sector, corporates and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
5. **Atal Community Innovation Center**- To stimulate community centric innovation and ideas in the unserved /underserved regions of the country including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
6. **ARISE**- To stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.

Generation Unlimited:

1. It is a new **UNICEF-led global partnership**.
2. **Aims to ensure that every young person age 10-24 is in some form of school, learning, training, self-employment, or age-appropriate employment by 2030.**
3. Also aims **to co-create and scale up proven solutions related to secondary age-education, skills for learning, employability and decent work, and empowerment, with a focus on girls.**



Miscellaneous

1. Farmers Producer Organisations

What are FPOs?

It is a **Producer Organisation (PO)** where the members are farmers. **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** is providing support for the promotion of FPOs.

- FPOs help in the collectivization of such small, marginal and landless farmers in order to give them the collective strength to deal with such issues.
- Members of the FPO will manage their activities together in the organization to get better access to technology, input, finance and market for faster enhancement of their income.

Support by the Government:

The government has launched a new dedicated Central Sector Scheme titled **"Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)"** with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs.

What are the essential features of a PO?

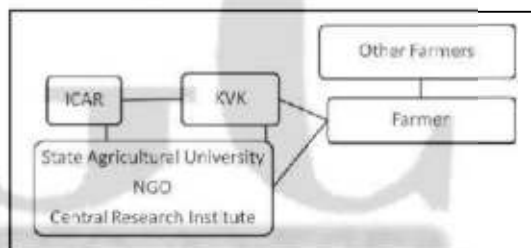
1. It is formed by a group of producers for either farm or non-farm activities.
2. It is a registered body and a legal entity.
3. Producers are shareholders in the organization.
4. It deals with business activities related to the primary produce/product.
5. It works for the benefit of the member producers.
6. A part of the profit is shared amongst the producers.
7. Rest of the surplus is added to its owned funds for business expansion.

2. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

A Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is an agricultural extension center in India.

Usually associated with a local agricultural university, these centers serve as **the ultimate link between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and farmers**, and aim to apply agricultural research in a practical, localized setting.

All KVKs fall under the jurisdiction of one of the 11 **Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs)** throughout India.



Activities:

KVKs provide several farm support activities like providing technology dissemination to farmers, training, awareness etc.

To achieve these, KVKs undertake:

1. Farm advisory service.
2. Training programme for different categories of people.
3. Training programme for the extension functionaries.
4. Front line demonstration.
5. On farm testing.

3. Enemy properties

What are enemy properties?

Properties that were left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China.

- There are 9,280 such properties left behind by Pakistani nationals and 126 by Chinese nationals.
- Of the total properties left behind by those who took Pakistani citizenship, 4,991 are located in Uttar Pradesh, the highest in the country. West Bengal has 2,735 such estates and Delhi 487.

- The highest number of properties left by Chinese nationals is in Meghalaya (57). West Bengal has 29 such properties and Assam seven.
- The estimated value of all enemy properties is approximately Rs 1 lakh crore.

Who oversees these properties?

Under **the Defence of India Rules framed under The Defence of India Act, 1962**, the Government of India took over the properties and companies of those who took Pakistani nationality. These “enemy properties” were vested by the central government in **the Custodian of Enemy Property for India**. The same was done for property left behind by those who went to China after the 1962 Sino-Indian war.

The Tashkent Declaration of January 10, 1966 included a clause that said **India and Pakistan would discuss the return of the property and assets taken over by either side in connection with the conflict**.

However, the Government of Pakistan disposed of all such properties in their country in the year 1971 itself.

How did India deal with enemy property?

The Enemy Property Act, enacted in 1968, provided for the continuous vesting of enemy property in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India. Some **movable properties too, are categorised as enemy properties**.

- The 2017 amended Act expanded the definition of the term “**enemy subject**”, and “**enemy firm**” to include the legal heir and successor of an enemy, whether a citizen of India or a citizen of a country which is not an enemy; and the succeeding firm of an enemy firm, irrespective of the nationality of its members or partners.
- The amended law provided that **enemy property shall continue to vest in the Custodian** even if the enemy or enemy subject or enemy firm ceases to be an enemy due to death, extinction, winding up of business or change of nationality, or that the legal heir or successor is a citizen of India or a citizen of a country which is not an enemy.
- The Custodian, with prior approval of the central government, may dispose of enemy properties vested in him in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and the government may issue directions to the Custodian for this purpose.

4. Project ‘NETR!’

Indian Space Research Organisation has inked a pact with Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) to pave the way for collaboration in establishing optical telescope facilities under **Project ‘NETR!’** for tracking space objects.

What is Project NETRA (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis)?

Under the project, **the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities: connected radars, telescopes; data processing units and a control centre**.

They can, among others, spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.

Significance of the project:

- The project will give India its own capability in space situational awareness (SSA) like the other space powers — which is used to ‘predict’ threats from debris to Indian satellites.
- NETR!’s eventual goal is to capture the GEO, or geostationary orbit, scene at 36,000 km where communication satellites operate.
- The effort would make India a part of international efforts towards tracking, warning about and mitigating space debris.

5. Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)

India is going to be possibly **the first country in the world to implement a Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) Policy** on the lines of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**. A draft of the new policy was recently made available by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Aims:

1. To encourage science and technology (S&T) institutions and individual scientists in the country to proactively engage in science outreach activities to connect science with the society.
2. To harness latent potential of the scientific community for strengthening linkages between science and society, and for making S&T ecosystem vibrant.
3. To develop a mechanism for ensuring access to scientific knowledge, transferring benefits of science to meet societal needs, promoting collaborations to identify problems and develop solutions.

6. Saksham

It is **a people centric fuel conservation mega campaign** of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**.

Saksham actively involves the Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments:

1. To create focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and
2. To sensitize the masses about the conservation and efficient use of petroleum products leading to better health and environment.

About PCRA (established in 1978):

It is **a registered society** set up under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.

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

7. 'Nagpur Resolution – ! holistic approach for empowering citizens'

The 'Nagpur Resolution – ! holistic approach for empowering citizens' has been adopted at the end of **the Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments'**, held recently in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Key facts:

- The conference was **organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra and the Maharashtra State Commission for Right to Public Services.
- Previously, **the Shillong Declaration and the Jammu Resolution** have been adopted for good governance.

8. Future Skills

Wipro has partnered with **NASSCOM** (National Association of Software and Services Companies) to launch a skilling platform called '**Future Skills**' for 10,000 students from over 20 engineering colleges in India.

Key facts:

- This is a part of Wipro's **Corporate Social Responsibility programme, TalentNext**.
- **TalentNext** aims to enhance the quality of engineering education by preparing faculty and academic leaders to train students.
- The programme has now been extended to students directly through **Future Skills**.

What is Future Skills?

It is a new age platform built **to bridge the industry-academia skill gap and help students keep pace with the emerging technologies** -- artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, cybersecurity and internet of things (IoT) – to make them future-ready.

9. Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA)

Union Human Resource Development Minister recently reviewed **preparations for PISA 2021**.

Cabinet has already given **ex-post facto approval to the Agreement between India and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** for participating in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA), which will be conducted by the OECD in 2021. The Agreement was signed on 28th January 2019.

India’s participation in PISA:

- India had taken part in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2009 and bagged **the 72nd rank among 74 participating countries**.

About the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA):

1. It is an **international assessment that measures 15-year-old students’ reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years**.
2. First conducted in 2000, the major domain of study rotates between reading, mathematics, and science in each cycle.
3. PISA also includes measures of general or cross-curricular competencies, such as collaborative problem solving.
4. PISA is **coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, an intergovernmental organization of industrialized countries, and is **conducted in the United States by NCES**.

What makes PISA unique?

PISA is **the only international education survey to measure the knowledge and skills of 15-year-olds**, an age at which students in most countries are nearing the end of their compulsory time in school.

PISA is also unique in the way it looks at:

1. Public policy issues.
2. Literacy.
3. Lifelong learning.

10. World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance

- **The 6th World Congress** was held in New Delhi.
- It is **co-hosted by NABARD and the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)** and supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- **Theme:** ‘Rural and Agricultural Finance: Critical Input to Achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Development’;
- **Aim:** To bring member institutions and all interested development sector partners together to discuss the topics that define the future of the flow of finance to the rural and agricultural sector and to bring a powerful message to the worldwide policymaking community.

APRACA, representing 81 member institutions from 21 countries, is a regional association that promotes cooperation and facilitates mutual exchange of information and expertise in the field of rural finance.

11. TechSagar

TechSagar, national repository of India's cyber tech capabilities launched;

Launched by: National Cyber Security Coordinator's office in partnership with Data Security Council (DSCI) of India.

What is TechSagar?

1. It is a platform to discover India's technological capability through a portal;
2. It is a consolidated and comprehensive repository of India's cyber tech capabilities which provides actionable insights about capabilities of the Indian Industry, academia and research across 25 technology areas like internet of things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), blockchain, cloud & virtualisation, robotics & automation, ar/vr, wireless & networking, and more.
3. The portal will list business and research entities from the IT industry, startups, academia, and individual researchers.

About DSCI:

Data Security Council of India (DSCI), is a *not-for-profit*, industry body on data protection in India, setup by **NASSCOM**.

- It is committed to making the cyberspace safe, secure and trusted by establishing best practices, standards and initiatives in cyber security and privacy.
- To further its objectives, DSCI engages with governments and their agencies, regulators, industry sectors, industry associations and think tanks for policy advocacy, thought leadership, capacity building and outreach activities.

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

- PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) is a unique integrating and interactive platform.
- The platform is 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.
- With this, the 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 also an innovative project in e- governance and good governance.
- It is a **three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States)**.
- Issues to be flagged before the PM are picked up from the available database regarding Public Grievances, on-going Programmes and pending Projects.

13. Internet Saathi Programme

- **Google India and Tata Trusts** are set to expand their '**Internet Saathi**' digital literacy programme for rural women to villages in Punjab and Odisha.
- **Coverage:** Currently, the programme has reach of 2.6 lakh villages across 18 states. On adding Punjab and Odisha the programme will now **extend its reach to 20 states in India**.

About Internet Saathi:

- It is **joint initiative of Google India and Tata Trusts**.
- It **aims to facilitate digital literacy among women in rural India**.
- The programme **aims to train Saathis in villages** that can in turn help educate other women from their village in the use of the internet.