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BY PHYSICS WALLAH

UDAAN PLUS 500

FOR PRELIMS 2023

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR CURRENT AFFAIRS



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

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PREFACE

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- One Stop Solution for Current Affairs Preparation
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1 Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

PM-KISAN SCHEME

News: 11th instalment released of the financial benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on 1st January 2022.

Introduction	• A **Central Sector Scheme** was introduced on **February 24th, 2019** to help landholding farmers with their financial needs through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** mechanism.
Aims & Objectives	• To supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers. • To ensure crop health, appropriate yields and commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle. • To protect farmers from moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.
Salient Features	• All landowning farmer households will receive an **annual financial benefit of ₹ 6000** under the PM KISAN programme. • **Every four months,** it will be paid in **three equal installments of Rs. 2000/- each.** • The **State / UT Governments are in charge of identifying beneficiaries** who are from the farming families. • The intended recipients for the transfer of plan benefits will be determined by the current land-ownership system/land records of the various States/ Union Territories. • **States first upload the data for farmers into the Public Finance Management System,** a platform that automatically validates bank accounts and authenticates Aadhaar details of beneficiaries, and then returns the data to states for physical signatures.
Coverage and Eligibility	• The PM KISAN Program was **introduced on February 24, 2019,** and **only SMF families with a total landholding of up to 2 hectares were eligible** for its benefits. • Later, the Plan was **expanded to include all farmer families,** regardless of the size of their landholdings. • The following categories of farmers who are **not eligible for the benefits of the PM-KISAN scheme:**

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	(a) A list of all institutional landowners; (b) Farmer households with **at least one member from each of the following categories:** ○ Bearers of constitutional positions both past and present ○ Previous and current members of the legislature (Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state legislatures, state legislative councils, mayors of municipal corporations, and chairs of district panchayats), as well as former and current state and federal ministers. ○ All officers and employees of Central and State Government departments, offices, and field units, as well as regular staff members of Local Bodies (with the exception of Multi-Tasking Staff and Class IV/Group D employees), whether they are currently employed or have retired. ○ All superannuated/retired pensioners who get at least Rs. 10,000 (Excluding multi-tasking employees). ○ Professionals including Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects who have registered with professional bodies and practise their professions are all people who paid income tax in the most recent assessment year.
Significance	• **Cash Benefits:** As part of the programme, 11 crore farmers have received close to 1.75 lakh crore rupees. Around 1.15 lakh crores of **Samman Rashi** have already been distributed to agricultural families under this programme. • **Increased Coverage:** Regardless of the size of their land holdings, the programme includes all farmer families in the nation. It helps farmers to take care of domestic necessities as well as costs associated with agriculture and related activities.
Challenges	• **Inadequate Database:** There have been claims that the database has inclusion and exclusion mistakes. • **Identification of Beneficiary Challenging:** According to the agricultural census carried out in 2015–16, there are 14.65 crore landholdings in the country as a whole. The number of farmer families in the country is not, however, based on landholding because there are multiple owners for a single parcel of land. In this case, all farmer families with land are eligible for the programme. • **Inadequate Financial Support:** Financial support that doesn't give farmers enough purchasing power to cover their daily basic needs prevents the impact of PM-KISAN from being realised. Moreover, there is no connection between the cash distribution and the farmer's land size. • **Unable to Reach all Farmers:** Although beneficiaries of the programme appeared to be doing better than the majority of rural residents even before the lockout, PM-KISAN is not pro-poor.

	• **Exclusion of Landless Farmers:** This includes even poor rural households. • **Implementation Problems:** PM-KISAN is a bold plan with the potential to significantly improve welfare, but the government's top-down strategy ignores governance restraints. • **Structural Issues:** With other long-term fiscal obligations in agricultural markets and infrastructure sectors like irrigation, if the budgetary allocations move sharply in favour of cash transfers, this is a structural issue.

PM KISAN Mobile App:

- The PM-KISAN Mobile App was created and released in collaboration by the **National Informatics Center (NIC) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technologies**.
- Farmers can check the status of their applications and the history of bank account credits, and Aadhar cards can be amended or altered.

PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN MAAN DHAN YOJANA

News: A total of 21,86,918 farmers are enrolled in the scheme.

Introduction	• This is a **Central Sector Scheme** that is run by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, the Cooperation & Farmers Welfare Department, and the Government of India in collaboration with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). • A **voluntary and contributory** pension scheme for the **Small & Marginal Farmers (SMFs).**
Aims & Objectives	• It is being implemented in order **to provide old age protection and social security net to the SMFs by way of pension.** • Payment of a **minimum fixed pension of Rs. 3,000/-** to the eligible SMFs, subject to certain exclusion clauses, **on attaining the age of 60 years**.
Salient Features	• The Scheme has kept **an entry age of 18 to 40 years**. • No beneficiary has yet attained the age of 60 to be eligible for payment. • **Contribution:** ○ It is a **voluntary programme** where Small & Marginal Farmers (SMF) will be required to pay the **Pension Fund Rs 100/ - per month at median entry age of 29 years**. ○ The **Central Government also contributes to the Pension Fund in equal amounts**, managed by the LIC, which is also responsible for pension pay out. • **Return:** After turning 60, SMF will receive a pension worth a minimum of 3000. • **Fund Manager:** LIC, the pension fund manager for the plan, will be in charge of pension payout.

	• **Security in case of Death:** ○ The spouse has the option to stay in the plan by making the remaining contributions in the event of the untimely death of a farmer prior to retirement. ○ If a farmer dies after turning 60, their **spouse is entitled to receive 50% of the pension amount, or at least Rs.1500**. The balance will be paid back to the Pension Fund if the farmer and his or her spouse pass away. • **Enrolment:** by Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the villages. • **Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs):** have also been involved. These are field-level employees whose responsibility it is to increase farmer enrolment. Incentives will also be given to VLEs to encourage them. • **Grievance Redressal:** Also, it would have a suitable mechanism for resolving grievances with the government, banks, and LIC. • **Evaluation:** The Government has established an empowered committee of Secretaries to oversee, evaluate, and modify the Scheme. • **Cooperation Mechanism:** Also, there is cooperation with other schemes. Farmers who use the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Program, or PM-KISAN, can consent voluntarily, for instance. They can directly pay their monthly payment into the PM-KISAN Program.
Beneficiaries/ Eligibility	• The beneficiary **should be a Small and Marginal Farmer**. • The farmer must have **cultivable land holding up to 2 hectares.** • The entry age of the scheme is **18 to 40 years.** • The beneficiary SMFs **should not be covered under any other statutory social security schemes** such as NPS, Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme, Employees' Fund Organization Scheme etc. • They **should not have opted for Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana and National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons** administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment. • Should not be from categories of **beneficiaries of higher economic status.** • By enrolling in the Pension Fund run by the LIC, the beneficiary can join the PM-KMY Program.
Exclusion	• Farmers with **more than 2 hectares of land (or 5 acres).** • **Any other statutory social security programmes**, under which small and marginal farmers are covered, including: National Pension Scheme, Employees' State Insurance Corporation Scheme, Employees' Fund Organization Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan – Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana, etc. • **Landless Labourers.**

BHARATIYA PRAKRITIK KRISHI PADDHATI (BPKP) SCHEME

News: The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has informed Rajya Sabha about the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) Scheme.

Introduction	• Under the umbrella of a **Centrally Sponsored Schemes called Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY),** natural farming is **promoted as Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) Scheme.** • The plan **focuses primarily on excluding all synthetic chemical inputs and encouraging biomass recycling on farms.** • **Emphasise**: biomass mulching, the application of cow dung-urine formulations, plant-based treatments, and periodic aeration of the soil.
Aims & Objectives	• To **promote traditional indigenous practices** which give freedom to farmers from externally purchased inputs.
Salient Features	• **Promotion of commercial organic production** through Certified Organic Farming. • **Farmers' revenue will increase**, and it will open a potential market for traders. • **Focus of the Scheme:** The scheme mainly focuses on **the exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs** and **promotes on-farm biomass recycling** with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant-based preparations. • **Financial Assistance:** Under BPKP, financial assistance of **Rs.12200/ha for 3 years** is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous hand holding by trained personnel, certification, and residue analysis.
Present Status	• Until now, under natural farming, an area of 4.09 lakh ha area has been covered. The **Government of Andhra Pradesh is leading** in terms of 1.0 lakh ha area under natural farming under BPKP.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

- "PKVY" is an **elaborated element of the National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture's (NMSA)** Soil Health Management (SHM) initiative.
- Through the **adoption of the organic village by cluster concept** and **PGS certification**, organic farming is encouraged under PKVY.

PLATFORM OF PLATFORMS (POP)

News: Recently, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the Platform of Platforms (PoP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) on the side-lines of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers' Conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

PoP is a forum or portal that serves as	• **Composite Service Providers**: Service Providers who provide holistic services for the trading of agricultural produce including quality analysis, trading, payment systems and logistics. • **Supplier of:** cleaning, grading, sorting, and packaging services as well as services for warehouse facilities, agricultural supplies, and technology-enabled finance and insurance. Also offers **quality assurance services.** • **Portal for Information Dissemination** i.e., advisory services, crop forecasts, weather updates, farmer capacity building, etc. • **Other Platforms:** e-commerce, international agri-business platforms, barter, private market platforms etc. • It has been launched **under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).**
Aims & Objectives	• The platform intends **to promote trade & marketing of agricultural produce** wherein farmers will be facilitated to sell the produce outside their state borders.
Salient Features	• **e-NAM integrates the platform of Service Providers as "Platform of Platforms"** which includes Logistics Service Provider, Quality Assurance Service Provider, Warehousing Facility Service Provider, and other services such as e-commerce, international agri-business platforms, barter, private market platforms among others.
Significance	• **Digital Benefits**: This will improve farmers' ability to search for prices and find quality products at prices that are commensurate with them by giving them more digital access to a wider range of marketplaces, customers, and service providers. ○ A digital ecosystem that will be created by the PoP will profit from the knowledge of many platforms in various areas of the agricultural value chain. • **Operating Efficiencies**: POP covers 41 service providers from various platforms who provide various value chain services like trading, quality assurance, warehousing, finance, market information, transportation, etc. ○ It provides farmers, FPOs, merchants, and other stakeholders with more options by allowing them to access a wide range of products and services from across the agricultural value chain through a single window. ○ Farmers will be given assistance in selling their produce outside of their state. ○ The addition of diverse service providers enhances the value of the e-NAM platform and allows platform users the choice to employ services from other service providers. ○ Also, choosing a high-quality Goods/Service Provider saves the stakeholders' time and labour.

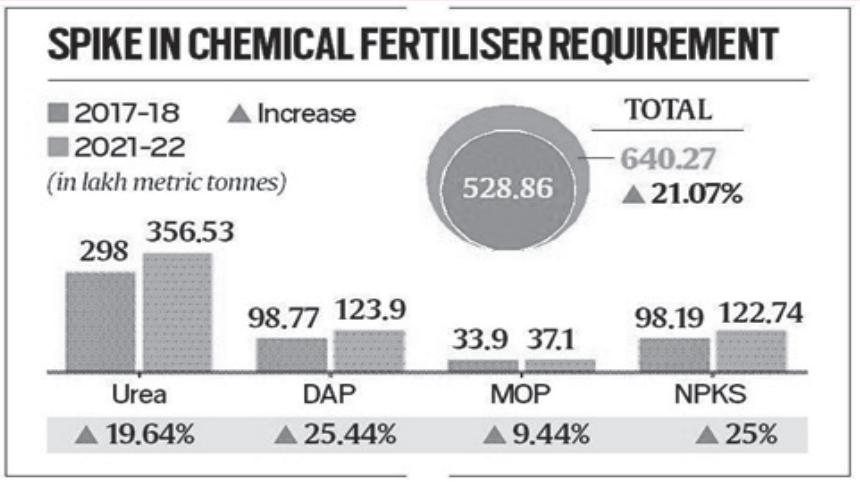
e NAM

- E-NAM (National Agricultural Market) is an **online trading platform for agricultural produce aiming to assist farmers, traders, and buyers with online trading and obtaining a better price** through efficient marketing.
- The Government of India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has designated the Small **Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) as the lead organisation for the implementation of eNAM.**

PROMOTION OF ALTERNATE NUTRIENTS FOR AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT YOJANA (PRANAM) SCHEME

News: Union Budget 2022-23 has introduced the PM PRANAM (Promotion of Alternate Nutrients for Agriculture Management Yojana) scheme.

Introduction	• PM PRANAM was launched **under GOBAR Dhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro resource Dhan) Scheme** for incentivising states and UT for incentivising sustainable use of chemical fertilizer.
Aims & Objectives	• To promote the **balanced application of fertilisers** with biofertilizers and organic fertilisers. • **To reduce** the use of chemical fertilizers by incentivising states. • **To reduce** the cost of subsidies for chemical fertilisers, which is projected to increase by 39% from 2021's number of Rs 1.62 lakh crore to Rs 2.25 lakh crore in 2022–23.
Salient Features	• The scheme will have **no separate budget** and will be **financed through the savings of existing fertilizer subsidies.** • Around **50% of subsidy savings will be passed on as a grant to the state** that saves the money. • Under this grant**, 70% of the grant provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation** related to the technological adoption of alternate fertilizers and alternate fertilizer production units at village, block, and district levels. • The **remaining 30% of grant money can be used for rewarding and encouraging farmers**, panchayats, farmer producer organizations and self-help groups that are involved in the reduction of fertilizer use and awareness generation. • The government will compare the state's increase or decrease in the use of chemical fertilizer in a year to its average consumption in the last three years.
Significance	• The action is consistent with the government's **recent efforts to encourage the balanced use of fertilisers or alternative fertilisers.** • **More Expenditure:** The government has budgeted Rs. 1.05 lakh crore for the current fiscal year (2022-23). This year, the subsidy amount for fertiliser may exceed Rs 2.25 lakh crore. • **Increased Demand**: More Demand A total of 640.27 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of four fertilizers—urea, DAP (di-ammonium phosphate), MOP (muriate of potash), and NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium)—will be needed in the country by 2021–2022, up from 528.86 lakh metric tonnes in 2017–18.

Challenges in Fertilizer Sector	 • **Reduced Production:** The epidemic has affected global fertilizer import, production, and transportation. • **Decrease in Imports:** Due to a drop in production, major fertiliser exporters like China have steadily cut back on shipments. This has influenced nations like India, which imports 40–45 percent of its phosphate from China. • **Mismanagement of the Supply:** In areas like Europe, America, Brazil, and Southeast Asia, demand has increased significantly. India is experiencing a shortage of fertilisers, particularly those containing phosphatic and potassic minerals. • **Price increases for raw materials have been consistent**, as have increases in logistics and shipping expenses. In addition, the cost of fertilisers like DAP and urea as well as raw ingredients like ammonia and phosphatic acid has increased by 250–300%. • **No Denial Policy:** The Centre currently adheres to a "no denial" policy. Via the PoS machines, anyone—including non-farmers—can purchase any quantity of fertilizer. Although there is a cap of 100 bags that one person can buy at once, this does not prevent anyone from buying more than once.

NATIONAL MISSION ON EDIBLE OILS – OIL PALM (NMEO-OP)

News: India is both the world's second-largest importer of edible oil and its second-largest consumer. Although the government has undertaken numerous attempts to improve local production of edible oils over the years, its scarcity and high price are frequently in the news.

Introduction	• NMEO-OP is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, which is proposed to have an additional 6.5 lakh hectares for palm oil **by 2025-26.** • **Statistics:** ○ The **world's greatest consumer of vegetable oil is India**. Almost 55% of this country's total vegetable oil imports are palm oil. ○ **94.1% of the world's palm oil is utilised in culinary goods in India,** primarily for cooking. Because of this, palm oil is vital to India's industry for edible oils.

Aims & Objectives	• To **increase existing production** of palm oil and improve the availability of edible oilseeds in the nation by expanding the oil palm plantation. • To **lessen the weight** of imported edible oils.
Salient Features	• **Increased Area of Cultivation:** By 2025–2026 and 2029–2030, the area planted with oil palm would increase to 10 lakh hectares and 16.7 lakh hectares, respectively. • Farmers of oil palm will receive **financial support and compensation** based on a price and viability formula. ○ **The Viability Formula is a Minimum Support Price-type mechanism** where the government will fix the price at 14.3% of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) price. Eventually, it will rise to 15.3%. • The schemes goal is **to significantly boost the support of inputs and actions**. • **Old gardens will receive special help** for replanting to revitalise them.
Significance	• **Farmers are Given Assurance in the form of Viability Gap Funding:** The sector is required to pay 14.3% of the price of crude palm oil (CPO), which will increase to 15.3% in the future. • **North East and Andaman and Nicobar Island in Particular:** The government would also contribute an additional 2% of the CPO price to help the North-East and the Andaman. • **Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT):** The price difference will be paid to palm oil growers via DBT. • **Financial Support for Farmers:** ○ An increase from the previous rate of Rs.12,000 per hectare to Rs.20,000 for domestic seedlings and Rs.29,000 for imported seedlings as assistance to farmers for planting supplies. ○ Significant increase made for treatments including intercropping and maintenance. ○ Special help at a cost of Rs.250 per plant for the replanting of ageing gardens. ○ The **North-East and the Andaman Islands will receive special help** since they are making unique arrangements for integrated farming, bio fence, and half-moon terrace agriculture. • **Provision of Planting Materials:** To address the issue of a lack of planting material in the nation, seed gardens would be given assistance up to Rs 100 lakhs for 15 hectares in the North-East and Andaman areas and Rs 80 lakhs for 15 hectares in the rest of India. • **Sharing of Funds between the Centre and States:** ○ The financing split between the Central and State Governments is 60:40 for general category states and 90:10 for north-eastern states for all components except for R&D projects, seed gardens, nurseries, and viability gap payments (100% GOI share). ○ A financial outlay of Rs. 11,040 crores have been made for the scheme, of which the Government of India contributed Rs. 8,844 crore and the State contributed Rs. 2,196 crores. This sum also includes viability gap funding. • **Area of Operation:** To be carried out in several States in accordance with the report of the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) or the advice of the State. • **Mission Duration:** The scheme has a sunset provision that expires on November 1st, 2037

Challenges	• **Effect on Tribal Lands:** There is concern about allocating more land for oil palm production because it is a water-intensive monoculture crop with a lengthy gestation period that is inappropriate for small farmers. Moreover, land productivity for palm oil is higher than for oilseeds. • **Threat to Wildlife:** Target areas include "biodiversity hotspots and ecologically sensitive" locations where oil palm plantations will disrupt the habitat of endangered creatures and deforest the area. • **Invasive Nature:** The palm is an invasive species that is not a naturally occurring forest product of north-eastern India, and even if it is produced in non-forest areas, its effects on biodiversity and soil conditions must be studied. • **Health Issue:** In locations where it is not a natural crop, oil palm requires 300 litres of water per tree per day in addition to heavy pesticide use, raising worries about consumer health. • **Farmers not Receiving Fair Price:** The biggest problem with oil palm farming has been farmers' inability to realise a fair price for fresh fruit bunches (FFBs).

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (AIF)

Introduction	• It is a **Central Sector Scheme**, where funds will be made available for the construction of **cold stores and chains, warehousing, silos, assaying, grading, and packaging units, as well as e-marketing points** connected to e-trading platforms and ripening chambers. • The Scheme will be in effect from FY 2020 to FY 2032. • The **Union Agricultural Minister has been given authority** to make the required adjustments about the inclusion or deletion of beneficiaries. • **Eligible Beneficiaries:** Farmers, FPOs, PACS, Marketing Cooperative Societies, SHGs, Joint Liability Groups, Agri-Entrepreneurs, Start-ups, and Public-Private Partnership Initiatives financed by Central/State agencies or Local Bodies are among the eligible beneficiaries.
Aims & Objectives	• It seeks to **offer a medium-long term debt financing facility** for investments in workable projects for infrastructure and community farming assets, as well as post-harvest management.
Need for AIF	• A **little over 58% of the country's population depend mostly on agriculture and related industries** for their income. • **Smallholder farmers, who make up about 85% of farmers**, oversee 45% of the agricultural area (less than 2 hectares of land under cultivation). As a result, most farmers in the nation have meagre annual wages. • **Between 15 to 20% of the output is lost due to insufficient infrastructure and poor connection,** which is substantially greater than in other nations. Agriculture has also seen sluggish investment.

Salient Features	• **Financial Support:** Banks and financial institutions will lend a total of Rs. 1 lakh crore to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-Entrepreneurs, and Central/State Agencies or Local Bodies sponsored by P3 Projects. ❍ Loans will be released over the course of four years. • **Interest Subvention:** Up to a maximum of Rs. 2 crore, interest on loans will be subtracted at a rate of 3% annually. It will be possible to receive this subsidy for a maximum of seven years. • **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Businesses (CGTMSE) Scheme:** Eligible borrowers may apply for a credit guarantee coverage from the programme under the CGTMSE plan for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore. • **Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO):** In the case of FPOs, the facility generated under the FPO promotion programme may be used to get the credit guarantee.
Management	• Through the use of an online **Management Information System (MIS) platform**, the money will be administered and tracked. It will make it possible for all eligible entities to apply for loans from the Fund. • To provide real-time monitoring and efficient feedback, **monitoring committees at the national, state, and district levels will be established.**
Significance	• Farmers and other participants in the value chain are given assistance resources for **risk-sharing and market access.** • Direct sales of produce by farmers will be made possible **by improved marketing infrastructure.** • **Post-harvest losses** can be decreased by making investments in the logistics infrastructure. • Additionally, it provides for **the targeting of State-specific APMCs and the upkeep of sanitary and phytosanitary requirements** for the sale and export of organic produce. • **Monitoring committees at the local, state, or federal levels** will speed up file processing so that it takes fewer than 60 days. • By **proper post-harvest infrastructure facilities**, the plan seeks to reduce the geographical and temporal hazards in the agribusiness ecosystem.
Challenges	• **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Due to insufficient cold chain infrastructure, more than 30% of the produce from the farm gate is lost. According to a report published by the NITI Aayog, annual post-harvest losses are over Rs 90,000 crore. • **Problem of Convenient Access to Credit:** Small and marginal farms do not have easy access to credit. The NABARD 2018 study found that compared to farmers with bigger plot sizes (> 2 hectares), those with smaller plot sizes took a larger proportion of loans from non-institutional lenders. • **Stubble Burning:** Due to a lack of labour, the high cost of removing agricultural leftover from the field, and mechanised crop harvesting, the problem of "on-farm" burning or stubble burning has gotten worse in recent years, greatly adding to air pollution in Northern India.

PM FASAL BIMA YOJANA

News: In response to the current climate catastrophe and the rapid advancement of technology, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently declared that it is willing to make adjustments to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) that would benefit farmers.

Introduction	• The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** which was introduced in 2015. **States will make up 75% of the total**. It will be **90:10 in the north-eastern region and hilly states.** • **It was created by combining the following schemes:** 1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) 2. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) 3. On-Farm Water Management (OFWM)
Salient Features	• **Components of Scheme:** It is made up of the AIBP, HKKP, and Watershed Development as its three primary parts. 1. **AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program):** To expedite the completion of irrigation projects that require more resources than individual states have available, AIBP was established in 1996. 2. **HKKP (Har Khet Ko Pani):** Via Minor Irrigation, HKKP seeks to develop additional water sources. Water body maintenance, restoration, and renovation, bolstering the carrying capacity of conventional water sources, and building rainwater collection systems. 3. **Watershed Development:** is the efficient control of runoff water, enhanced soil & moisture conservation operations, such as ridge area treatment, drainage line 5 treatment, rain water harvesting, in-situ moisture conservation, and other related activities carried out on a watershed basis. • **Decentralized Implementation:** is being done using the State Irrigation Plan and the District Irrigation Plan. • The scheme calls **for bringing relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Research, and Financial Institutions** under a typical stage so a comprehensive and all-encompassing perspective of the entire "water cycle" is considered and water budgeting is accomplished for all areas, specifically family, horticulture, and businesses. • **To specifically enable States** to create a District Irrigation Plan (DIP) and a State Irrigation Plan (SIP), the PMKSY programme design opts for a **"decentralised State level arrangement and execution" structure**.
Aims & Objectives	• To **increase the area** that can be planted with reliable irrigation (Har Khet ko pani). • To **decrease water wastage** on farms by increasing water use efficiency. • To **accelerate the implementation of water-saving technology** like precision irrigation (More crop per drop).

Challenges	• According to a report by the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development in 2018,** just 10% of the projects started under the watershed development component of the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** (PMKSY) have been finished. • Small landowner farmers cannot afford **the higher expenditure needed to implement "Per Drop More Crop,"** which calls for the use of pricey sprinklers and drip irrigation. • The PMKSY makes no mention of the **degree of government investment in micro-irrigation** on behalf of farmers or of incentives for farmers to adopt such micro-irrigation. • **Free electricity and water** are a major barrier to precision irrigation adoption. • **Ineffective coordination** and collaboration across various departments.

MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE (MIDH)

Introduction	• MIDH is **a Centrally Sponsored Scheme** implemented by the Agriculture Ministry from 2014-15 under the **banner of Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana**. • The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture or MIDH is a **scheme that provides holistic growth and development of the Indian horticulture sector.**
Aims & Objectives	• Promote the **overall development of the horticulture industry**, including the growth of bamboo and coconut, using area-based, regionally differentiated strategies that incorporate research, technology promotion, extension, post-harvest management, processing, and marketing **in line with each State's or region's comparative advantage and unique agro-climatic characteristics**. • To **achieve economies of scale**, promote farmer aggregation into farmer groups like FIGs/FPOs and FPCs. • **Boost farmer income**, boost horticultural output, and strengthen food security. • Promote the **development of post-harvest management** and horticulture skills in rural youth and the creation of jobs, especially in the cold chain industry.
Salient Features	• **Funding:** In all states save those in the North East and the Himalayas, the Government of India (GOI) provides 60% of the overall funding for development programmes under MIDH, with the State Governments providing the remaining 40%. 90% of the funding comes from the Government of India for the North Eastern and Himalayan States. • **Strategies Involved:** The programme uses a variety of tactics to enhance the horticulture sector, including marketing, processing, post-harvest management, extension, and technology promotion. The plan emphasises adopting distinct solutions for various states based on the agro-climatic characteristics of the area.

	• **Coverage:** Vegetables, fruits, roots and tuber crops, fragrant plants, flowers, spices, bamboo, coconut, cashew, and cocoa are all included in this centrally sponsored programme. • **Support Activities:** State horticulture missions, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), the Saffron Mission, and the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture are all given technical support and guidance by MIDH (NMSA). ○ Precision farming and protected cultivation are two examples of high-tech horticulture technology that is being provided to farmers. • **Coordination:** To help farmers and give them acceptable rewards, promote the usage of FPOs and their cooperation with Market Aggregators (MAs) and Financial Institutions (FIs).
Significance	• The MIDH programme has significantly contributed to the **expansion of horticulture crops like:** ○ The area and production of horticultural crops increased by 9% and 14%, respectively, **between 2014–15 and 2019–20**. ○ With an area of 25.66 million hectares, the nation produced 320.77 million tonnes of horticulture in 2019–20, the biggest amount ever. • The programme also **offers administrative and technical assistance** to State Horticultural Missions and State Governments (SHMs). Also, it offers administrative and technical support for the Saffron Mission and other horticulture-related projects.
Challenges	• This sector still faces numerous challenges. For example, High post-harvest loss Post-harvest Management Gaps Infrastructure for the supply chain.

KISAN CREDIT CARD (KCC) SCHEME

- **The programme was launched in 1998** to **give farmers access to sufficient and timely credit support from the banking system** through a single window with a flexible and streamlined process for their farming operations as well as other needs like the purchase of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertiliser, pesticides, etc. and cash withdrawals for their production requirements.
- **In 2004, the program's scope was expanded** to include farmers' needs for investment loans for ancillary and non-farm operations.
- **The extension of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) programme to farmers engaged in fisheries and animal husbandry** was announced by the government as a way to assist them in meeting their working capital needs in the Budget 2018–19.

Aims & Objectives	• To fulfil the **short-term financial needs** for crop cultivation. • Expenses post-harvest. • **Household consumption** needs for farmers. • **Loan for marketing** of produce. • **Working capital for agriculturally related projects** and the upkeep of farm equipment.

Eligibility	• Individual farmers which can be owners/cultivator. • Self-Help Groups of sharecroppers, farmers, tenant farmers etc. • Sharecroppers, tenant farmer. • Farmers involved in the production of crops or activities such as animal husbandry. • Fish farmers, fishers, SHGs, JLGs, and women groups. • **Dairy: Farmers, dairy farmers, SHGs, JLGs, and tenant farmers** who own, lease, or rent sheds. • **Poultry farmers** and even those who raise sheep, rabbits goats pigs etc.
Salient Features	• **Funding:** To make sure formers can access agricultural financing at a cost of 7% annually: ○ The Indian government operates a 2% interest subsidy programme for short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3 lakh. ○ The GOI also gives farmers a 3% prompt payback incentive in addition to a 2% interest subsidy. • **Debit Card:** The programme includes an **ATM-capable RuPay debit card** with features for one-time documentation, automatic cost escalation in the limit, and any number of withdrawals within the limit. • **Interest Subvention:** Along with **guaranteeing saturation**, banks would also take action to link Aadhaar right away since if the Aadhaar numbers are not linked to KCC accounts, no interest subvention will be provided. • **Collateral free Loan:** The government has also taken a number of measures to **increase KCC saturation**, including expanding the number of farmers involved in fisheries and animal husbandry, eliminating the processing fee for loans made through KCC, **and increasing the maximum amount for collateral-free agricultural loans from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh.** • **Short-Term Credit:** The KCC facility will assist farmers engaged in fisheries and animal husbandry in **obtaining the short-term credit** necessary for raising livestock, poultry, fish, and shrimp.
Significance	• Over 25 lakh applications had been approved **for National Fisheries KCC** as of June 2020. • The government has declared that as part of the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package, 2.5 crore farmers will be covered by the Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme with a credit boost of Rs. 2 lakh crores thanks to a special saturation effort. • A significant milestone goal of **covering more than 1.5 crore farmers under KCC with a sanctioned loan ceiling of Rs. 1.35 lakh crore** has been reached as a consequence of coordinated efforts.

Challenges	• Credit is frequently extended to those that are financially secure. • **The money is used for non-agricultural purposes:** ○ Real estate investment ○ Acquisition of vehicles ○ Children receiving higher education abroad • **Inflated land values** are used to obtain more credit. • **Money laundering** is done via the KCC route.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

Accelerated Pulses Production Program (A3P)	• It intends to **demonstrate new technology and management practices** focused on plant nutrients and plant protection in compact units of 1000 hectares each for five important pulse crops, including lentil, arhar, red gram, green gram, and Bengal gram (Masur). • It is carried out **under the NFSM-Pulses** and is entirely supported by the Union Ministry of Agriculture. • It has been designed to actively promote important technologies like **Integrated Pest management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient management (INM).** • This programme is being carried out by **the Department of Agricultural Cooperation and Farmer Welfare** with the assistance of the NCIPM of the ICAR and the Commissioners/Directors of Agriculture of states that produce pulses.
Gramin Agriculture Markets (GrAMs)	• To expand the retail market in the agriculture marketing industry, GrAMs have been introduced in the **Budget 2017–18** under the Agri Market Development Fund. • Using the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and other government programs, these **GrAMs' physical infrastructure would be upgraded**. • They will also be **exempt from APMC rules** and electronically connected to e-NAM. These will give farmers access to facilities for direct sales to consumers and large buyers. • **The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has been developing and up-grading physical infrastructure of rural haats under control of panchayats through States/Union Territories through MGNREGA for development of GrAMs. • Since it is a demand driven scheme from the States/UTs, there is no State-wise and year-wise allocation of the fund.

Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF)	• With **funding from NABARD**, AMIF was established with a corpus of Rs. 2000 crore for the development and improvement of agricultural marketing infrastructure in 22000 GrAMs and 585 APMCs. • A financial aid programme is being developed in order to **upgrade Rural Haats to Gramin Agriculture Markets (GrAMs),** create an electronic display mechanism, connect GrAMs with APMCs, and upgrade 585 e-NAM enabled APMCs. • **State governments would be able to apply for loans** from NABARD under AMIF through their respective finance departments. • **The beneficiaries under AMIF** may include APMCs, PRIs, Farmers Producers' Organizations (FPOs), Cooperatives, State Level Agencies, etc., who may apply for loans through AMIF through the Nodal Department in the State Government. The beneficiaries under AMIF may be identified by the respective State Government.
Horticulture Cluster Development Programme	• To guarantee the **holistic expansion of horticulture**, the union agriculture minister introduced the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP) in 2021. • A central sector programme comprising over **10 lakh farmers from 11 States and UTs** is being carried out by the **National Horticulture Board**, with a trial phase beginning in 12 of the 53 horticultural clusters. • By utilising **geographic specialisation and fostering integrated, market-driven growth**, it will increase the competitiveness of Indian horticultural clusters on a worldwide scale.
E-Krishi Samvad	• It is an **online portal** that allows farmers and other interested parties to **contact the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** directly with their issues in order to receive practical solutions. • Stakeholders can also upload images of animals, fish, or agricultural problems for **immediate expert diagnosis and remediation.** • Specialists will offer **appropriate solutions via SMS or the web.**
Agricultural Market Information Network (AGMARKNET)	• It is a **G2C e-governance platform** that meets the needs of multiple stakeholders by offering agricultural marketing-related information from a single window, including farmers, industry, policy makers, and academic institutions. • The daily arrivals and prices of commodities at the several agricultural product markets across the nation are **made easier to access via web-based information flow**.
Meghdoot app	• The Ministry of Agriculture, **in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences**, launched this mobile application, which was **created by the India Meteorological Department, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to offer farmers location-specific weather-based agro advisories for their crops and livestock in local languages**. • The data would be **updated twice a week** on Tuesdays and Fridays rather than in real time.

Mera Gaon-Mera Gaurav	• Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and state agricultural universities are involved in this programme. • In accordance with this plan, each group of four multidisciplinary scientists established at these institutes and universities will **choose five villages within a radius of no more than 100 km**, stay in touch with the villages chosen, and give the farmers information on technical and other related issues over a set period of time.

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2 Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

NATIONAL POLICY ON SOFTWARE PRODUCTS (NPSP) – 2019

Introduction	• The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Policy on Software Products - 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.
Aims & Objectives	• The **NPSP-2019, which aspires to establish India as the world's centre for software products**, has been given government approval. • The policy also seeks to **coordinate with other government programmes** like Start-up India, Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, etc. • To support the industry's growth at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40% to **reach $70-80 billion by 2025** and generate **employment opportunities for 3.5 million people.**
Salient Feature	• **Software Product Industry Development**: In order to grow India's share of the global software product market by ten times by 2025, it is important to support the development of a sustainable Indian software product sector that is powered by intellectual property (IP). • **Technology Start-ups**: To support 10,000 technology companies in the software product sector, including 1000 of these firms in Tier-II and Tier-III towns and cities, and to create 3.5 million direct and indirect jobs by 2025. • **Software Talent Pool**: To develop a talent pool for the software product industry by- (a) Upskilling 1,000,000 IT professionals, (b) Inspiring 100,000 students in high school and college, and (c) Producing 10,000 leadership-calibre specialists. • **Cluster based Development**: By creating 20 sectoral, strategically placed clusters for the development of software products, with integrated ICT infrastructure, marketing, incubation, R&D/testbeds, and mentorship support, the goal is to create an ecosystem based on cluster-based innovation. • **Industry Academia Collaboration**: The establishment of the National Software Products Mission will involve collaboration from the government, academia, and industry in order to develop and monitor the strategy and programmes for the implementation of this policy. • **Software Product Development Fund:** To establish a 5000 crore fund with involvement from industry to support new technologies including the Internet of Things, AI, blockchain, big data, and robots. The government will contribute 1 billion rupees to this.

Challenges	• **Poor Pay:** Entry level salaries are still 8–10 times lower than those in wealthy countries. • **Increased competition**, pressure on traditional service billing rates, and rising commoditization of lower-end services are some of the main factors driving the Indian software industry to quickly migrate up the software value chain. Due to Multinational IT majors' and small start-ups' attempts to imitate the Indian outsourcing model, competition is anticipated to increase. • **Newer Technology:** The way Indian IT organisations conduct business has been fundamentally altered by new digital technologies including social media, mobility, analytics, and cloud computing (SMAC). • **Serving a Small Market:** More plentiful supply across all categories, primarily lower-end. Higher-end markets like IT and business consulting have less supply, but the rivalry is fierce. • **Protectionist Policies in the Developed World:** Because of US visa limitations, the majority of Indian IT companies have outsourced onsite tasks to local workers. This has had a negative impact on Indian IT companies' profit margins.

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME

News: After the success of the First Round of Production Linked Incentive Scheme in attracting investments in mobile phone and electronic component manufacturing, the proposal for accepting applications under Second Round of the PLI Scheme has been approved by the Competent Authority. The target segment for the purpose of this round shall be Specified Electronic Components.

Introduction	• The scheme was **launched as a part of the National Policy on Electronics by the IT Ministry to give incentives of 4-6% to electronic companies**, manufacturing electronic components like mobile phones, transistors, diodes, etc.
Aims & Objectives	• The programme **attempts to provide businesses with incentives for additional sales** of goods produced domestically. • In addition, the **programme focuses on enticing foreign businesses to open offices in India** while also encouraging local businesses to establish new manufacturing facilities or expand already existing ones.
Salient Features	• According to the programme, qualified companies will get a 4-6% incentive on additional sales (above base year) of products manufactured in India and falling under the program's target categories from electronic manufacturing enterprises throughout **the course of the following five years**. • The programme must only be used with the **designated electronic components and mobile phone target segments.** • According to official projections, the **PLI programme will increase domestic value addition for mobile phones from its present level of 20–25 percent to 35–40 percent by 2025** and create an additional 8 lakh employment, both direct and indirect. • The programme will aid in the **creation of two to four "champion Indian firms"**.

SCHEME FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO DIGITAL PAYMENTS

News: A recent incentive programme for the promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant or P2M) for the Financial Year 2022–23 was approved by the cabinet.

Introduction	• **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** approved scheme has a **financial outlay of ₹ 2,600 crore** is implementing this scheme.
Aims & Objectives	• **Promoting digital payments** in the country and ensuring **financial inclusion**.
Salient Features	• **Banks will receive financial incentives** for boosting Point-of-Sale (PoS), e-commerce, and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions utilising RuPay Debit Cards (P2M). • **The programme will also advocate for UPI LITE and UPI 123PAY** as affordable and user-friendly digital payment options and make it possible for digital payments to be accepted by all industries and demographic groups.

About UPI LITE and UPI 123PAY:

- **UPI LITE:** An **on-device wallet feature** called UPI Lite will allow for offline transactions of lower value. The **wallet mechanism** will be how UPI Lite functions.
- **UPI 123PAY:** Simple phones **without an internet connection** will be able to use it. The UPI functionalities are currently primarily restricted to cell phones. The **RBI's regulatory sandbox** on retail payments will be used by the UPI service for feature phones.

DESIGN LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR SEMICONDUCTORS (DLI)

News: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has invited applications from 100 domestic companies, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups for the design linked incentive (DLI) scheme.

Introduction	• The DLI programme is a **component of MeitY's extensive Program for the Development of the Nation's Semiconductor and Display Manufacturing Ecosystems.**
Eligibility	• The **approved applicants will be encouraged to maintain their domestic status for a period of three years** after claiming incentives under the scheme (i.e., more than 50% of the capital in it is beneficially owned by resident Indian citizens and/or Indian companies, which are ultimately owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens). • A candidate must satisfy the threshold and ceiling limits in order to be qualified for incentives to be paid out under the Plan.

Aims & Objectives	• To support and grow at least 20 local semiconductor design companies so that they can generate more than Rs. 1500 crore in revenue over the next five years.
Salient Features	• **Financial incentives and support** for design infrastructure will be provided to domestic businesses, start-ups, and MSMEs under the DLI Plan. • **During a period of five years**, the incentives will be offered at different phases of the creation and application of semiconductor design for integrated circuits (ICs), chipsets, system on chips (SoCs), systems & IP cores, and semiconductor linked design. • **Graded and Pre-emptive Approach:** The DLI Scheme will also adopt a graded and proactive strategy to identify the products of national priorities and implement plans for their full or nearly full indigenisation and deployment, thus taking steps towards import substitution and value addition in strategic and socioeconomic sectors. • **Nodal Agency: C-DAC** (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).
Components of DLI	• This scheme consist of three components – Chip Design infrastructure support, Product Design Linked Incentive and Deployment Linked Incentive: 1. **Chip Design Infrastructure Support:** In order to host cutting-edge design infrastructure (such as EDA Tools, IP Cores, and support for MPW (Multi Project Wafer fabrication) & post-silicon validation), C-DAC will establish the India Chip Centre. This will make it easier for supported companies to access this infrastructure. 2. **Product Design Related Incentive**: Under this programme, accepted applicants who are working on semiconductor design will be given financial support in the form of a reimbursement of up to 50% of their eligible expenses, up to a maximum of Rs. 15 crore per application. • **Deployment Linked Incentive:** Under this programme, approved applicants whose semiconductor design for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design are deployed in electronic products will be given an incentive of 6% to 4% of net sales turnover over 5 years, subject to a ceiling of Rs.30 Crore per application.
Significance	• **Use Across Sectors:** Several industries, including automotive, telecom, and medical technology, require semiconductor to run. • **Demand:** The need to build a strong semiconductor ecosystem in India has been driven by the unexpected increase in demand for chips and semiconductor components. • **Additional elements** that encouraged large economies to redouble their efforts in the chip manufacturing industry include: ○ The world's scarcity of chips ○ China-US tensions over Taiwan • Blockages in the supply chain caused by the hostilities in Russia and Ukraine

Challenges	• **No Incubation:** More than 90% of international businesses already have R&D and design centres for semiconductors in India, but they have never set up fabrication facilities. • **Strategic Sector:** Although India has semiconductor fabs in Mohali and Bangalore, they are purely strategic for defence and space applications only. • **Capital Requirement**: The installation of fabs requires investments in the $5 billion to $10 billion range. • **Lack of supportive policies:** Some of the obstacles to establishing fabs in India include a lack of investments and benevolent government policies. • **Geopolitical constraints:** To create new fabs, a mix of capital and the geopolitical environment is necessary.

About Centre for Development of Advanced Computing:

- For conducting R&D in IT, electronics, and related fields, C-DAC is the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) top Research & Development organisation.
- In 1991, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing created PARAM 8000, the country's first supercomputer.

CHIPS TO START-UP (C2S) PROGRAMME SCHEME

News: The Ministry of Electronics and Information (MeitY) has sought applications from 100 academia, R&D organizations, start-ups and MSMEs under its Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme.

Introduction	• It is a Rs 76,000 crore initiative in December 2021 to enhance semiconductor and display manufacturing in India, also with the goal of positioning India as a worldwide centre for hi-tech production and recruiting multinational chip manufacturers.
Aims & Objectives	• To **educate 85,000 skilled engineers** in the fields of embedded system design and very large-scale integration (VLSI). • **To create** 175 Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), 20 System on Chip (SoC) Functional Prototypes, and an IP Core Repository **during the course of five years**.
Salient Features	• **A step towards the Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM):** By fostering a culture of SoC/System Level Design at the undergraduate, graduate, and research levels, the programme will advance the field of ESDM and serve as a catalyst for the expansion of start-ups engaged in fabless design. • **Project Categorization:** According to the Institutions' expertise, bids for the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Program are sought in three separate categories based on Technological Readiness Level (TRL) and design experience:

	○ Design and Development of Systems/SoCs/ASICs/Reusable IP Core ○ Development of Application Oriented Working Prototype of IPs/ASICs/ SoCs and ○ Proof of Concept oriented Research and Development of ASICs/FPGAs. • **Nodal Implementing Agency:** C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing). • **The programme would be implemented at about 100 academic institutions/** R&D organizations across the Country (including IITs, NITs, Government/ Private Colleges and R&D Organisations). • **The Start-ups and MSMEs can also participate** in the programme by submitting their proposals under Academia- Industry Collaborative Project, Grand Challenge /Hackathons/RFP.
Significance	• If the **SoC/System Level Design culture** is introduced at the bachelor, master, and research levels, the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) domain will advance. Additionally, it will help fabless design start-ups grow. • The programme covers a variety of subjects, such as **application-focused R & D, testing, systems integration, equipment IP layout, and deployment**.

Systems on Chip:

- Systems on Chips are Integrated Circuits (often referred to as "chips") that incorporate all or the majority of the components of a computer or other electronic system.
- SoCs are integrated circuits, as opposed to the traditional motherboard-based computer design, which isolates components by functionality and connects them via a central interface circuit board.

SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF MANUFACTURING OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND SEMICONDUCTORS (SPECS)

News: The scheme is open to receive applications till 31.03.2023. As on November 30, 2022, thirty-two (32) applications with total project cost of Rs.11,130 crore were received.

Introduction	• The Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) **offers a financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure** for the specified list of electronic products that make up the downstream value chain of electronic products, i.e. electronic components, semiconductors, and electronic devices.
Aims & Objectives	• Creation of the **manufacturing ecosystem for electrical components.** • **Expanding the value chain** for electronics.

Salient Features	• The programme gives **industrial units investing in the production of capital goods, electronic components, semiconductors, etc**. a financial incentive equal to 25% of capital expenditures on plant, machinery, equipment, associated utilities, and technology, including R&D. • **All areas of electronics manufacturing**, including mobile, consumer, industrial, automotive, medical, telecom equipment, computer, and hardware, will be served by this.
Significance	• At **least Rs 20,000 crore in fresh investments** are expected to be attracted to the electronics sector. • The manufacturing units are **anticipated to generate 1,50,000 new direct jobs**, in addition to 4,50,000 new indirect jobs. • **Lowering reliance on component imports** through extensive domestic manufacturing that will also enhance the digital security

START-UP ACCELERATORS OF MEITY FOR PRODUCT INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH (SAMRIDH)

Introduction	• The scheme focuses on **accelerating the 300 start-ups over the next three years** by connecting them with customers, investors, and global opportunities.
Aims & Objectives	• **Assist Accelerators:** Help current and forthcoming accelerators choose and hasten the growth of IT-related start-ups. • **Accelerating the Start-ups:** Start-ups can be accelerated by offering connections to customers, investors, international expansion, and general business growth in terms of revenue, users, and valuation metrics.
Salient Features	• **Financial Support:** Based on the start-up's current valuation and growth stage, acceleratory will provide up to Rs. 40 lakh in financial support. • Meity Startup Hub(MSH) is the implementing organisation. • **Two components:** 1. Paying administrative expenses to accelerators in exchange for their assistance in accelerating start-ups. 2. Start-ups are given matching equity seed money to help them grow. • **Support to Start-ups:** A 10-member group headed by MeitY will develop the procedures to support current and forthcoming start-up accelerators and oversee the implementation of the programme.

MeiTY Start Up Hub:

- It serves as a nodal organisation under MeitY to support the organization's mission of fostering technological innovation, start-ups, and the development of intellectual property.
- It serves as a national coordination, facilitation, and oversight hub to bring together all the incubators, start-ups, and innovation related activities of MeitY.

DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM

Introduction	• Introduced in **2015,** it is the Government of India's **flagship initiative**, Digital India, **aims to convert India into a knowledge-based society and economy.** • A broad effort called "Digital India" includes several government Ministries and Departments. • It **combines a wide range of concepts and ideas into a unified, all-encompassing vision** so that each one can be implemented as a component of a bigger objective.
Aims & Objectives	• Digital infrastructure **as a core utility** to every citizen. • Governance and services **on demand**. • **Digital empowerment** of citizens.
Pillars	• Digital India Mission provide thrust to the **nine pillars of growth areas**, namely: 1. Broadband Highways 2. Public Internet Access Programme 3. e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology 4. e-Kranti – Electronic Delivery of Services 5. Electronics Manufacturing 6. IT for Jobs 7. Early Harvest Programmes 8. Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity 9. Information for All
Initiatives	• **Digi Lockers:** By granting access to genuine digital documents in the citizen's digital document wallet, the flagship initiative Digi Lockers seeks to "Digitally Empower" the citizen. • **E-Hospitals:** Using a single digital platform, the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) known as "e-Hospitals" serves as a one-stop shop for tying patients, hospitals, and clinicians together. As many as 420 e-Hospitals have been built as part of the Digital India initiative as of February 2021. • **E-Pathshala:** Created by NCERT, e-Pathshala is a website and mobile app that displays and shares all educational e-resources, including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals, and a variety of other print and non-print materials. • **BHIM:** Bharat Interface for Money is an app that uses the Unified Payments Interface to make payments simple, easy, and rapid (UPI). • **Digital India GENESIS:** A national deep-tech start-up network called GENESIS (Gen-next Support for Innovative Start-ups) aims to find, nurture, and create successful firms in Tier-II and Tier-III cities in India. • **My Scheme:** It is a service discovery tool that makes it easier to access government programmes. It seeks to provide a one-stop search and discovery site where users can locate programmes for which they qualify.

	• **Meri Pehchaan:** One Citizen Login is a National Single Sign On (NSSO). It is a user authentication service that enables access to numerous online programmes or services with a single set of credentials. • **Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme:** It intends to train specialist personnel in the field of semiconductor chip design at the bachelors, masters, and research levels. It also serves as a catalyst for the expansion of start-ups engaged in semiconductor design in the nation. • **India Stack Global:** Aadhaar, UPI (Unified Payment Interface), Digi Locker, Cowin Vaccination Portal, Government e Market Place, DIKSHA Platform, and Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Initiative are just a few of the notable projects under India Stack that are housed in the India stack worldwide repository.
Salient Features	• **e-Kranti - Electronic service delivery**: The goal of e-Kranti is to transform the entire government by providing all services electronically to the public through a variety of integrated and interoperable systems, all while guaranteeing the effectiveness, affordability, and dependability of those services. • **PPP:** Wherever possible, public-private partnerships are preferred for the implementation of e-government projects. • **The components of the programme management structure are:** ○ A Monitoring Committee headed by the Prime Minister. ○ A Digital India Advisory Group chaired by the Minister of Communications and IT. ○ **An Apex Committee** chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. • **Chief Information Officers (CIO):** An Apex Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary the appointment of CIO in at least ten important Ministries in order to hasten the design, development, and implementation of major e-Governance projects. • **Common Services Centres (CSC):** A wide network of more than 2.5 lakh CSC has been established to bring the advantages of Digital India to every part of the nation. Due to this, Dalits, women, and the impoverished and disenfranchised in India have become digital entrepreneurs.
Significance	• By 2025, the Digital India strategy might **increase GDP by $1 trillion**. • The **healthcare and education industries** have expanded thanks to initiatives like the National Digital Health Mission and Digital Education in India. • The nation's economy as a whole would benefit from improvements in **online infrastructure**. • The Made in India programme has improved India's **electrical manufacturing industry**. • By the Digital India project, almost **12000 post office branches in rural areas** have been electronically connected.

Challenges	• **Lack of Capacity:** The **limited capacity** of entry-level handsets for quick internet access. • **Digital Illiteracy:** Further **user education** regarding digitalization was required. • **Unskilled:** A major problem for Digital India is the lack of skilled labour in the field of digital technology. • **Internet Speed:** The internet's daily speed, including that of Wi-Fi hotspots, lagged behind other developed nations. • **Cybersecurity:** One of the main issues in the development of Digital India is the analysis and monitoring of the growing dangers of cybercrime with 1 million cybersecurity experts. • **Large No of MSME:** Medium- and small-sized businesses continue to struggle with adapting to contemporary digital technology.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ENDEAVOR FOR INDIAN CITIES INITIATIVE

News: Recently, The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched three software applications under the Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor for Indian Cities Phase-II initiative.

Introduction	• The InTranSE Phase-II program (2019-2021) is an extension of the InTranSE Phase-I program which is **aimed at undertaking R&D projects collaboratively** with IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IISc Bangalore and C-DAC to synergize the transformation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) with more energy and pace. • **Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)** are a suite of public transport planning, operations management and customer service applications that are enabled by advanced information and communications technologies.
Aims & Objectives	• The mission of InTranSe is **to develop, demonstrate, deploy, transfer technology, and commercialise products and technologies** that are pertinent to intelligent transportation systems (ITS). • The program's overarching goal is to give the nation the capacity to play **a key role in the field of intelligent transportation systems (ITS).**
Salient Features	• **Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning Systems or Odaws**: In order to actively monitor the immediate surroundings of a car in order to prevent traffic accidents, it comprises vehicle radar sensors and navigation sensors. • **Bus Signal Priority System (BSPS):** It aims to actively monitor traffic jams at significant urban arterial road traffic junctions and employs conditional priority to enable quicker movement of public transportation services like buses in order to alleviate such congestion.

	• **Common Smart IoT 'Connectiv' (Cosmic):** It is an IoT (internet of things) platform that adheres to the open-standard OneM2M IoT compatibility protocol. Via a standard dashboard for smart cities, it will be possible to track the movements of vehicles. This makes it easier to follow any road accidents and public transportation services. • **OneM2M:** It is a standard language for Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, algorithms, and software that enables connected sensors and hardware made by one firm to communicate data with hardware made by another.
Significance	• **Efficient traffic flow management** and improving commuters' knowledge of traffic and road conditions. • This can lessen the detrimental effects of **congestion.** • Prior to implementing ITS, **extensive R&D efforts** are required in India due to the non-lane based chaotic traffic and high vehicle heterogeneity.

INDIA STACK KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

News: Recently, an event titled 'India Stack Knowledge Exchange (ISKE)' programme was organized as a part of the Digital India Week by the Ministry of Electronics & IT.

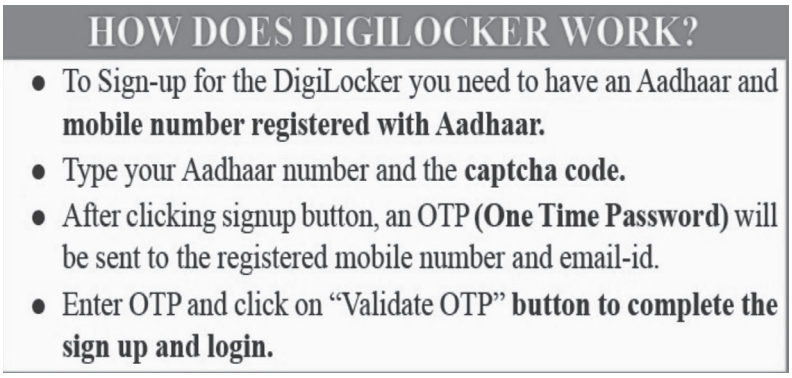
Introduction	• India Stack refers to an ambitious project of creating a **unified software platform to bring India's population into the digital age.** • ISKE 2022 was also visualized to present to the global community, India Stack solutions and goods, and welcomed any nation to adopt and customize them for their own use.
Aims & Objectives	• The **aim behind ISKE 2022 was to get the real practitioners - the IT champions - to speak** of the implementation of ground-breaking projects, the challenges faced and the road ahead for these projects.
Salient Features	• **Urban Stack**: Smart Cities Mission, Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), Digital Infrastructure for Governance, Impact and Transformation (DIGIT), India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX). • **Technology Stack for e-Commerce**: The Government e-Marketplace, Open Network for Digital Commerce. • **Space Technology Stack:** Navigation in Indian Constellation (NavIC), Visualization of Earth Observation Data and Archival System (VEDAS), Meteorological & Oceanographic Satellite Data Archival Centre (MOSDAC), Bhuvan, Bhoonidhi & Yuktdhara.
Significance:	• The event **brought together practitioners and digital transformation leaders** to share their experiences in implementing pioneering projects. • It helped in the formation of an **India Stack Knowledge Exchange**. • It served as a **collaborative platform** for the replication of some of the digital initiatives. • It served as a knowledge exchange platform for India to speak of its contribution to the repository of **Global Digital Public Goods.**

INDIA MOBILE CONGRESS

News: The 6th edition of Asia's largest telecom festival, India Mobile Congress 2022 concluded with grand success.

Introduction	• It was organized by the **Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).** • IMC is considered the **largest Digital Technology Forum in Asia** for bringing together the industry, Government, academia, and other ecosystem players to discuss the latest industry technology trends around major themes such as SG, Artificial Intelligence (Al), Internet of things (loT) etc.
Aims & Objectives	• The forum intends **to serve as a venue for business, industry, policymakers, and regulators** to **debate and discuss important problems** influencing the development and spread of the telecom and technology sector.
Salient Features	• The India Mobile Congress is **not only the largest technology event in India, but it is also the largest technology-related networking event in Asia.** • The IMC also hosts the largest technology exhibition in India and is a **hub for technological demonstrations with involvement from thought leaders** all over the world. It keeps becoming bigger and better every year.
Significance:	• IMC's initiatives **support Made-in-India technology** to address issues in the fields of business, healthcare, education, communication, and financial inclusion. They are in line with the goal of Digital India. • IMC has been actively **promoting India's strength and position** as a major worldwide hub for the production of technological products ever since it was founded.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES BY MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Digi Locker	• It is a platform that **encourages paperless governance** by allowing for the digital issue and verification of documents and certificates.  **HOW DOES DIGILOCKER WORK?** • To Sign-up for the DigiLocker you need to have an Aadhaar and **mobile number registered with Aadhaar.** • Type your Aadhaar number and the **captcha code.** • After clicking signup button, an OTP **(One Time Password)** will be sent to the registered mobile number and email-id. • Enter OTP and click on "Validate OTP" **button to complete the sign up and login.**

	• When an Indian citizen registers for a DigiLocker account, they receive a specific cloud storage area **connected to their Aadhaar (UIDAI) number.** • **Services:** ○ Entities that have registered with Digital Locker are able to send residents' lockers with electronic copies of identification documents and certifications (such as a driver's licence, voter ID, and school transcripts). ○ Also, citizens can upload scanned versions of their historic papers into their accounts for electronic signature utilising the eSign feature. • All insurance companies were urged to issue Digital Insurance Policy using Digi Locker by IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory Authority of India). • **MeitY's NeGD (National e-Governance Division)** Digi locker team will offer the essential logistical and technical support to further its adoption.
UMANG App	• The **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) mobile app** is a Government of India **all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app.** • It provides **access to high impact services** of various organizations of Centre and States. Presently it has 2000+ services. • **The aim of UMANG** is to fast-track mobile governance in India. • UMANG enables **'Ease of Living'** for Citizens by providing easy access to a plethora of Indian government services ranging from – Healthcare, Finance, Education, Housing, Energy, Agriculture, Transport to even Utility and Employment and Skills.
Digishala	• **After demonetization**, this free-to-air station wants to encourage cashless transactions, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. • It was introduced as a **part of the "Digidhan" campaign**, a movement to raise awareness of online transactions.
Cyber Surakshit Bharat	• The goal of the Cyber Surakshit Bharat programme is to **raise awareness of cybercrime and strengthen the skills** of frontline IT staff members and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) across all government agencies. • It was **designed to help CISOs** become more knowledgeable about cyberattacks, gain essential exposure to cutting-edge safeguarding technology, and communicate the advantages of a robust e-infrastructure to both small businesses and the general public. • **Educate people** on the evolving panorama of online risks. • Provide important information so that decision-makers in each functional area can make **well-informed judgements** about matters relating to cyber security.

Secure, Scalable & Sugamya Website as a Service (S3WAAS)	• It is a solution for creating and deploying websites that is housed on the **National Cloud of the National Informatics Centre.** • Using templates that are extremely flexible and can be deployed with ease on a scalable software defined infrastructure, it makes **use of technology to create safe websites**.
GI Cloud – MeghRaj	• It aims to maximise government ICT spending while **exploiting and harnessing the advantages of cloud computing** with an emphasis on speeding up the delivery of e-services in the nation. • The GI Cloud's architectural vision entails a collection of distinct cloud computing **environments dispersed across** various locations, constructed on current or new (augmented) infrastructure, and operating in accordance with a common set of protocols, rules, and standards established by the Government of India.

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3 Ministry of Science & Technology

PURPLE REVOLUTION

News: The Purple Revolution is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to Start-ups India.

Introduction	• The **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Aroma Mission** served as the catalyst for the start of the Purple or Lavender Revolution. • In accordance with the mission, **new farmers received free lavender saplings** while seasoned farmers were required to pay Rs. 5–6 per sapling. • **It will aid in giving beginning farmers** and agribusiness owners a means of subsistence, support the Start-Up India initiative, and foster an entrepreneurial culture in the area.
Aims & Objectives	• Their objective was to **expand the lavender harvest** in Jammu & Kashmir. • The mission's main goal was to **enhance the domestic market and farmers' income** by taking advantage of the local geography.
Salient Features	**Aroma Mission:** • The **CSIR Aroma Mission** intends to conduct focused interventions in agriculture, processing, and product development to promote the growth of the fragrance industry and rural employment. Its goal is to bring about transformative change in the aroma sector. • It would promote the **growth of aromatic crops** for the purpose of producing essential oils, which are highly sought-after in the aroma industry. • Entrepreneurs and farmers from all over the nation are coming to Aroma Mission. **During Phase I**, the CSIR helped **cultivate 6000 hectares of land in 46 Aspirational districts nationwide.**
Significance:	• **Farmers and Industry:** On the model of menthol mint, it is anticipated to help Indian farmers and the scent industry become global leaders in the production and export of several other essential oils. ○ **Start-ups:** We will recognise lavender producers and new businesses. ○ **Farmer's Income:** It is anticipated to offer farmers significant advantages, including increased profitability, the use of wastelands, and protection of their crops from wild and grazing animals.

	• **Employment:** In geographically inaccessible areas of J&K, lavender growing has employed roughly 5,000 farmers and young business owners. • Indirectly, more than 25,000 farming households would profit, and more than 10-15 lakh man days would be added to employment in rural areas. • **Aromatic Crops:** It will encourage the growth of plants that produce essential oils, which are highly sought after by the fragrance industry. • **Perfume Production:** This will aid in the production of an additional 700 tonnes of essential oils for the fragrance, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical industries. The use of these oils in value-added and herbal products will result in at least 200 crores in revenue.

INNOVATION IN SCIENCE PURSUIT FOR INSPIRED RESEARCH (INSPIRE)

- It is being carried out by **DST (Department of Science and Technology)** in conjunction with National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF), an independent DST agency, and is **in line with the "Start-up India" initiative.**
- No matter whose educational boards they belong to, **kids from all government and private schools around the nation are invited** to participate in the programme (national and state).
- It involves kids interested in pursuing a career in science and research **who are between the ages of 10-15 and enrolled in grades 6 through 10.**

Aims & Objectives	• To **share with the country's youth** the thrills of creatively pursuing science, entice talent to study the subject early on, and **create the key human resource pool** needed for bolstering and extending the Science & Technology system and R&D foundation. • To **encourage a culture of creativity and inventive thinking** among schoolchildren by aiming for one million unique ideas/innovations with scientific and societal implications. • To use **science and technology to address societal challenges** while fostering the development of tomorrow's sensitive, accountable, and innovative leaders.
Salient Features	• Three programmes and five components make up the INSPIRE Scheme: 1. **Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS):** In order to encourage talented young people to pursue science, the SEATS offers INSPIRE Awards-MANAK to one million young students in the age range of 10-15 years, ranging from Class VI to Class X standards, as well as summer camps with top scientists for about 50,000 science students in Class XI. 2. **Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)** aims to boost rates of attachment of talented individuals to undertake higher education in science intensive programmes, by offering scholarships and mentorship. 3. **Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC):** In order to improve the R&D foundation and base, AORC strives to attract, attach, retain, and nurture talented young scientific human resources.

LOCAL TREATMENT OF URBAN SEWAGE FOR HEALTHY REUSE (LOTUS-HR) PROGRAM

- The **Department of Biotechnology**, **Ministry of Science and Technology**, Government of India, and Government of the Netherlands all jointly support this initiative, which was started in 2017.
- The ground-breaking pilot scale modular system will **process 10,000 L of sewage water each day** and intends to create global water management and risk assessment methods that may be used in megacities all over the world.
- The initiative is based in **New Delhi's Barapullah Drain**, and its partners are **IIT-Delhi, NEERI, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).**

Aims & Objectives	• To **showcase a cutting-edge, comprehensive waste-water management strategy** that will result in clean water that can be recycled for a variety of purposes. • To concurrently **extract energy and nutrients from urban wastewater**, turning drains into productive mines.
Salient Features	• The **first phase entailed employing Vital Urban Filters'** small, strong, and environmentally friendly technology to clear the Barapullah drain in Delhi. • The Vital Urban Filters' foundation is a traditional vertical flow created wetland, which is a typical practice in **decentralised wastewater control**. • The filter comprises an ornamental plant-planted flat bed of **hydroponic filter material**. • The **filter materials' high porosity** gives biomass a lot of surface area. Through the interplay of the plants, filter materials, and bacteria, heavy metals, pathogens, and micro pollutants are eliminated when the influent percolates through the filter.

NATIONAL BIO PHARMA MISSION (NBM)

- The scheme is **implemented by BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council)** which is a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- In order to **transform the health standards of India's population** through the development of reasonably priced products, it is necessary to enable and nurture an ecosystem for India's technological and product development capabilities in the biopharmaceuticals sector to a level that will be globally competitive over the next ten years.

Aims & Objectives	• **To combat** the expanding illness load, new vaccines, biotherapies, diagnostics, and medical technologies must be developed. • **To connect** disconnected centres of excellence (academic institutions), improve regional capabilities, and strengthen the network of existing bio clusters in terms of capabilities and output quantity and quality. • **Build capacities in new fields** such translational bioinformatics, bioethics, etc., and develop platform technologies for product validation. Connect institutions to strengthen clinical trial networks. • With an **emphasis on biosimilars** for cancer, diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis, vaccines for the human papillomavirus (HPV), dengue, and medical equipment and diagnostics.

Salient Features	• **A World Bank loan** provided 50% of the mission's budget over its five-year lifespan. • Included in it will be **the Innovate In India (i3) programme**, which is supported by the World Bank and aims to build a supportive environment for entrepreneurship and domestic production in the industry. • The Department of Biotechnology has begun a goal to foster **collaboration between business and academia.** • The **triple helix of medical innovation**, which includes the private sector, the government, and academia, is seen to be capable of fostering the vital development of biopharma.

CATTLE GENOMICS SCHEME

Introduction	• **Implementing organisation**: National Institute of Animal Biotechnology. • **Genome sequencing of indigenous cattle breeds** from all registered cattle breeds of India.
Aims & Objectives	• To **discover genetic worth of animals** (elite animals) at an early age and more precisely estimate breeding values of animals utilising DNA level information with performance record. • To **address how climate change is affecting livestock** and to take advantage of the rising demand for animal food products.
Salient Features	• **Genomic selection of Hardy Livestock** is used to produce disease-resistant, resilient, and high-yielding livestock. • **High-density DNA chips** will be produced to lower the cost and time interval for future breeding procedures and boost the output of indigenous cattle.

NATIONAL MISSION ON INTER-DISCIPLINARY CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS

- This mission has **35 cooperative projects** in total that will be carried out by US academic institutions and TIHs (Technology Innovation Hubs).
- This project will **contribute to joint research and development** in **the field of CPS (Cyber-Physical Systems) between the two nations.**
- **Cyber-physical systems** connect physical infrastructure and things to the Internet and to one another by integrating sensing, computation, control, and networking into them.

Aims & Objectives	• **To discuss** entrepreneurship and start-up development, technological development, application development, human resource development & skill enhancement, and development of CPS and related technologies.
Salient Features	• A total of 15 **Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH),** 6 **Application Innovation Hubs (AIH),** and 4 **Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP)** are to be **established as part of this objective.** • Under a **hub-and-spoke design**, these Hubs and TTRPs will connect to Academics, Industry, Central Ministries, and State Government to develop solutions at reputable academic, R&D, and other institutions nationwide.

Significance:	• Use of CPS technologies to **address issues that are unique to or regional to India.** • **Boost entrepreneurship** and start-up ecosystem growth in CPS. • **Encourage cutting-edge CPS research**, technology development, and higher education in the fields of science, technology, and engineering. • **Put India on par with other advanced nations** and gain a number of direct and indirect advantages. • Produce **Next Generation skilled manpower** in CPS.

ATAL JAI ANUSANDHAN BIOTECH MISSION- UNDERTAKING NATIONALLY RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION (UNATI)

Introduction	• This mission was launched by the **Department of Biotechnology** in 2019, and is expected to transform the Health, Agriculture and Energy sectors during the next 5 years.
Aims & Objectives	• For the next five years, to **revolutionise the health, agriculture, and energy sectors**.
Salient Features	• **IndCEPI:** The goal of IndCEPI is to create accessible vaccinations for endemic diseases. • **POSHAN Abhiyan:** The creation of wheat that has been biofortified and is high in protein. • **Affordable Diagnostics and Treatments Mission** on Antimicrobial Resistance. • New technology interventions for Swachh Bharat under the **Clean Energy Mission.** • **GARBH-ini:** A mission of GARBH-ini is to advance maternal and child health and provide instruments for predicting pre-term birth.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVE OF MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)	• DST reorganised all the programmes geared towards women in 2014 under a single banner dubbed as "KIRAN". • The goal of **DST's women-only programme** is to achieve gender equity in science and technology through gender mainstreaming. • Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A), Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B), and other KIRAN programmes and components **address a variety of significant issues** (career breaks primarily brought on by family responsibilities, self-employment, part-time careers, relocation, and so forth) **faced by women scientists** in their career path. • Due to the Ministry's numerous initiatives to **support women in STEM**, this programme received media attention (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

NIDHI (National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations)	• NIDHI strives to foster the development of successful start-ups from **knowledge-based and technology-driven ideas and innovations.** • Additionally, it seeks to **open up new opportunities for income and employment** growth while offering technology answers to society's most pressing problems. • NIDHI includes the following elements that assist a developing start-up at each stage: ○ **PRAYAS (Promoting and Advancing Young and Aspiring Innovators & Start-ups)** aims to assist innovators by offering a grant up to Rs. 10 lakhs and access to Fabrication Laboratory to help them create prototypes of their ideas (Fab Lab). ○ **Seed Support Scheme:** Via technology business incubators, it offers up to one crore rupees every startup, is put into practise.
Vigyan Jyoti	• To **encourage female students to pursue postsecondary education and careers in STEM sectors, DST introduced it in 2019.** • The programme **offers a stipend, trips** to adjacent research facilities, science camps, talks by notable female scientists, and career guidance. These possibilities would be provided to selected women from more than 500 areas. • Presently, **2,900 students are enrolled** in the curriculum being offered by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) across 58 districts. • The second phase of the programme, which began on February 11, 2021, in honour of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, **will expand the programme for inspiring girls to pursue an interest in science and a career in STEM** to 50 additional districts, bringing the total coverage to 100 districts.
Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) – POWER	• The initiative would **reduce the financial gap between men and women in various S&T programmes at Indian academic institutions and R&D facilities.** • In India, **40% of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) graduates are women**, compared to 35% globally, the UN reports. Yet, compared to the global average of 30%, India employs only 14% women researchers.
Science and Engineering Research Board- Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (SERB-FIRE)	• It is a research programme **started by SERB, a statutory organisation of the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with Intel India.** • In cooperation with important R&D organisations in India, FIRE is a collaborative **government-and-industry effort** with a co-funding mechanism to **promote cutting-edge technological solutions and boost academic research.** • The new initiative **intends to use the knowledge present in academic institutions and national laboratories** to address problems unique to industry for the greater good of society.

Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)	• The **national website** for sharing facilities for research and development (R&D). • Under the auspices of the Prime Minister Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council mission, it was started in 2020 as a **project of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India.** • Its **purpose is to support researchers** by giving them access to already-existing publicly financed R&D facilities and to connect them with resources in order to strengthen the R&D ecosystem.
Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission)	• As an "**umbrella capacity-building programme,**" it was introduced, where all of the country's scientists, institutions, and industry will be the focussing on the Mission's programmes. • **Through encouraging basic research**, human resource development, the development of research infrastructure, international collaborations, the coordination of national dialogues, and the development of nano applications and technology, it will also **improve activities in nano science and technology**. • A renowned scientist serves as the chair of the **Nano Mission Council**, which controls it.

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4 Ministry of Textiles

NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION

News: The Ministry of Textiles has cleared 20 strategic research projects worth INR 30 crores in the areas of Specialty fibres and Geotextiles under this Flagship Programme.

Introduction	• The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved it in 2020 with a total outlay of **Rs. 1480 crore.** • The **four-year implementation term** runs from the fiscal years 2020–21 to 2023–24. • Additionally, it backs the "Made in India" initiative, which encourages domestic production of relevant machinery and equipment.
Aims & Objectives	• Try to **make the country as a global leader in Technical Textiles** and improve its penetration level in the country. • By 2024, the Mission hopes to **double the domestic market for technology textiles** to $40–50 billion, with average annual growth of 15-20%.
Salient Features	• To improve the **usage of technical textiles in various flagship missions** and strategic sectors. • This will help to **reduce India's import dependence and promote the domestic manufacturing of capital goods in the sector.** • **The mission will comprise the following four components:** ○ Research, Innovation and Development. ○ Promotion and Market Development. ○ Export Promotion. ○ Education, Training, Skill Development.
Technical Textiles	• Technical textiles are textiles **materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.** • The Technical Textiles segment is a **new age textile**, whose **application is in several sectors of the economy**. • A technical textile is a **textile product manufactured for non-aesthetic purposes**, where function is the primary criterion. • **Technical textiles include** textiles for automotive applications, medical textiles, geotextiles, agrotextiles, and protective clothing. • **These products are divided into 12 broad categories** (Agrotech, Buildtech, Clothtech, Geotech, Hometech, Indutech, Mobiltech, Meditech, Protech, Sportstech, Oekotech, Packtech) depending upon their application areas. • India contributes nearly **6% of the world market size** of 250 Billion USD.

Significance	• **Increasing the use of technology textiles** in the nation's major missions and programmes, particularly its **strategic industries**. • This will **lessen India's reliance on imports** and encourage domestic production of capital goods in the industry.
Challenges	• **Raw Material Shortage:** The closure of several factories in China and Europe owing to pollution problems has led to an unprecedented increase in the price of essential raw materials on global markets. ○ Cost of raw materials is rising as a result of the shutdown of numerous facilities in China owing to pollution regulations. • **Strict Labour Laws:** India's system of labour laws is quite intricate. Almost 200 labour laws exist, comprising 25% of Central Acts. Numerous labour laws, like the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947, place restrictions on business size and prevent manufacturing companies from expanding. • **Pressure to Adhere to Strict Social and Environmental Standards:** As demand grows for the apparel sector to step up environmental compliance efforts, failure to do so can jeopardise the supply chain. • **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** India's subpar infrastructure has been a significant barrier. As a result of the practice of physical labour, there is inefficiency. • **Extremely Fragmented:** The unorganised sector and small and medium-sized businesses dominate India's textile industry, which is highly fragmented. • **Regional Disparities:** The textile industry of the nation is mainly concentrated on a few areas of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the south and Gujarat and Maharashtra in the west. These units hire a sizable amount of their workforce from West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh.

PM MITRA PARKS SCHEME

News: National Conference on the PM MITRA scheme was organized by the Ministry of textiles, where many states gave presentations on setting up textiles parks in their respective states.

Introduction	• The seven Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks will be built on new or reclaimed land in several states. • It is consistent with the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" concept and **positions India prominently on the world textiles map.**
Aims & Objectives	• The MITRA Park aims to **integrate the entire textile value chain** from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing, printing to garment manufacturing at one location. • The PM MITRA Parks are aimed at helping India to achieve **the UN Sustainable Development Goal 9:** "Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation". • The PM MITRA scheme is **Inspired by the 5F vision of the Prime Minister** - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign. • A park will be **developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle** which will be owned by the Central and State Government and in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.

Salient Features	• These Parks **will have world-class industrial infrastructure** which would attract cutting age technology and boost FDI and local investment in the textiles sector. • PM MITRA Parks will offer an opportunity to create an **integrated textiles value chain** right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at 1 location. • **Each Park will have** an incubation centre, common processing house and a common effluent treatment plant and other textile related facilities such as design centres and testing centres. • The **Master Developer** will not only develop the Industrial Park but also maintain it during the concession period. • **Sites for PM MITRA Parks** will be selected by a Challenge Method based on objective criteria. 
Significance	• By lowering logistical costs and bolstering the textile industry's value chain, it will become more **competitive on a worldwide scale**. • It will result in **greater FDI and local investment** as well as improved employment prospects. • It will **level the playing field for domestic manufacturers** in the global textiles market and open the door for India to overtake other countries as the world leader in textile exports across all segments.

SCHEME FOR INTEGRATED TEXTILE PARK (SITP)

- The SITP was **introduced in 2005**, to provide the textile sector with top-notch, cutting-edge infrastructure facilities for the establishment of their textile units and to **draw international investment to the indigenous textile industry.**

Aims & Objectives	• To provide the industry with **top-notch, cutting-edge infrastructural facilities** for establishing their textile units. • To make it easier for textile factories to **adhere to global social and environmental norms.** • To **encourage private investment** in the textile industry and produce new job opportunities
Salient Features	• **High-growth industrial clusters** and places with world-class infrastructure through strategic interventions would be developed. • **Integrated Textile Parks** are established using the public-private partnership model (ITPs). • **It is a demand-driven programme** where prospective business owners can submit their proposals to the government after meeting all requirements in accordance with the rules. • **Funding:** Up to Rs. 40 crore, the Central Government will provide grants totalling 40% of the project cost (or 90% of the project cost for the first two projects in each Special Category State). ○ The Ministry of Textiles, State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC), and Industrial Project Management Consultant (IPMC) **release the funds in the form of bank loans and grants or equity**

BY PHYSICS WALLAH

	• Depending on the needs of the ITP, **project costs will also include supporting activities** like purchasing textile equipment, textile engineering, accessories, packaging, etc. • **Components:** ❍ **Land**: It must be more than 20 acres, under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) ❍ **Common infrastructure**: roads, water & electricity supply, etc. ❍ **Buildings for common facilities**: training centre, testing lab, etc. ❍ **Factory buildings**: for production purposes

SILK SAMAGRA- INTEGRATED SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SILK INDUSTRY

- It is a central sector programme that the Ministry of Textile is carrying out through the **Central Silk Board (CSB).**

Aims & Objectives	• To encourage the manufacture of better cross-breed silk and the import of replacement Bivoltine silk so that by 2022 there will be no need to import raw silk. • To increase the number of people in productive employment from 85 lakhs to 1 crore by 2020. • Stakeholders should receive training on new technology programmes, and technology should be introduced into the field.
Salient Features	• It comprises a mobile application and portal for stakeholders and for monitoring seed quality called **Sericulture Information Linkages and Knowledge System (SILKS).** • In order to maximise advantages, the implementation approach is based on **convergence at the State level with the programmes of other Ministers**, such as MGNREGS of Rural Development, RKVY & PMKSY of Ministry of Agriculture. • Reputable institutions like IITs, CSIR, IISc, and foreign Sericulture research institutes in Japan, China, Bulgaria, etc. will **work together on R&D and technological breakthroughs**. • **For women, and other marginalised groups** across the nation—including those living in Left-Wing Extremism-affected areas and the North Eastern Region—it will open up prospects for a living. • **Indian silk's brand promotion** will be aided by **Silk Mark's quality certification** in both the domestic and international markets.

SCHEME FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN TEXTILE SECTOR (SAMARTH)

- It is a skill development programme that **runs from 2017–18 to 2019–20** and **covers every step of the textile industry's value chain**, with the **exception of spinning and weaving in the organised sector.**

Aims & Objectives	• To provide an **NSQF (National Skills Qualification Framework)** compliant skilling programme that is demand driven and placement focused to encourage organised textile and associated sectors, except spinning and weaving. • To encourage **skill development and skill upgrading** in the traditional industries of jute, sericulture, handicrafts, and looms. • To offer **sustainable means of subsistence for all societal segments** nationwide, whether through job or self-employment.

Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** 10,000 people (9 lakh in Organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) would be benefitted, through skill development and placement, all societal segments—including rural, remote, LWE-affected, North East, J&K, and women—are reached throughout the nation. • **Placement assurance for the 70% of successful trainees** (70% of whom must be hired on a salary basis for courses in the organised sector; at least 50% of whom must be hired on a salary basis for courses in the traditional sector). • Beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana will be **given concessional financing for self-employment.** • **Implementation Agencies** include the textile industry, reputable training institutes, NGOs, and organisations affiliated with the ministry of textiles.

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME FOR TEXTILES

News: The government recently has approved 61 applications of companies with an investment potential of over Rs 19,000 crore under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles.

Introduction	• In order to **improve India's manufacturing capabilities and exports**, the government approved the PLI Programme for Textile Products, specifically MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics, and Products of Technical Textiles, with an approved financial outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over a five-year period.
Aims & Objectives	• To encourage the manufacture of **MMF (man-made fibre) Apparel & Fabrics and Technical Textiles** in the nation in order to help the textile sector grow and develop, become globally competitive, and be a source of jobs for people. The plan is intended to aid in the development of a successful business and a thriving textile sector.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** Anyone, including a business, firm, LLP (limited liability partnership), or trust that is incorporated in India and is interested in participating in the Scheme, may apply. Once the Applicant has been chosen for the scheme, they are needed to establish a new, independent business in accordance with the Companies Act of 2013, and this new organisation will be known as the Participant. • **Preference to Backward Areas:** Due to this goal, industry will be encouraged to relocate to backward areas. Attention will also be given to investment in Aspirational Districts, Tier 3, Tier 4 towns, and rural areas. • **Tenure:** 24 September 2021 to 31 March 2030, and the incentive under the scheme will only be awarded for 5 years. • **Execution:** Under the direction of a Project Management Agency (PMA) chosen by the Ministry of Textiles. • **Investments in land and administrative structures**, such as offices and guest houses, are not eligible for the Scheme's coverage. • **The PLI plan will be monitored** by the Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), which is led by the Cabinet Secretary.

MEGA INTEGRATED TEXTILE REGION AND APPAREL PARKS (PM MITRA)

News: A national conference on the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme has been hosted by the Ministry of Textiles.

Introduction	• **Parks will be constructed** under this plan by a special purpose vehicle that will be owned by both the federal and state governments and operate under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. • **Each Park will contain a textile-related incubation facility**, a common processing facility, a common effluent treatment facility, and other amenities including design and testing centres.
Aims & Objectives	• **Help India achieve UN SDG 9:** "Develop resilient infrastructure, support sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation". • The plan is to **create an integrated, expansive, and cutting-edge industrial infrastructure facility for the textile industry's complete value chain.** It will lower logistics expenses and raise Indian textiles' level of competitiveness. • The programme will **assist India in luring investments, increasing employment creation**, and solidifying its place in the world textile market. These parks are planned to be built in areas that are naturally strong for the textile industry and have the connections it needs to succeed.
Salient Features	• **5F Vision:** Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign is the primary mantra. • **Eligible sites:** Greenfield/Brownfield locations in several willing states are eligible sites. • **Integrated Textiles Value Chain:** Provide the chance to build an integrated textiles value chain that includes spinning, weaving, processing/dying, printing, and garment production all in one site, thereby lowering industry logistics costs. • **Land Requirement:** In order to qualify, state governments must be willing to make continuous and unencumbered land parcels of at least 1000 acres readily available. • **Tenure:** 7 years, or until 2027–2028. • **PPP mode:** The Public Private Partnership (PPP) based Master Developer (MD) model on the Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) framework will be used to create MITRA Park. • **Support for Greenfield Parks** will be 30% of Project Costs, with a ceiling of $500 million for each park. • **Support for Brownfield Sites:** a ceiling of Rs. 200 crore per park, at 30% of project costs. • **Core Infrastructure** includes developed factory sites, plug-and-play facilities, incubation centres, roads, water and waste water systems, and support infrastructure, such as workers' housing and hostels, logistics parks, warehousing, and facilities for training and skill development.

SCHEME FOR REBATE OF STATE AND CENTRAL TAXES AND LEVIES

News: The Union Ministry of Textiles has extended the Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for export of garments/apparels, and made-ups till March 31, 2024.

Introduction	• With the establishment of GST in 2017, **the RoSL (Rebate of State Levies) programme was replaced by the RoSCTL** in March 2019. • The Refund of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) initiative was **announced by the Ministry of Textiles in 2019.**
Aims & Objectives	• In addition to the **Duty Drawback Program**, the programme intends to repay State and Central Taxes and Levies on the export of clothing, apparel, and made-ups.
Salient Features	• The **difference between RoSL and RoSCTL Scheme** is that under RoSL there was no advantage on the central tax and levies. The exporter will, however, be reimbursed for all levies and taxes, both state and federal, under the RoSCTL scheme. • **Coverage**: The Rebate of State Taxes and Levies includes VAT on fuel mandi tax, embedded SGST paid on inputs, duty of electricity, stamp duty on export documents, purchases from unregistered dealers, etc. • The Rebate of Central Taxes and Levies includes central excise duty on fuel, embedded CGST paid on inputs, purchases from unregistered dealers, inputs for transport sector and embedded CGST, etc.
Significance	• The **RoSCTL established a stable and predictable policy framework** while assisting in boosting cost effectiveness and export competitiveness in the global market. • Furthermore, it has **encouraged a large number of MSMEs** to enter the garment export market and supported the growth of entrepreneurs and business owners in the sector.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (TAP)	• From 2012 to 2018, India implemented a **TAP for cotton in six African nations**: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda. • The **second phase** of the Cotton Technical Assistance Project (TAP) for 5 years, which will **encompass 11 African nations including the C4 countries**, has now been begun by the textiles ministry (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali). • **It covers things like** improving productivity and expanding the market, as well as infrastructure for marketing and distribution and R&D.
SAATHI	• **Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of Efficient Textiles Technology** was launched jointly by the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Power to provide energy-efficient power-looms, motors, and rapier kits to small and medium power-loom units at no upfront cost and further **to help Small Scale Industries**.
Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana	• To provide handloom weavers and labourers who have already signed up for the programme nationwide in the **age range of 51 to 59 years** with **social security benefits** such life, accidental, and disability insurance coverage. • **The yearly premium is Rs. 470**. (including Rs.290 by the GoI). Direct Benefit Transfer allows LIC to deposit claim benefits directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts (DBT).

Jute – ICARE	• **Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise for Jute (Jute – ICARE)** was introduced in 2015 to spread awareness of and implement some of the best agronomic methods, and it has more recently developed intense microbial assisted retting among farmers in a few blocks in West Bengal and Assam. • **Improved agronomic procedures include the following:** delivery of high-quality, certified seeds with a 50% subsidy; line sowing of jute using a seed drill to maximise yield; weed management in jute by wheel hoeing/nail weeder to reduce the cost of weeding. • To improve both the quantity and the quality, the Central Research Institute for Research in Jute and Associated Fibres (CRIJAF) **created the microbial consortium SONA.**
Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)	• In order to increase production and export, CHCDS seeks to build world-class infrastructure that **meets the demands of local SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and artisans.** • In order to help artisans and business owners establish world-class facilities with cutting-edge technology, contemporary infrastructure, proper training, and human resource development resources, as well as market connections and production diversification, clusters have been established.
Project SU.RE	• It was recently **launched by the Union Textile Minister in collaboration with the Garment Manufacturers Association of India (GMAI), United Nations in India, and IMG Reliance with the goal of supporting SDG-12** for responsible consumption and production. • The Indian apparel industry has pledged to create a sustainable route for the country's fashion industry through the SU.RE project. **SU.RE stands for "Sustainable Resolution,"** a resolute industry commitment to transition to fashion that benefits a healthy environment.

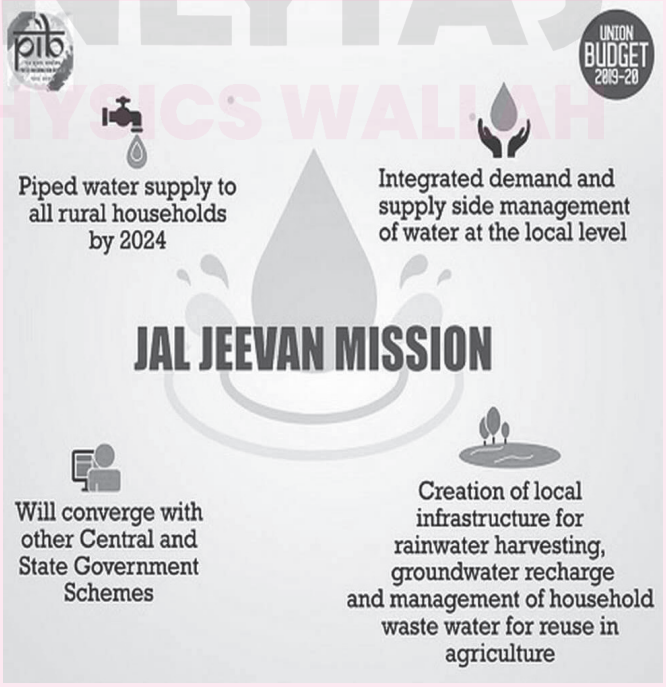
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5 Ministry of Jal Shakti

JAL JEEVAN MISSION

News: 50% of rural households in India have now been covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Introduction	• **Launched in 2019**, It envisages supply of 55 liters of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) **by 2024.**
Aims & Objectives	• In addition to **monitoring and evaluating water quality**, the mission also promotes **sustainable agriculture** and the operation of current water supply infrastructure and water connections. • It also assures the **coordinated use of saved water, including** the treatment and reuse of greywater, augmentation of drinking water sources, and drinking water supply systems.
Salient Features	• **Community Based Approach:** The Mission is based on a **community approach** and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission. • **Local Infra: Construction of the necessary local infrastructure** for source sustainability measures, such as rainwater collection, groundwater recharge, and domestic wastewater management for reuse, is done in coordination with other government programmes and plans. • It looks to create a **Jan andolan for water**, thereby making it everyone's priority. • **The fund sharing pattern** between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.



Significance	• **Conjunctive use** of conserved water. • Drinking water **source augmentation.** ○ Drinking water supply system, Gray water treatment and its reuse. • Prioritizing provision of FHTCs in quality affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages**, etc. • Providing **functional tap connection to** Schools, Anganwadi centres, Gram Panchayat buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION-HAR GHAR JAL

News: Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State and UT in the country respectively.

Introduction	• This "Har Ghar Jal" project comprises 40 **Water supply schemes** that are to be built in 25 towns. • Additionally, it will construct **7 river tanks, 21 overhead tanks, and 23 reservoirs** around India. • Moreover, in 1730 habitations, 1223 Rural Water Supply Schemes will be built. • Prior to now, the **date for completion was 2030**; however, for various reasons, it is presently 2024. • The mission was announced for launch in 2019 and was **expected to be finished by 2024.**
Aims & Objectives	• Every home in the nation will receive a **safe connection to clean water** thanks to this project.
Salient Features	• For the **long-term security of potable drinking water** for every rural household and public institution, States/UTs in the formulation of participative rural water supply strategy. • States/UTs for building water supply infrastructure so that **by 2024 every rural home has a functional tap connection (FHTC)** and water is regularly made available in sufficient quantity and at the required quality. • To develop, implement, manage, own, operate, and maintain their own village water supply systems, **Gram Panchayats (GPs) and rural communities are responsible**. • States/UTs should **promote a utility model** in order to create strong institutions that are focused on service delivery and the financial viability of the sector.

NAL SE JAL YOJANA

News: An allocation of sum of Rs 60,000 crore has been made to cover 3.8 crore households over the country in 2022-23 under Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal scheme.

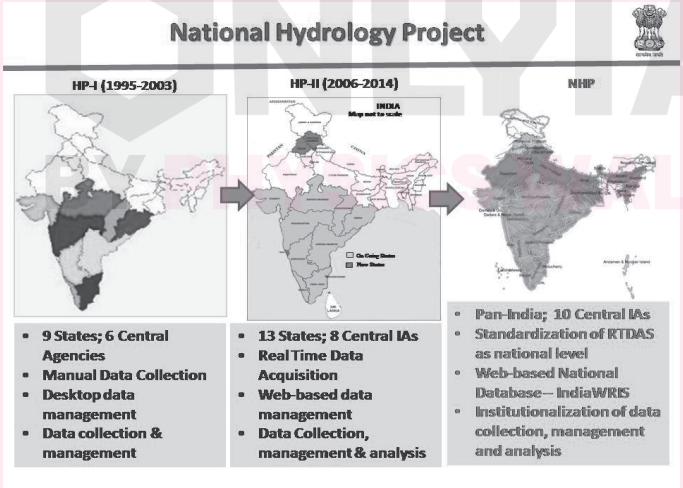
Introduction	• It was launched in **2019** by the Ministry of Jal Shakti which is **a component of the Government's Jal Jeevan Mission.**
Aims & Objectives	• To provide **piped drinking water to every rural home in the country by 2024.**
Salient Features	• The scheme is based on a unique model where **Paani Samitis (water committee)** comprising villagers will decide the amount they will pay against their water consumption. • **The fixed tariff will not be the same for everyone** in the village. People who have large house holds will pay more, while poor households or households where there is no earning member, will be exempted.

NAMAMI GANGE YOJANA

Introduction	• It is a central sector scheme which **covers 8 states/UTs, 47 towns & 12 rivers under the project.** • The Union Government designated the Namami Gange Project as a "Flagship Program" in June 2014 to achieve the **twin goals of effective pollution reduction and protection and revitalization of the National River Ganga.** • The **Union government has moved its emphasis** from improving sanitation to Ganga river conservation, tourism, and economic growth as part of its flagship Namami Gange programme.
Aims & Objectives	• To effectively **clean and safeguard** the Ganga river. • **Managing the Ganga river basin's watershed** and **lowering runoff and pollutants.** • To **build up the historic, religious, cultural, and/or touristic communities** along the main stem of the Ganga river.
Salient Features	• **Implementation:** The NMCG and its state counterpart organisations, State Program Management Groups (SPMGs), are carrying out the programme. • **Fund:** The initiatives are being funded by loans from the World Bank. • **Putting up a river-centric urban planning process** will enable improvements at ghats and riverfronts to foster stronger citizen connections. • **The main pillars of the Namami Gange Programme are:** ○ Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure ○ River-Front Development ○ Biodiversity ○ River-Surface Cleaning ○ Afforestation ○ Industrial Effluent Monitoring ○ Ganga Gram ○ Public Awareness

Arth Ganga:
It is a plan to expand the Ganga's tourist circuits. The term "Arth Ganga" alludes to a sustainable development paradigm with an emphasis on Ganga-related economic activity.

NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT (NHP)

Introduction	• It is a **Central Sector Scheme launched for 8 years from 2016-17 to 2023-24**, initiative of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and is **supported by the World Bank**. • It has a **budget corpus of Rs. 3680 crore** which is to be spent over a period of 8 years.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide a **system for the timely and reliable collection, storage, collation, and administration of data** on water resources. • Through the **use of information systems and the deployment of cutting-edge technology** like remote sensing, to increase the capacity of State and Central Sector Organizations in the management of Water Resources. • **Flood forecast** lead times range from one day to at least three days.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** ○ Planning and management of surface and/or groundwater is the responsibility of central and state implementing agencies, including river basin organisations. ○ WRIS (Water Resources Information System) users from diverse industries and locations worldwide.  • **Components:** ○ Water Resources Monitoring System ○ Water Resources Operations and Planning System ○ Water Resources Operations and Planning System ○ Water Resources Information System • **The World Bank** is providing a loan for 50% of the project. • **Hydro-meteorological data** will be collected by NHP and kept, processed, and made available to users for evaluation. • **By using a river basin strategy**, it will facilitate integrated water resource management by collecting and managing hydro-meteorological data. This will support the evaluation of water resources.

Significance	• Since the **NHP creates a national "Nodal" "one point" platform** for all states to collaborate and share data regarding water resources, it has been referred to as a **project of national importance.** • The **National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC),** a national repository of data on water resources, has been established under the NHP. • The **construction of a Real Time Data Acquisition System (RTDAS)** on a pan-India basis is a priority for NHP. This system will complement the manual data gathering stations and build a solid groundwork for reasoned decision-making for improved management of water resources. • The management of water resources will undergo a fundamental transformation as a result of the NHP since it will **adopt an integrated strategy and utilise cutting-edge technologies**.

DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP)

Introduction	• It is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
Aims & Objectives	• To **sustainably increase the operational performance and safety** of a few existing dams and their related ancillaries. • To **improve the institutional framework for dam safety** among participating States and Implementation Agencies (CWC).
Salient Features	• **Financial Support:** will be given by the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, with the relevant Implementing Agencies bearing the remaining cost. • **Safety:** By establishing dam safety standards, incorporating international knowledge, and introducing cutting-edge technologies, it will **improve dam safety.** • **Risk Based Approach:** By introducing a risk-based approach to dam asset management, it will make it **easier to allocate money to the most urgent requirements** for dam safety. • **Other important measures** that DRIP-2 will support include: ❍ Implementation of Emergency Action Plans to enable vulnerable downstream communities to prepare for and enhance resilience against the possible risks of climate change. ❍ Flood forecasting systems and integrated reservoir operations that will contribute to building climate resilience. ❍ Piloting of supplemental revenue generation schemes such as floating solar panels.

ATAL BHUJAL YOJNA (ATAL JAL)

- It is a **central sector scheme** worth Rs.6,000 crore for sustainable management of groundwater with community participation.
- The scheme **aims to foster behavioural changes** that promote conservation and efficient use of water.

Aims & Objectives	• To **enhance ground water management** through community involvement in the nation's priority areas. • To **improve the institutional foundation** for community-based ground water management.
Salient Features	• Improved source sustainability for the Jal Jeevan Mission, favourable impact on the government's initiative to **"double farmers' income,"** and community-wide inculcation of behavioural shifts to **promote efficient water use**. • **Program for Results (PforR):** The World Bank transfers funds to the Government of India for distribution to participating States in accordance with pre-set results. • **In locations with known water stress**, emphasis is placed on community involvement and demand-side solutions for sustainable groundwater management.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES OF MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

NAQUIM (National Aquifer Mapping and Management)	• Under the framework of Ground Water Management & Regulation, the **Central Ground Water Board** developed and carried out the programme. • The **main objective of the Aquifer Mapping Exercise** can be summed up as "Know your Aquifer, Manage your Aquifer". • This programme was started to **map aquifers using cutting-edge methods**. This will support the management of aquifer recharge, river bank filtration, and the detection of critically stressed and contaminated blocks. • It can **aid in fusing accessibility and quality issues** with groundwater accessibility and availability
Water Resource Information System (WRIS)	• In 2009, **the initiative was jointly conducted by** the CWC, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the NRSC, ISRO, and the Department of Space. • India-WRIS WebGIS is a **"Single Window" solution** for complete and authoritative data of India's water resources and related natural resources. • It has capabilities for **searching, accessing, and analysing the data for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**.
Continuous Learning and Activity Portal (CLAP)	• It is a **project of Namami Gange**, developed and carried out by TREE Craze Foundation, with funding and assistance from the **World Bank.** • The goal of the interactive portal CLAP is to start discussions and take action regarding India's rivers. • The **portal serves as a forum for discussions** and debates as well as the expression of opinions on a range of environmental, water, river, and other related topics.
Arth Ganga	It follows a **concept of sustainable development** that relies on Ganga River bank economic activity. In accordance to this project: • **Farmers should be encouraged** to use sustainable agriculture methods, such as farming with no budget. • **Construction of** water sports infrastructure as well as the creation of camping areas, bike and walking trails, etc., would also be undertaken. • **Women's Self Help Groups** and groups for ex-servicemen could be given priority. • The river basin has the region's **"hybrid" tourist potential**, which includes both adventure and religious tourism.

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6 Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** will put the plan into action.
- With a **budgetary cost of Rs. 6,238 crore**, the programme will be implemented throughout the fiscal years 2021–2022 to 2028–29.

Aims & Objectives	• **Increase domestic production** and draw **sizable investments to the value chain** of white goods manufacturing. • **Removing sectoral barriers**, achieving economies of scale, boosting exports, developing a strong component ecosystem, and generating employment.
Salient Features	• **Support:** Companies and other entities participating in the production of LED lights and air conditioner parts will receive funding under the Plan. • **Incentive:** For a period of five (5) years following the base year and one (1) year of gestation, qualifying enterprises will receive an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (net of taxes) of goods manufactured in India and falling under the target segments over the base year. • **Eligibility:** ◦ Businesses undertaking brown field or green field investments for manufacturing in specified segments in India are eligible for incentives under the scheme. ◦ Businesses' eligibility is contingent on them meeting the pre-qualification requirements for various target segments. ◦ For each year, eligibility is based on minimum levels for cumulative incremental investment and incremental sales (net of taxes) of produced goods (as opposed to traded items). • **Monitoring:** The PLI programme will be overseen by the Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), which is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

START-UP INDIA

- The scheme is implemented by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade (DPIIT).**

Aims & Objectives	• To create an **effective ecosystem for supporting entrepreneurs and innovation** in the nation.

Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** The following are the eligibility requirements for start-up recognition: ❍ The start-up should be registered as a limited liability partnership, a partnership business, or a private limited company. ❍ There should have been less than INR 100 crore in turnover in any of the prior fiscal years. ❍ A company will be regarded as a start-up for ten years following the date of formation. ❍ The start-up should strive to innovate and improve currently available goods, services, and procedures, and it should have the potential to produce jobs and wealth. • **Pillars:** This Plan of Action is based upon 3 pillars: 1. Industry-Academia Partnership And Incubation 2. Simplification And Handholding 3. Simplification And Handholding

MAKE IN INDIA

- Make in India, a programme that was started in 2014, aims to **make India a top international location** for manufacturing and investment.
- The initiative is an **open call to prospective partners and investors** worldwide to take part in the success story of "New India."

Aims & Objectives	• To **entice foreign investment** for new industrialization and expand the country's current industrial base so it can outpace China. • **Increasing manufacturing sector growth** to 12–14% annually is the medium-term goal. • **To raise the manufacturing sector's contribution** to the nation's GDP from 16% to 25% by 2022. • By 2022, to add **100 million new employment**. • To encourage **export-driven growth**.
Salient Features	• **Action plans for 15 industrial sectors** are coordinated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), whilst 12 service sectors are coordinated by the Department of Commerce. • **4 Pillars:** 1. **New Procedures:** It acknowledges "ease of doing business" as the most crucial element in fostering entrepreneurship. 2. **New Infrastructure:** The government plans to build smart cities, industrial corridors, and world-class infrastructure using cutting-edge technology and high-speed communication. A quick registration process and enhanced infrastructure for IPR (intellectual property right) registration help innovation and research activities.

	3. **New Sectors:** A significant amount of FDI has been allowed in the production of defence goods, insurance, medical technology, construction, and rail infrastructure. 4. **New Mentality:** To collaborate with business for the nation's economic progress. Government must play the role of a facilitator rather than a regulator. • **Targets:** ○ Over the medium term, increase manufacturing sector growth to 12–14% annually. ○ A rise in manufacturing's contribution to the nation's gross domestic product from 16% to 25% by 2022. ○ To add 100 million new employment to the industrial sector by 2022.

INDIAN FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

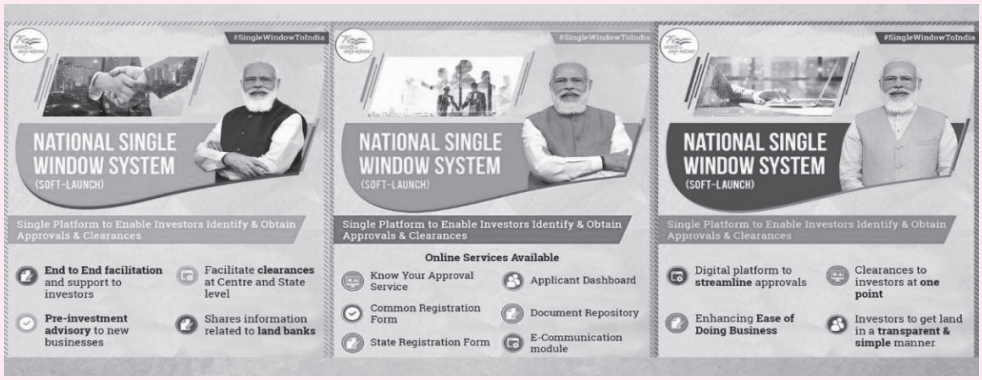
News: Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) has been approved for continuation from 2021-22 with an approved financial outlay of Rs. 1700 crore.

Introduction	• It is a **Central Sector Scheme**
Aims & Objectives	• **It aims at development of infrastructure** for the leather sector, address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production.
Salient Features	• The **programme has a direct benefit towards** quality employment generation especially for women, skill development, decent work, making the industry more environment friendly and prompting a sustainable production system. • **Sub-Schemes under the Programme are:** 1. Sustainable technology and environmental promotion. 2. Integrated Development of the Leather Sector (IDLS). 3. Establishment of institutional facilities. 4. Mega leather footwear and accessories cluster development. 5. Brand promotion and development of design studios.

NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

News: It was launched in 2021, Jammu & Kashmir became the first Union Territory to be onboarded the National Single Window System (NSWS).

Introduction	• It is a digital platform that **helps investors find and apply** for approvals based on their company's needs. • The platform is designed to be an **advising tool** that identifies approvals based on user input and should only be used as a general reference.
Aims & Objectives	• To operate as **a digital platform that helps investors** find and apply for approvals in accordance with their company criteria.

Salient Features	• **It provides a one-stop shop for investors** to apply for approvals and registrations necessary throughout the pre-establishment and preoperative stages of setting up a business in India by uniting many State Governments, Central Ministries, and Departments on one platform.  • **Management:** Invest India oversees the National Single Window System project under the direction of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). • Invest India is involved in the conception and design of the portal, the onboarding of the various Ministries and States, the maintenance of the portal, and the monitoring of the performance of the portal.

EXPORT PROMOTION CAPITAL GOODS (EPCG) SCHEME

News: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has relaxed various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme in order to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.

Introduction	• In order to **improve the production quality of goods and services** and boost India's competitiveness in the global manufacturing market, the EPCG Scheme was introduced in the 1990s. • Under the plan, **manufacturers are not required to pay any customs duties** while importing capital goods for pre-production, production, or post-production items.
Aims & Objectives	• To facilitate **the import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services** and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.
Salient Features	• **The imports of capital goods are allowed duty-free**, subject to an Export Obligation (EO). • **The Export Obligation (EO)** has to export finished goods worth six times of the actual duty saved in value terms in six years. At least, 50% of the EO must be fulfilled within the first block of four years. • **Payment of Customs Duty**: The facility to pay customs duty through scripts (MEIS /RoDTEP /RoSCTL) for default under EPCG has been withdrawn. • **Export Obligation (EO):** Requests for export obligation extension under the scheme should be made within six months of expiry instead of the earlier prescribed period of 90 days. However, applications made after six months and up to six years are subject to a late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorisation.

DISTRICTS AS EXPORT HUBS SCHEME

News: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has sought ₹6,000 crores from the Finance Ministry for its proposed Districts as Export Hubs scheme.

Introduction	• **A Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. • **Implementing Body**: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
Aims & Objectives	• To help producers across **200 districts** scale up manufacturing and find foreign buyers for their goods.
Salient Features	• Under the scheme, **District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs)** have been constituted in most of the districts and products and services with export potential have been identified in each district.

GOVERNMENT-E-MARKETPLACE (GEM)

News: The Union Cabinet has cleared up a proposal allowing cooperatives to sell products on the Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) platform.

Introduction	• It is an **online marketplace that was launched in 2016**. It has been developed by the **Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS&D)** with technical support of **National E-Governance Division (NEGD),** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
Aims & Objectives	• It strives **to improve public procurement's efficiency, speed, and transparency.**
Salient Features	• It is a **one stop portal to facilitate online procurement** of common use Goods and Services. • The portal is **open for all government buyers**— Central and State Ministries, departments, public sector enterprises etc. • **Private buyers cannot buy on the platform** but private people can sell products to government bodies through the portal.
Significance	• **Transparent and Cost-effective Procurement:** GeM makes it possible for government entities to quickly, efficiently, transparently, and economically buy goods and services they need to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. • **Promotion of Atma Nirbhar Bharat:** GeM has been supporting the Atma Nirbhar Bharat policy, which was instituted in the wake of the Covid-19 epidemic and is intended to promote independence and local Indian manufacturers. • **Entry of Small Local Sellers:** The Marketplace has made it easier for small local vendors to participate in public procurement while effectively executing the government's "Made in India" and MSME Buy Preference Policy.

	• **Multiple Entities at One Place:** Building on the advantages given to small businesses by State governments, the online marketplace can aggregate demand from several entities for comparable products. **Note:** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) system resulted in a 10% savings in public procurement costs in five years. However it still has tapped only 5% of India's total government purchases of about Rs 20 lakh crore a year.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

News: The Finance Minister chaired the 1st meeting of the Apex Monitoring Authority constituted to review the activities of the National Industrial Corridor Development programme.

Introduction	• As **part of the National Industrial Corridor Initiative**, the Government of India is establishing a number of Industrial Corridor Projects. ○ Each industrial project in the Industrial Corridors is expected to be carried out by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which will be a joint venture between the federal and state governments and will be formed as a business under the Companies Act of 2013.
Aims & Objectives	• **Creation of industrial cities** in India that are futuristic and brand-new and that can compete with the greatest locations worldwide for industry and investment. • **Comprehensive socio economic development** is facilitated by the creation of employment opportunities and economic growth. • **Offer multimodal connection** with **"plug and play" infrastructure** that is complete down to the plot level, all while creating resilient, sustainable cities that are prepared for the future. • **Increasing industrial productivity** and giving the new and expanding workforce greater housing and social amenities. • **Improve India's manufacturing competitiveness** by building world-class facilities and cutting back on logistics expenses.
Salient Features	• **Funding**: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a $250 million loan to support the NICDP. • **Implementing Agency**: National Industrial Corridor Development & Implementation Trust (NICDIT). NICDC Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Administrative Control of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. • **Monitoring and Review Mechanism:** ○ The National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT). ◆ In 2016, the government gave the go-ahead to rename the DMIC-Project Implementation Trust Fund (PITF) as NICDIT and to broaden its scope. ◆ The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has administrative supervision for NICDIT. ◆ The finance minister is the chairman of an Apex Monitoring Authority, which conducts periodic evaluations of NICDIT activities and project development.

	• As part of the National Master Plan for providing multimodal connection to economic zones up to 2024–2025, **11 Industrial Corridors Projects** are being taken up for construction, with 32 Projects to be developed in four phases.
Significance	• They are anticipated to increase India's manufacturing competitiveness by building **high-quality infrastructure** before the need. • This will entice manufacturing investments and establish India as a **potent participant in the global value chain.** • Also, it creates jobs, which aid in the socio-economic advancement of the population.

ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT (ODOP) INITIATIVE

News: The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry has called for the integration of One District One Product (ODOP) initiative with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Introduction	• It was **launched in January 2018, by the Uttar Pradesh Government**, and due to its success, was later adopted by the Central Government. • ODOP was **later launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in 2018**, to help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. • In order to promote the One District One Product concept, the Department of Commerce is **collaborating with State and Central Government departments** through DGFT.
Aims & Objectives	• To **find products with export potential in each District** of the nation and turn each District into an export hub. • By **assisting local exporters and manufacturers** to expand production, we can overcome the constraints that prevent these products from being exported. • To **identify potential consumers outside of India** with the goal of growing exports, the district's industrial and services sector, and creating jobs.
Salient Features	• It is a centrally sponsored scheme to be shared by the central government and states in **60:40 contributions**. • It **will provide for the framework for value chain development** and alignment of support infrastructure of the PMFME scheme. There **may be more than one cluster of ODOP products in one district.** • There may be **a cluster of ODOP products** consisting of more than one adjacent district in a State. • The **States would identify food products for districts** keeping in view the existing clusters and availability of raw Material. • The **ODOP could be a perishable produce based or cereal based or a food item** widely produced in an area. E.g., mango, potato, pickle, millet-based products, fisheries, poultry, etc. • Certain other traditional and innovative products including waste to wealth products could be supported under the Scheme. **For example**, honey, minor forest products in tribal areas, traditional Indian herbal edible items like turmeric, amla, haldi, etc.

Significance	• **Adopting a cluster approach** will help in the development of specific agriproducts in districts having a comparative advantage. • It would lead to **easing in providing common facilities** and other support services. • ONDC will provide **a common digital space for buyers and sellers** with the goal of **democratizing e-commerce** by transforming it from a platform-centric paradigm to an open network for buying and selling goods and services, ONDC can certainly transform India's E-commerce sector.
Achievements	• With more than 200 product categories, the **ODOP Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Bazaar was inaugurated in August 2022** with the goal of promoting sales and procurement of ODOP products throughout the nation. • The **World Economic Forum's Davos Summit**, International Yoga Day (IYD), and other international forums featured ODOP products. • The renowned **Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Public Administration in Holistic Development** was chosen for the ODOP programme.

MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MPEDA)

News: Recently the MPEDA celebrated its 50th year.

Introduction	• It was **launched in 1972 as a statutory body of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry** as the **nodal agency to promote the export of marine products.** • The erstwhile Marine Products Export Promotion Council established in 1961 was converted into MPEDA. • It is **empowered to regulate exports of marine products** and take all measures required for ensuring sustained, quality seafood exports from the country
Aims & Objectives	• To promote Market, Culture Fisheries, Capture Fisheries, Quality Control, Processing Infrastructure & Value addition, Research and Development
Functions	• **Identifying bottlenecks** in seafood trade and taking corrective action. • **Registering** seafood processing units, fishing vessels, pre-processing centres, etc. • **Marketing activities** such as buyer-seller meets, delegation visits to potential markets, etc. • **Promotes research and development** for commercial aquaculture activities through the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA). • **Undertaking capacity building** through societies such as the **National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture.** • **It empowers the marginalized and poor rural aquaculture farmers** through capacity- building at the grass-roots level. • **Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing imparts training** to fishermen on marine conservation, post-harvest handling and other since 2004 it is implementing the National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) for monitoring the residues of substances like Antibacterial/Veterinary Medicinal Products, etc. for exports of marine products to the European Union.

CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR START-UP

News: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the establishment of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Start-ups (CGSS).

Introduction	• The scheme will **provide credit guarantees for Start-ups to loans** extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
Aims & Objectives	• Providing **credit guarantees up to a specified limit** against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers.
Salient Features	• **Credit Guarantee Cover:** would be **transaction-based and umbrella based**. The exposure to individual cases would be capped at Rs. 10 crores per case or the actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less. • **Transaction-based Guarantees:** will promote lending by Banks/ NBFCs to eligible start-ups. On the other hand, **umbrella-based guarantee** cover will provide guarantee to Venture Debt Funds (VDF) registered under AIF regulations of SEBI. • **Operational Oversight**: DPIIT will be constituting a Management Committee (MC) and a Risk Evaluation Committee (REC) for reviewing, supervising and operational oversight of the Scheme. • **Operating Agency:** The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) will be operating the Scheme.

MILLETS EXPORTS PROMOTION PROGRAMME

News: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released a comprehensive Millets exports promotion programme to promote Indian millet exports across the globe commencing December 2022.

Introduction	• **Prepared by**: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). • The millets export promotion programme comes at the backdrop of the proposal of India that was supported by 72 countries which led to the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYoM).**
Aims & Objectives	• To **promote Indian millets exports** across the globe commencing December 2022.
Functions	• The government will facilitate the participation of exporters, farmers and traders in **16 international trade expos and Buyer Seller Meet (BSMs)** to promote exports of millets. • **Indian missions abroad** would be roped in branding and publicity of Indian millets. Ambassadors of Foreign missions in India of the targeted countries would be invited to showcase various millet-based products.

	• **APEDA would organize** food sampling and tasting at the retail level and in key local bazaars of targeted countries where individual, household consumers can gain familiarity with millet products. • **The government is also mobilizing start-ups** for export promotion of value-added products in the Ready to Eat (RTE) and Ready to Serve (RTS) categories such as noodles, pasta, breakfast cereals mix, biscuits, cookies, snacks, sweets etc.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- The Government in **1986** had set up APEDA through an **Act of Parliament under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.**
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi
- It is an **apex-Export Trade Promotion Active body**, which works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The APEDA had been undertaking most of the activities as per its mandate and scope of work allocated spanning its 14 product categories which mainly includes the sector of fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and vegetables, animal, dairy and poultry products and cereals.
- It promotes exports of agricultural & processed food items (including GI products) by providing assistance to the exporters.

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7 Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH)

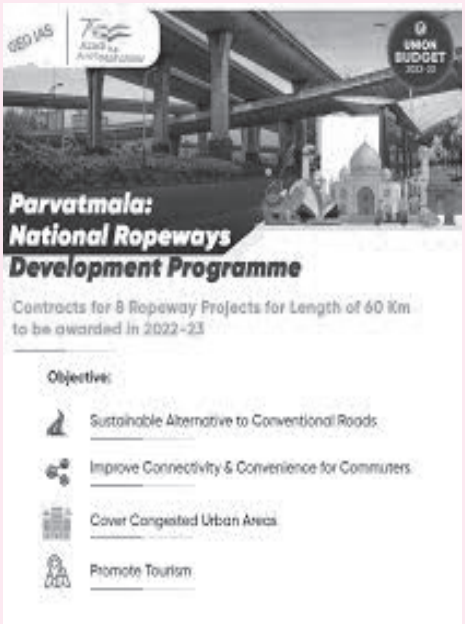
BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA

Introduction	• It is a **comprehensive roadways initiative** that aims to close crucial infrastructure gaps in order to improve the effectiveness of national road traffic circulation. The project, which would **involve building 34800 kilometres** of new road, would be finished in stages.
Aims & Objectives	• To fix major infrastructure gaps and **maximise the effectiveness of freight and passenger movement** across the nation.
Salient Features	• By **creating Multimodal Logistics Parks** and **removing choke points, existing pathways are made more efficient.** • Increased attention paid to **enhancing connectivity in the North East** and utilising connections **with inland waterways**. • **Priority Areas:** Particular consideration should be given to meeting the connectivity demands of underdeveloped and tribal regions, economic hubs, tourism destinations, and trade links with surrounding nations. • Under the **Bharatmala Pariyojna**, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started **the Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP),** which aims to improve the cost, time, tracking, and transferability of consignments through infrastructure, procedural, and Information Technology (IT) interventions. • With the purpose of **luring both domestic and foreign investment** for highway projects, NHAI established the National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC). • **The Project is Carried Out by:** State Public Works Department (PWDs), NHAI, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NHIDCL).
Components	• **Economic Corridor:** The central government will build 9000 km of economic corridors in accordance with the specifications of the road construction project. • **Feeder Route or Inter Corridor:** The highways that come within the Feeder Route or Inter Corridor category are a staggering 6000 kilometres in length. • **National Corridor Efficiency Improvement:** The 5000 km of roads built under the programme will be classified as National Corridors to improve connectivity between them.

	• **Border Road and International Connectivity:** The project has retained provision for building 2000 km of roads that come into the Border Road or International Connectivity category, connecting the cities and isolated places that are located in border regions. • **Port Connectivity and Coastal Road:** The central government has commanded the construction of 2000 kms of highways to link the areas scattered along the shorelines and significant ports. • **Green Field Expressway:** For better traffic and freight management, the Green Field Expressway's development and construction will receive the most attention. • **Balance NHDP Works:** The project's final phase will involve building and maintaining around 10,000 km of new roads.

PARVAT MALA SCHEME

News: The Union Finance Minister announced in the Union Budget of 2022-23 is National Ropeways Development Programme i.e. Parvat Mala to improve connectivity in hilly areas.

Introduction	• The project will be **implemented through a PPP (Public Private Partnership)**, which will be a preferable environmentally responsible substitute for traditional highways in challenging steep locations. • In addition to fostering tourism, the **goal is to enhance commuters' connectedness and convenience.**
Aims & Objectives	• To develop Ropeways in hilly areas of the country **in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.**
Salient Features	• **Preparation of 8 ropeway projects** for a length of 60 km would be awarded in 2022-23. • The programme will **also cover congested urban areas**, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible. • The programme is being **presently started in regions** like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North-Eastern states. • The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH)** will have responsibility for development of ropeway and alternative mobility solutions technology, as well as construction, research, and policy in this area. 

Significance	• **Economical mode of transportation** as ropeway projects are built in a straight line over a hilly terrain. • **Lower land acquisition costs** in comparison to higher cost of construction per km than roadways. • Aerial is a faster mode of transportation. **Ropeways have an advantage over roadway projects.** • It **is environmentally friendly**, Low dust emissions. • **Last mile connectivity by Ropeway projects** by adopting cable car systems or equivalent technologies can transport 6000-8000 passengers per hour.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MORTH)

Bhoomi Rashi Portal	• It **includes all available revenue information** for the nation. • **The entire process flow**, from the State Government's submission of the draft notification to the Minister of State for RT&H's approval and publication in the e-Gazette**, is done online**. • The portal was developed to **speed up the procedure for publishing notices for land acquisition.** • One of the essential features of Bhoomi Rashi is the **integration of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS),** which enables payment of compensation for land acquisition to all beneficiaries directly through the system.
Good Samaritan Scheme	• This plan has not yet been implemented in many states. • Under its provisions, **anyone who saves the life of a traffic accident victim** by bringing him to a hospital would receive a prize of 5,000. • **Both civil and criminal actions** against Good Samaritan are barred. • The **Good Samaritan has the option to withhold their identity from medical staff or law enforcement.**
Setu Bharatam	• In order to stop the many **accidents and fatalities at level crossings**, it was started to remove all railway level crossings from National Highways. • The project selected **208 locations for the construction of rail over-bridges or underpasses** at a cost of roughly 10,200 crore rupees. It is being rebuilt approximately 1,500 bridges that are more than 50 to 60 years old. • The Ministry has agreed to replace all level crossings with either road overpasses or road underpasses.



8 Ministry of Panchayati Raj

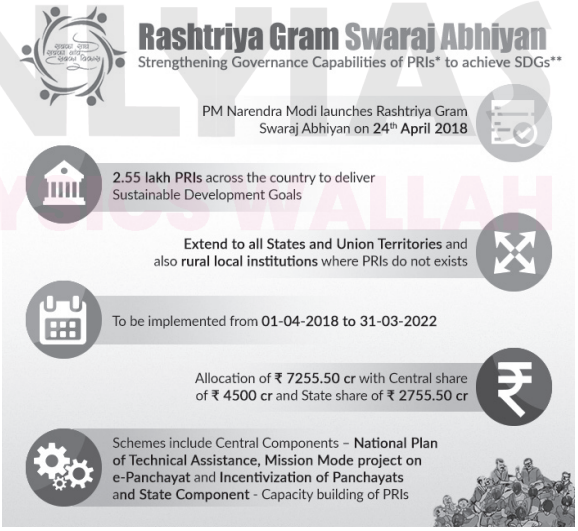
SWAMITVA SCHEME

News: The government has said that it plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities under SVAMITVA scheme.

Introduction	• A **Central Sector Scheme** seeks to **map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones.** • It will help private companies to prepare a variety of maps without needing approvals from a host of ministries.
Aims & Objectives	• To create **pan-India 3D maps** for 100 Indian cities. These 3D maps would depict reality as it is. • To **revolutionize property record** maintenance in India. • To **provide property cards for every property** in the village prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping. These cards will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.
Salient Features	• Using the maps produced as part of this programme, the plan will allow for the **compilation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)** of higher quality. • Throughout the nation, the mapping will be **carried out in stages over the course of four years**, from 2020 to 2024.
Significance	• This would benefit a huge number of start-ups, private enterprises as the **3D maps will unlock the potential of augmented reality** and new areas of growth. • It will **provide efficient planning, revenue collection, and clarity** over property rights in rural regions, with the potential to change rural India. • The programme has also helped to **strengthen the nation's drone manufacturing industry.**

RASHTRIYA GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN (RGSA)

News: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given the go-ahead to continue the updated Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Centrally Sponsored Programme for implementation from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026.

Introduction	• It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** and **revamped version of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan.** • The **15th Finance Commission** time currently coincides with the expiration of the programme. • The programme aims **to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions'** capacity for governance (PRIs).
Aims & Objectives	• It attempts to **make rural local governments more self-sufficient, financially secure, and effective.** • By boosting their capabilities and efficacy, it aims to **close crucial gaps that prevent Panchayats** from succeeding, while also encouraging the devolution of authority and responsibility.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** More than 2.78 lakh Rural Local Bodies will benefit from the RGSA scheme that has been approved. ○ The programme will directly benefit almost 60 lakh elected officials, employees, and other members of rural local bodies across the nation, including traditional bodies. • **Coverage:** Institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist, are included. This includes all States and UTs in the nation. • **Panchayats are also expected to play a significant role** in Mission Antyodaya clusters and "Aspirational Districts," according to the RGSA.
Significance	• **Socio-Economic Justice:** Since panchayats are the institutions closest to the grassroots and represent Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes, and women, strengthening panchayats would promote equity and inclusivity, as well as social justice and the local economy. • **Public service delivery** will be improved thanks to PRIs' increased use of e-governance, which will also increase transparency.  • **Developing PRI:** It will create the institutional framework for PRI capacity building at the federal, state, and local levels with sufficient infrastructure and people resources. • The project is anticipated to help them **carry out the localization of the SDGs (sustainable development goals) for nine themes**, including poverty-free and improved livelihood in villages, healthy villages, child-friendly villages, villages with enough water, clean and green villages, villages with self-sufficient infrastructure, villages with social security, villages with good governance, and villages with engendered development.

9 Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

News: The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the capacity development (CD) scheme till March 2026.

Introduction	• The Capacity Development Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of MoSPI.
Aims & Objectives	• To augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for enabling the availability of credible and timely official statistics.
Salient Features	• **Sub-Schemes:** 1. **Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS):** To improve the statistical capacity and operations of State Statistical Systems for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics. 2. **Economic Census**: It provides the complete count of all non-farm economic establishments located within the geographical boundary of India. It also provides disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all such establishments of the country.
Significance	• The Ministry conducts extensive sample surveys that **cover key economic areas and give statistical inputs** for the development of government policy. • These surveys help with **evidence-based decision making** and are also used by the government to establish policies.

MP LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)

News: At a time when MPs have been asking for an increase in the MP Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) fund, the Union Finance Ministry has ordered revised rules, under which the interest that the fund accrues will be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

Introduction	• It is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was announced in December 1993.
Aims & Objectives	• To enable MPs to recommend **works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets** in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.

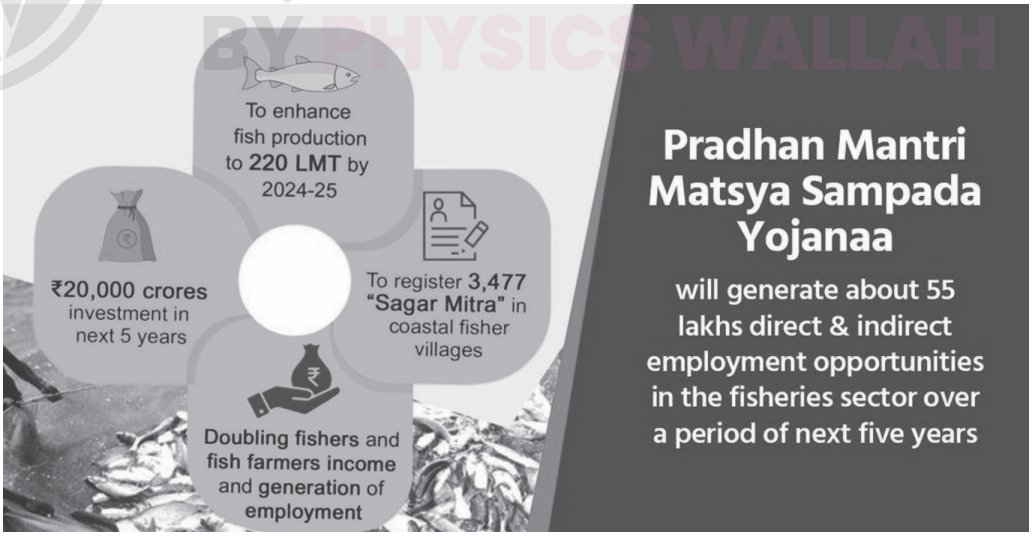
Salient Features	• **Implementation:** ❍ The process under MPLADS starts with the Members of Parliament recommending works to the Nodal District Authority. ❍ The **Nodal District** concerned is responsible for implementing the eligible works recommended by the Members of Parliament and maintaining the details of individual works executed and amount spent under the Scheme. • It is a government-funded scheme where the annual fund provided to each MP constituency is Rs. 5 crores. Funds under MPLADS are **non-lapsable.** • The initial assistance under the MPLAD scheme was Rs. 5 lakh / MP. From 1998-99 onwards, this amount has been increased to Rs. 2 crore / MP, and the amount currently available under this scheme has **been increased to Rs. 5 crore rupees**. • Recommendation by the MPs should be **done annually** with works costing **at least 15 percent of the MPLADS entitlement for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste** population and **7.5 percent for areas inhabited by the ST population**. • A sum of **Rs. 75 lakhs is provided for building assets by trusts and societies** as per the scheme guidelines to encourage the trusts and societies for the betterment of tribal people. • **Lok Sabha MPs have to recommend the district authorities projects** in their Lok Sabha constituencies. • **Rajya Sabha MPs** have to spend it in the state that has elected them to the House • **Nominated Members** of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha **can recommend works anywhere in the country.**
Issues Involved	• **Lack of Statutory Support:** The plan is not supported by any statutes and is therefore subject to the whims and fancies of the current administration. • **Implementation Gaps:** The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) has raised concerns about instances of financial mismanagement and exaggerated spending. • **Monitoring and Regulation**: Although the programme was created to encourage participatory development, there is no way to gauge the extent of engagement. • **MPLADS breaches Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution** since it intrudes on local self-government institutions' territory. • **Problem with the doctrine of separation of powers:** Executive duties are being performed by MPs.

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10 Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY) SCHEME

- The Government of India launched PMMSY as a **component of the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" package** with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crores, the largest ever in the fishing industry.
- **Fishermen are given access** to financial aid, insurance coverage, and the Kisan Credit Card service.

Aims & Objective	• **Utilising the potential of fisheries** in a way that is equitable, responsible, inclusive, and sustainable. • Improving quality and modernising and strengthening the **post-harvest management and value chain.** • **Strong regulatory and management** framework for fisheries. • Fish growers and fishermen should have **social, physical, and financial stability**.
Salient Features	• **Implementation:** It is carried out as an umbrella programme with two distinct parts, including ○ **Central Sector Scheme:** The Central government will pay the project's costs. The Government of India (GoI) will pay the entire project/unit cost (i.e., 100% GoI funding).  ○ **Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** The States/UTs will carry out all of the supporting elements and activities, and the Centre and States will split the associated costs. ◆ 10% State share and 90% Central share for the North Eastern and Himalayan States. ◆ 40% for the States and 60% for the Other States.

	• **For the efficient planning and implementation** of PMMSY, a well-structured implementation framework would be built. ○ The **"Cluster or area-based strategy"** would be used, with the necessary forward and backward connections and end-to-end solutions, for the best results. • **Approach:** "Cluster or area-based approaches and numerous innovative interventions, including insurance for fishing boats, aquaculture in saline/alkaline environments, Sagar Mitras, FFPOs, Nucleus Breeding Centres, etc.
Significance	• The sector of Fisheries experienced amazing development **of 14.3% from 2019–20 to 2021–2022.** • From 141.64 lakh tonnes in 2019–20 to **161.87 lakh tonnes (provisional) in 2021–2022,** fish production has increased. • **Shrimp exports** led the industry to record-breaking exports of 13.64 lakh tonnes, totaling Rs 57,587 crores (USD 7.76 billion).

BLUE REVOLUTION: INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES

Introduction	• It is a centrally sponsored scheme, where the programme has been rebuilt by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **by combining all the ongoing programmes under the banner of Blue Revolution.**
Aims & Objectives	• **To enhance global fish output** in a sustainable manner for economic growth. • To update fisheries, paying particular **attention to new technology.** • To ensure **nutritional and food security.** • To create jobs and gain money from **exports.** • To promote **inclusive growth** and support aquaculture and fishing farmers.
Salient Features	• **Establishing suitable links and convergence with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission** (NRLM), the Ministry of Shipping, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme's "Sagarmala Project" (MGNREGA). • **The main goal of the Blue Revolution** initiative is to boost aquaculture and inland and offshore fisheries' output and productivity. • **Encouraging people from economically disadvantaged groups** to take up fishing, particularly women, people from Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and their cooperatives. • The **Blue Revolution Scheme promotes increased institutional financial leverage,** public-private partnerships (PPP), and private investment growth.

SAGAR PARIKRAMA

News: Recently, the Union Minister for Fisheries will inaugurate the 'Sagar Parikrama'. The initiative has been launched as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava'.

Introduction	• It was organized by Ministry of Fisheries, National Fisheries Development Board along with Government of Gujarat, Indian Coast Guard, Fishery Survey of India and Gujarat Maritime Board.
Aims & Objectives	• A **navigation journey to be conducted in all coastal states/UTs** through a pre-decided sea route to demonstrate solidarity with all fisherfolk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders. • The journey shall **focus on the sustainable balance** between the utilization of marine fisheries resources for food security of the nation and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities and protection of marine ecosystems.
Salient Features	• The use of marine fisheries resources for the **country's food security**, the livelihoods of coastal fishing people, and the preservation of marine ecosystems will be balanced sustainably. • The **economics, security, and way of life of Indian coastal states** depend on the oceans. • **The nation's 8118 km of coastline**, which spans 9 maritime States and 4 UTs, supports the livelihoods of millions of coastal fishermen.

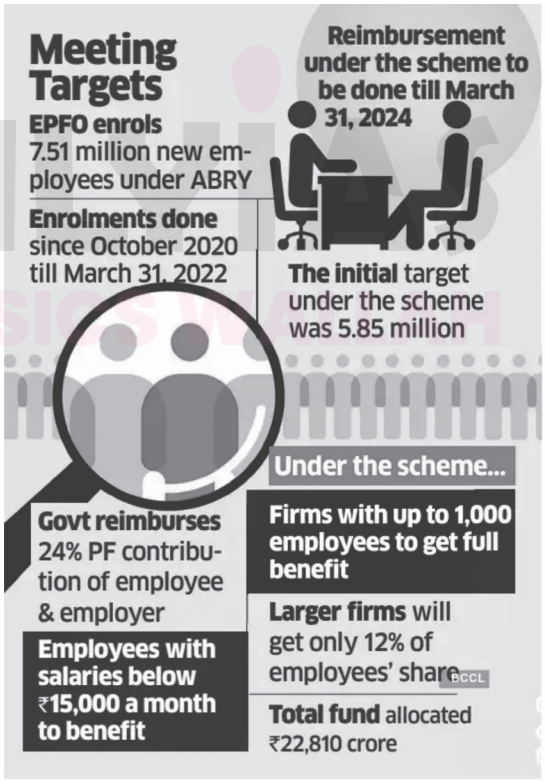
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11 Ministry of Labour and Employment

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA (ABRY)

- As a **component of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package**, it was announced in order to strengthen the economy, increase employment generation during the post-COVID recovery phase, and encourage the creation of new jobs in addition to social security benefits and the restoration of jobs lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is being carried out through the **Employees Provident Fund Organization EPFO**.

Aims & Objectives	• It attempts to **increase job creation** and lessen the Covid-19 pandemic's socioeconomic effects.
Salient Features	• **Tenure:** Depending on the employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments, the **Government of India will credit for a period of two years** either the employees' part (12% of earnings) or the employers' share (12% of wages) of the contribution that is due. • **Eligibility:** Every establishment registered with EPFO and its new employees (earning less than Rs. 15,000 per month) are eligible for benefits under the ABRY programme if the establishments hire them on or after October 1, 2020 and up until June 30, 2021, or if they were laid off between March 1 and September 30, 2020. • The payments will continue to be paid to recipients who were registered under the programme up until March 31, 2022, for a period of two years.
Significance	• Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, it has **aided in the formalisation of ad -hoc work** and the creation of new employment prospects. • It **lessens the financial burden on companies** across a range of industries and sectors, which in turn encourages them to take on more staff.



EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

- The **Workers' State Insurance Act of 1948** included the ESI as a comprehensive social insurance programme.
- It is a **multifaceted social system** that offers socio-economic security to the working population and any immediate family members who are protected by the ESI plan.

Aims & Objectives	• The purpose of ESI is to **offer medical care to insured individuals and their families** as well as to protect employees from the effects of occurrences of sickness, maternity, disability, and death related to employment harm.
Salient Features	• It is **a comprehensive social security programme** that is **self-financed**. • It **shields workers from financial hardship brought on by** situations like illness, disability, or death as a result of workplace accidents. For the aforementioned situations, ESI offers **direct monetary compensation**. • The ESI Scheme is managed by the **Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).** • A **statutory corporate organisation** established under the **ESI Act of 1948 is ESIC**.
Significance	• The **rate of contribution under the ESI Act had been decreased by the government in June 2020 from 6.5% to 4%** (employer contributions were decreased from 4.75% to 3.25% and employee contributions were decreased from 1.75% to 0.75%). • Workers are free from making their portion of the **contribution if their daily salaries** are less than Rs. 137.

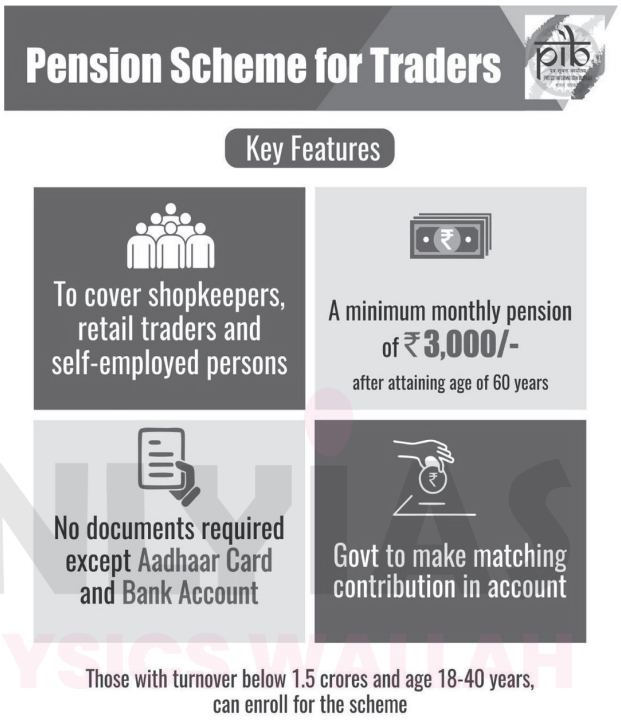
PM SHRAM-YOGI MAANDHAN YOJANA

Introduction	• The Ministry of Labour and Employment oversees the PM-SYM **Central Sector Scheme**, which is carried out through the **Life Insurance Corporation of India and community service centres (CSCs).** • The **manager of the pension fund** and the one in charge of paying out pensions will be LIC.
Aims & Objectives	• This programme aims to assist the nation's **42 crore unorganised sector workers**.
Salient Features	• **Minimum Assured Pension:** Each subscriber would receive a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs. 3000 per month after they reach the age of 60. • **Family Pension:** If the pension subscriber passes away while the beneficiary is receiving the pension, the beneficiary's spouse is entitled to receive 50% of the pension as a family pension. Only the spouse is eligible for a family pension. ○ If a beneficiary made regular contributions and died for any reason (before the age of 60), his or her spouse would be eligible to join the plan and continue it going forward by making additional regular contributions, or to withdraw from the plan in **accordance with its exit and withdrawal rules.** • **Contribution:** The subscriber must make a donation using the "auto-debit" feature of his or her savings account or Jan-Dhan. ○ The PM-SYM operates on a 50:50 basis, with the beneficiary making the required age-specific contribution and the Central Government matching it.

NATIONAL PENSION SCHEME FOR TRADERS AND SELF EMPLOYED PERSONS (PRADHAN MANTRI LAGHUVYAPARI MAAN-DHAN YOJANA)

- The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana, also known as **the National Pension Plan for Traders and Self Employed Individuals**, is a pension programme that offers shopkeepers, retail traders, and self-employed people a **monthly minimum assured pension of Rs. 3000.**

Aims & Objectives	• To provide **old age protection and social security** for small-scale traders and retailers.
Salient Features	• It is a central sector programme that **is voluntary and contribution-based.** • **More than 3 crore small merchants and traders** would profit from the programme. • **All small business owners, retail merchants, and independent contractors** are guaranteed a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 under the scheme once they reach the age of 60. • **After reaching the age of sixty,** each qualified subscriber to this Program is guaranteed a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3000. • The Indian government would match the subscribers' contributions in their accounts. For instance, if a subscriber is 29 years old and makes a monthly contribution of Rs. 100, the Central Government will also make a monthly subsidy contribution of Rs. 100 to the subscriber's pension account.



MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES OF MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Samadhan (Software Application for Monitoring and Disposal, Handling of Industrial Disputes) Portal	• It is a website that is specifically designed for **mediating, arbitrating, and ruling on labour disputes.** • **It unites all parties involved in labour disputes**—the government, business, and labour—on a single, integrated platform. • In order to add a time limit to the procedure, which is currently lacking, workers have the **option of going directly to the labour court** if no action is taken after 45 days of reporting a disagreement online.

DigiSaksham	• This is a Ministry for Labour and **Microsoft India** joint venture. • It is a **digital skills programme** designed to increase youths' employability by teaching them the digital skills necessary in an increasingly technologically advanced age. • **More than three lakh young people** would receive free training in advanced computers as well as basic digital skills throughout the first year.
e-Shram portal	• **This is the National Database for Unorganized Employees (NDUW).** ○ The **Economic Survey (2018–19)** states that 93% of India's workforce is employed in the unorganised sector. ○ They **frequently do not receive any social security benefits**, such as pensions or insurance. • **Key Elements:** ○ An **e-Shram card with a Universal Account Number (UAN)** will be given to every registered worker so they can take advantage of the government's many social security programmes (like PM-Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana). ○ **Accidental coverage of Rs. 2 lakh** in the event of death or total disability, and **Rs. 1 lakh in the event of partial disability.** ○ The database will be used by the government as a resource to locate unorganised workers, get in touch with them, and provide them with assistance when necessary. • According to the **Unorganized employees' Social Security Act of 2008**, the unorganised sector consists of businesses that are production- or service-oriented and are owned by individuals or self-employed individuals. If there are employees, the total number of employees must not be more than 10.

PRADHAN MANTRI SHRAM YOGI MAAN-DHAN SCHEME (PM-SYM)

News: The Union Labour and Employment Ministry launched the "donate a pension" scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganised worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.

Introduction	• It is implemented by **Life Insurance Corporation of India and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited.** • A **50:50 voluntary and contributory pension scheme** in which the beneficiary makes a stipulated age-specific contribution and the Central Government matches it.

Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** The unorganized workers who are mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless laborers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio- visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ month or less. • **Eligibility:** ❍ The Workers working in the unorganized sector in the age group of 18-40 years can register themselves and deposit a minimum of Rs. 660 to 2400 every year depending on their age. ❍ They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). ❍ The person should not be an income tax payer. • **Benefits:** After attaining the age of 60 years they will receive the minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000 per month.

DONATE A PENSION INITIATIVE

News: The scheme is launched under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme (PM-SYM).

Introduction	• Under the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM)** initiative, consumers can now contribute to the support staff pension fund. • This **allows residents to give the premium portion of the wages** paid to their immediate support employees, such as housekeepers, drivers, and other assistants.
Aims & Objectives	• It allows a citizen to contribute **to their immediate support staff** such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, care givers, nurses, in their household or establishment.
Salient Features	• **The donor can make the contribution** for a minimum of one year, with the amount ranging from Rs. 660 to Rs. 2,400 a year, depending on the age of the beneficiary. • The premium amount can be paid through maandhan.in or by visiting a Common Service Centre anywhere in the country.

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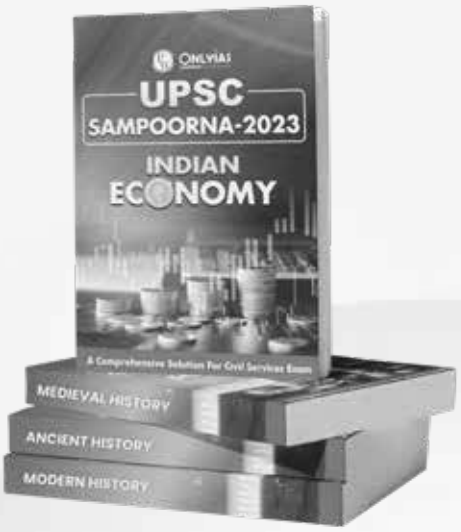
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12 Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)

INTEREST SUBVENTION SCHEME FOR MSME

Introduction	• The Interest Subvention scheme is a Central Sector Scheme which was launched in November 2018 by the government of India, specially to cater to the MSME sector with the objective to help MSMEs expand the scope of their operations by giving them **access to cheaper credit facilities.**
Aims & Objectives	• To **boost manufacturing and service** industry productivity. • To **lower the cost of loans for MSMEs** by providing incentives for their adoption of GST in order to promote economic growth.
Salient Features	• **Implementing Agency**: The interest subvention scheme is implemented by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). • **Benefits:** According to this programme, interest is waived on any outstanding loans or balances owed by MSMEs at a rate of 2% per year, starting on the date the loan was disbursed or the programme was announced, whichever comes later. • **Eligibility:** ○ MSMEs with a valid GSTN and a valid Udyog Aadhaar number (UAN). ○ MSMEs who are ineligible for GST do not require a GSTN; instead, they can apply for this programme by providing their Permanent Account Number (PAN) or the concerned bank must categorise their loan account as MSME.

PM EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

News: The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) will now run for a further five years through FY26, according to approval from the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Businesses.

Introduction	• It was launched in 2008, as a central sector scheme, which is a **credit linked subsidy programme.** • The scheme was launched by **merging the two schemes** Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP).

Aims & Objective	• To **create jobs in rural and urban areas** of the nation by starting new microbusinesses, projects, and self-employment ventures in the non-farm sector. • To supply a significant portion of the nation's traditional and aspiring artisans, as well as unemployed rural and urban youth, with ongoing and lasting employment in order to **stop rural youth migration to metropolitan regions**. • To **boost the ability of craftsmen** to earn a living wage and to aid in accelerating the expansion of both rural and urban jobs. • To **encourage financial institutions' engagement** in order to increase the flow of credit to the micro sector.
Salient Features	• **Eligibility:** anyone who is older than 18 years old. ○ For projects costing more than Rs. 10,00,000 in the manufacturing sector and more than Rs. 5.00 lakhs in the service sector, a minimum qualification of passing the VIII standard is required. • **Charity trusts and SHGs:** ○ Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act,1860. ○ Cooperative Societies with a focus on production. • **Benefits:** ○ Beneficiaries of the programme are eligible for loans up to Rs. 25 lakh for the manufacturing sector and Rs. 10 lakh for the service industry. ○ implemented at both the national and state levels by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs), and banks. ○ special rules for the most disadvantaged groups. ○ In rural areas, candidates who are female, SC/ST, OBC, physically disabled, or NER would receive a higher percentage of subsidy: 25–35%.

MSME INNOVATIVE SCHEME (INCUBATION, DESIGN AND IPR)

News: The Ministry of MSME (Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises) has recently launched the MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) along with the MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022.

Introduction	• It **combines already-existing sub-schemes** for MSMEs' intellectual property rights (IPR), design, and incubation. • Additionally, the **government announced equity support of up to Rs 1 crore** for the commercialization of inventions under all three sub-schemes, as well as to assist MSMEs in growing to attract additional capital.

<table>
<tr><td>Aims & Objective</td><td colspan="2">

To encourage innovation in all its manifestations along the whole value chain, from transforming concepts into novel applications through incubation and design interventions.
To encourage the sharing of knowledge and cooperation between business, academia, governmental organisations, research labs, etc. in order to foster an innovation and creative problem-solving culture.
To concentrate on creating low-cost inventions that are both sustainable and commercially successful, and that can help a lot of people.
To offer the proper resources and assistance for concept to market development, design competitiveness, and the protection and commercialization of MSME sector intellectual property.
Acting as a liaison between innovators and leaders in industry and academics to promote the creation of innovative products and provide support.

</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Salient Features</td><td colspan="2">

Hub for innovation activities: In order to raise awareness among MSMEs about Indian innovation and inspire them to become MSME CHAMPIONS, the project takes a holistic strategy that includes innovation in incubation, design intervention, and IPR protection.
Equity assistance: For each of the three sub-schemes, equity support of up to Rs 1 crore would be offered. This support will help MSMEs continue to expand so they may attract more finance.
Sub-schemes:

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Incubation</td><td>

Goal: To encourage and foster latent creativity and the uptake of cutting-edge technologies in MSMEs.
Financial support: up to Rs. 15 lakh for each proposal and up to Rs. 1 crore for pertinent equipment.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Design</td><td>

Objective: To offer knowledgeable counsel and affordable solutions to current design issues for the creation of new products, their ongoing refinement, and value addition.
Financial support: Up to 40 lakh rupees for design projects and up to 2.5 lakh rupees for student projects.
Partner institutions would include IISc Bangalore, IITs, NITs, National Institute of Design, etc.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>IPR (Intellectual Property Rights)</td><td>

Objective: To improve the IP culture in India with a view to enhance the awareness of IPRs amongst the MSMEs.
Aims: to take suitable measures for the protection of ideas, technological innovation and knowledge-driven business strategies developed by MSMEs.
Financial assistance will be provided for Foreign Patent, Domestic Patent, GI Registration, etc.

</td></tr>
</table>

SAMARTH

News: Recently, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, the Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women-"SAMARTH".

Introduction	• The Ministry of MSME is **emphasising helping women develop their skills** and get jobs through this campaign. • In the FY 2022–2023, **more than 7500 female candidates from rural and suburban areas would receive training.**
Aims & Objective	• It is a **Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women** to provide them with an opportunity to be self-reliant and independent by undertaking self-employment opportunities.
Salient Features	• **20% of Seats in free Skill Development Programs organized** under skill development schemes of the Ministry will be allocated for Women. • **20% of MSME Business Delegations** sent to domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by the Ministry will be dedicated to women-owned MSMEs. • **20% Discount on annual processing fee** on National Small Industries Corporation's (NSIC) Commercial Schemes such as Single Point Registration Scheme, Raw Material Assistance and Bill Discounting, Tender Marketing among others. • **Special Drive for registration of women-owned MSMEs** under Udyam Registration.

RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE (RAMP) PROGRAMME

News: The Union Cabinet has approved the "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP) Programme and World Bank assisted programme.

Introduction	• It follows the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council's(PMEAC) and the **U. K. Sinha Committee and KV Kamath Committee's recommendations.** • In the **Union Budget 2022–2023**, the finance minister announced the programme.
Aims & Objective	• **To support the MSMEs** by improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships, addressing issues of delayed payments and greening MSMEs.

Salient Features	• **The programme will focus on two result areas:** 1. Strengthening Institutions and Governance of the MSME Program. 2. Supporting Market Access, Firm Capabilities and Access to Finance. • **Funding:** The programme will cost a total of 6,062.45 crore rupees, of which 3750 crore would come from a loan from the World Bank and the balance 2312.45 crore from India. • **Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI):** The disbursement of funds from the World Bank towards RAMP would be made on fulfilling several indicators such as accelerating MSME Sector center-state collaboration; reducing the incidence of delayed payments, enhancing the effectiveness of MSME Schemes among others. • **Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs):** The important component of RAMP is the preparation of SIPs. The SIPs would include an outreach plan for identification and mobilization of MSMEs, identify key constraints and gaps, set milestones and project the required budgets for interventions in priority sectors including renewable energy, rural & non-farm business, wholesale and retail trade etc. • **Monitoring of the programme**: It would be done by an apex National MSME Council headed by the Minister for MSME, including representation from various Ministries and supported by a secretariat.
Significance	• **Address the MSME Sector's Challenges:** Through effect enhancement of current MSME programmes, particularly on the competitiveness front, the RAMP programme will address the general and Covid-related difficulties in the MSME sector. • **Address Barriers in MSME** That Need to Be Better Addressed: The programme will, among other things, strengthen the areas of capacity building, support, skill development, quality enrichment, technological advancement, digitization, outreach, and marketing promotion that have not received appropriate attention. • **Create Employment:** The RAMP programme will create jobs, promote the market, facilitate financing, assist vulnerable groups, and support environmental activities through improved collaboration with States. • **More Formalization:** The programme will bring about greater formalisation in States where the presence of MSMEs is on the lower side due to the greater impact of the RAMP-covered programmes.

MSME SUSTAINABLE (ZED) CERTIFICATION SCHEME

News: Ministry for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has launched the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Sustainable (ZED-Zero Defect Zero Effect) Certification Scheme.

<table>
<tr><td>Introduction</td><td>• This programme is a comprehensive effort to help MSMEs adopt ZED practices, encourage and reward them for achieving ZED Certification, and support them in becoming MSME Champions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Aims & Objectives</td><td>• To create awareness amongst MSMEs about Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) practices and motivate and incentivise them for ZED Certification while also encouraging them to become MSME Champions.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Salient Features</td><td>• Under the Scheme, MSMEs will get subsidies according to following structure, on the cost of ZED certification:
○ Micro Enterprises: will get 80%
○ Small Enterprises: will get 60%
○ Medium Enterprises: will get 50%
• Phases under the scheme: The first phase will focus on manufacturing MSMEs, and the second phase would be aimed at the MSMEs in the services sector.
<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">Revised Classification applicable w.e.f 1st July 2020</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Composite Criteria: Investment in Plant & Machinery/equipment and Annual Turnover</td></tr>
<tr><td>Classification</td><td>Micro</td><td>Small</td><td>Medium</td></tr>
<tr><td>Manufacturing Enterprises and Enterprises rendering Services</td><td>Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment:
Not more than Rs.1 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 5 crore</td><td>Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment:
Not more than Rs.10 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 50 crore</td><td>Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment:
Not more than Rs.50 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 250 crore</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Significanc</td><td>• MSMEs can significantly reduce waste, boost productivity, raise environmental awareness, conserve energy, make the best use of natural resources, gain market share, etc. through the ZED Certification process.
• It has the power to alter manufacturers' perspectives and make them more environmentally aware.</td></tr>
</table>

Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme (ZED):

- The scheme, which was introduced by the Ministry of MSME in 2016, is a complete and integrated certification system.
- The plan takes into account technological sophistication, including design and IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) in both products and processes, productivity, quality, pollution reduction, energy efficiency, financial situation, human resource, and technological depth.
- Its goal is to establish the "ZED" culture in India using the concepts of Zero Defect and Zero Impact.

MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

News: The Government has approved the New Guidelines of the Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP). The programme will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).

Introduction	• As a crucial strategy for increasing productivity and competitiveness as well as improving the ability of Micro and Small Enterprise (MSEs), the government has adopted the **cluster development approach**. • The Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), is the **Nodal Ministry**.
Aims & Objectives	• To support the sustainability and growth of MSEs **by addressing common issues** such as improvement of technology, skills and quality, etc. • To **build the capacity of MSEs** for common supportive action through the formation of self-help groups, up-gradation of associations, etc. • To **create/upgrade infrastructural facilities** in the new/existing industrial areas/clusters of MSEs. • To set up **common facility centres** (for testing, training centre, raw material depot, effluent treatment, etc.
Salient Features	• **New guidelines for MSE-CDP:** ○ **Common Facility Centers (CFCs)**: The central government grant will be restricted to 70% and 60% of the cost of the project under certain conditions. ○ **Infrastructure Development**: Similar restrictions have been placed for setting up of a new Industrial Estate/ Flatted Factory Complex.

PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

News: India has reached a landmark figure of 100 unicorn start-ups with a valuation of more than $300 billion.

Introduction	• It is a **central sector scheme** that the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Businesses is in charge of managing (MoMSME). • **National Implementing Agency:** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory body under the Ministry of MSME's administrative supervision.
Aims & Objective	• Creation of enduring, long-term employment opportunities across the country, in both **urban and rural areas.** • A significant portion of aspiring and traditional crafters, as well as unemployed adolescents in rural and urban areas**, can be given sustainable and ongoing work by forming micro companies** with the intention of providing jobs. • **By encouraging financial institutions** to participate, facilitate loan flow to the micro sector.

Salient features	• **Eligibility:** ○ Any individual, above 18 years of age. ○ Only new projects/units are considered for sanction of loans. ○ Self-help groups that have not availed benefits under any other public scheme, societies, production co-operative societies, and charitable trusts. • **Maximum Cost of Project/Unit Admissible:** ○ **Manufacturing Sector**: Rs. 50 lakh. ○ **Service Sector**: Rs.20 lakh • **Government Subsidy:** ○ **Rural Areas**: 25% for general category and 35% for special category, which includes SC/ST/OBC/Minorities, NER, Hill and Border Areas, transgender, physically disabled, north eastern region, aspirational and border district applicants. ○ **Urban Areas**: 15% for general category and 25% for special category. • **Role of Banks:** Loans are provided by Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Co-operative Banks and Private Scheduled Commercial Banks approved by the respective State Task Force Committee.
Significance	• **For an estimated 40 lakh people**, the programme will generate sustainable employment possibilities over the course of five fiscal years. • By supporting the establishment of **microbusinesses in the non-farm sector**, it enables the creation of work opportunities for unemployed youngsters throughout the nation. • Since its commencement in 2008–09, roughly **7.8 lakh micro companies have received support** totalling RS 19,995 crore, creating an estimated 64 lakh sustainable jobs. In rural areas, around 80% of the units receiving assistance are owned by SC, ST and women categories.

UDYAMI BHARAT PROGRAMME

News: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will participate in the 'Udyami Bharat' programme at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 30th June, 2022.

Introduction	• Udyami Bharat is evidence of the government's ongoing efforts to **support the empowerment of MSMEs.** • To promote the MSME sector, which has benefited millions of people nationwide, the government periodically introduces new initiatives such as the **MUDRA Yojana, Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Plan, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI).**
Aims & Objectives	• **To motivate MSMEs** to provide goods and services for the worldwide market that meet international standards. • This would increase Indian **MSMEs' involvement in the global value chain** and enable them to reach their export potential.

Salient Features	• **The maximum project cost** would rise from Rs. 25 lakhs for the manufacturing industry to Rs. 50 lakhs and from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs for the service sector. • **Candidates from aspirational areas and transgender people** should be included in the Special Category applicants in order to qualify for higher subsidies. • By hiring financial, technological, and marketing specialists, applicants and entrepreneurs **are given hand-holding support.**

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES OF MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)

Gramodyog Vikas Yojana	• It is a **Central Sector Scheme** under which the centre has started **'Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission'.** • This mission intends to **increase local Agarbatti production** while providing jobs for migrant and unemployed employees. • The scheme was created using a PPP model by the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).** • The programme will **initially launch four pilot projects**, one of which will be in the North East. • About **50 automatic agarbatti makers and 10 mixing machines** would be provided to each targeted cluster of artisans. • For the benefit of artisans involved in making agarbatti and to build village industry under the **"Gramodyog Vikas Yojana"**. • KVIC was permitted to grant a **25% subsidy on the cost of the equipment** and reclaim the remaining 75% of the cost from artisans in monthly installments.
SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries)	• It is a Central Sector Scheme, launched in 2005 to **promote Cluster development of traditional industries (Khadi, Coir & Village industries).** • The **key agency for the promotion of cluster development** for khadi is the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). • The **nodal organisation** for the development of the coir cluster is the **Coir Board**. • **Objectives:** ○ **To increase** the productivity, profitability, market orientation, and competition in established industries. ○ To make **industry clusters' local governance systems stronger** with the active involvement of local stakeholders so that they may support development projects. ○ To develop both classic and innovative capabilities, enhanced technologies, sophisticated procedures, market knowledge, and new models of public-private partnerships.

A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)	• Aims to **establish a network of technology centres and incubation centres** to boost entrepreneurship and start-ups for innovative and rural industries based on agriculture. • Creation of Technology Business Incubators (TBI), Livelihood Business Incubators (LBI), and a Pool of Funds for such initiatives with SIDBI are the intended goals of ASPIRE.
'Udyami Mitra' Portal	• It was **established by SIDBI** to give micro, small, and medium-sized businesses simple access to finance and support services (MSME). • To **facilitate wholesale capital access to lenders** from SIDBI and MUDRA, convergence with various agencies (including state/central subsidy agencies), co-lending, and access to contact-less loans. • In order to **improve the flow of credit to MSMEs**, new age FinTechs, non-banking finance businesses, and small finance banks are now being onboarded on the platform.
SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency (SAFE)	• With the introduction of this new programme, **SIDBI is assisting MSMEs** that are producing goods or offering services linked to battling the coronavirus. • In accordance with the plan, loans are given out within 48 hours at a modest **interest rate of 5%.** • There is no requirement for security and both current and new SIDBI customers may apply for **a loan up to INR 50 lakh** as a term loan or a working capital term loan. • **Coverage:** Charges for the manufacture or supply of legal medications, sanitizers, masks, etc. However, anything unrelated to Covid19, Traders, or other projects in the greenfield are not covered.
Regulation of MSME functions	• **MSME SAMADHAAN Portal:** It enables micro and small business owners all throughout the nation to easily file claims for delayed payments. • **MSME SAMBANDH Portal**: Monitoring the application of the public procurement policy for micro and small. • **MSME SAMPARK Portal:** Jobseekers (ex-trainees/students of MSME Technology Centres) and recruiters can connect via this digital portal.

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13 Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

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

- It is one of the **biggest work guarantee programmes** in the world, MGNREGA was introduced by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2005.

Aims & Objectives	• The scheme's main goal is to **provide 100 days of guaranteed employment** each fiscal year to every adult member of a rural household who is willing to perform unskilled physical labour for the public good. • In contrast to earlier employment guarantee programmes, the act employs a **rights-based approach** to address the root causes of chronic poverty.
Salient Features	• **Demand-Driven Scheme:** The most crucial component of the MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed promise that any rural adult would find employment within 15 days of requesting it; in the event that this promise is not met, a "unemployment allowance" must be provided. • **Decentralized planning:** By giving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) a significant role in organising and carrying out these projects, there is a focus on deepening the decentralisation process. • The act requires that Gram Sabhas recommend the projects to be undertaken and that they complete at least 50% of those projects.



PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (GRAMEEN)

News: Recently the central government in India has stated that it will withdraw its share of funds for states that fail to properly implement the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G).

Introduction	• The **IAY (Indira Awaas Yojna)** rural housing programme experienced design issues, a lack of openness, leaks, favouritism, and corruption at many levels. • With effect from April 1, 2016, IAY has been redesigned as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G). • **Recipients include:** members of the SC/ST community, liberated bonded labourers, non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of fallen military personnel, ex-servicemen and retired paramilitary personnel, people with disabilities, and members of minority groups. • **Recipients are chosen using a three-stage validation process** that includes the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census, Gram Sabha, and geo-tagging. • **Sharing costs** : The Central and State Governments split the expense of unit support in a 60:40 ratio in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and hilly states.
Aims & Objectives	• By the end of March 2022, **all rural households who are houseless, living in kutcha, or in decaying homes will have access to a pucca house with basic facilities.** • To provide support in the form of a full grant in order to **assist rural residents who are Below the Poverty Line (BPL)** in building new housing units and renovating their outdated kutcha homes.
Issues/Need	• **Renewed Focus:** Covid-19 caused sluggishness in the scheme's implementation; by enforcing sanctions, the federal government is ensuring that the States give the programme more attention. • **Problems with State Government:** The top four laggard States—West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Assam—are all falling far short of their goals. ○ Additionally, the West Bengal government rebranded the programme as the "Bangla Awas Yojana," and as a result, the federal government withheld money intended for the programme.
Salient Features	• The **state government would be subject to the fine**. The State government will be fined Rs. 10 per house for the first month of the delay and Rs. 20 per house for each additional month of the delay if the sanction of the house is delayed by more than one month from the day the target was issued. • If the state does not have the central money, there will be no punishment. • In plain states, the unit support has increased from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1.20 lakh, while in hilly states, it has increased from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1.30 lakh. • The **funds for toilet construction** will be used in conjunction with the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), MGNREGS, or any other specific financial source.

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

News: A 15-day nationwide campaign by the Union Ministry of Rural Development will run from September 7 through September 20, 2022.

Introduction	• The campaign's primary goal is **to hasten the process of enlisting excluded rural poor women into women's Self Help Groups (SHGs)** across 34 states and Union Territories as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). • As a **revamped version of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY), the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** was introduced by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, in June 2011.
Aims & Objectives	• In order to **increase household income for the rural poor through greater access to financial services and sustainable livelihood improvements,** the Mission aspires to build effective institutional platforms for them. • "**To alleviate poverty by facilitating the poor households'** access to productive self-employment and skilled wage employment possibilities, resulting in a discernible improvement in their livelihoods on a sustained basis, through creating strong grassroots institutions for the poor."
Salient Features	• **Broad-based social mobilisation:** Each recognised rural poor household must have at least one woman member added to the Self Help Group (SHG) network in a timely way. ○ Especially vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs), people with disabilities (PwDs), victims of human trafficking, and bonded labourers are just a few examples of vulnerable populations that are given special attention. • **PIP: Participatory Identification of the Poor:** A well-defined, open, and egalitarian process of community-level, participatory identification of the poor determines the target group's inclusion under NRLM. • **Community Funding as Permanent Resources:** Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Fund (CIF) resources are provided by NRLM to impoverished institutions on an ongoing basis in order to improve their institutional and financial management capacity. • **Financial inclusion:** NRLM strives to promote financial inclusion on both the supply and demand sides. On the demand side, it encourages financial knowledge among the underprivileged and gives the SHGs and their federations catalytic money. ○ **On the supply side, the Mission collaborates** with the banking industry and promotes the use of ICT-based financial systems, business correspondents, and neighbourhood organisers like "Bank Mitras". • **Livelihood:** Via its **three pillars**, NRLM focuses on stabilising and advancing the poor's current portfolio of livelihoods. ○ 'vulnerability reduction' and 'livelihoods enhancement' entail deepening/ enhancing and expanding current livelihood options and seizing new opportunities in farm and non-farm sectors; ○ 'employment' entails developing skills for the outside job market; and ○ 'enterprises' entails fostering self-employed and entrepreneurial individuals; (for micro-enterprises).

Significance	• It will help in **reduction of Urban Poverty** • It will increase the opportunities of **self-employment in Urban Areas.** • It will provide **shelter to Urban homeless people**. • It will increase the number of **employment opportunities in Urban Areas.**

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA (DDU-GKY)

News: Union Rural Development Secretary has recently chaired a webinar promoting 'Captive Employer' initiative under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

Introduction	• It is a programme **financed by the Ministry of Rural Development's state wide placement-linked skill training initiative DDU-GKY (MoRD).** • It is a ground breaking programme designed to **fulfil the vision of a dynamic and demand-based skilling ecosystem** that caters to the needs of industrial partners while ensuring sustainable placements for young people from underprivileged rural communities.
Aims & Objectives	• Aims to **skill poor rural youth** and provide them with jobs having regular monthly wages or above the minimum wages. • **Providing diversity** to the incomes of rural poor families • Cater to the **aspirations of rural youth** towards career.
Salient Features	• It is a **component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission** and is specifically designed for rural poor youth between the ages of 15 and 35. Its goals are to diversify the income of poor families and assist rural youth in realising their career dreams. • It stipulates that **women must make up 30% of all candidates** receiving training under the programme. ○ The **maximum age for female candidates is 45 years old.** • The programme is moving towards **minimum obligatory certification** and features an **outcome-driven design** with guaranteed placements for at least 70% of trained students. • **For rural poor adolescents**, DDU-GKY is already being implemented in 27 states and 3 UTs, with a focus on placements. • **For the rural youth** to be better equipped and placed, DDU-GKY and integrated agricultural efforts are crucial for rural development across the nation.
Significance	• By skilling, DDU-GKY has **contributed significantly to Atmanirbhar Bharat**. • It contributes significantly to the social and economic programmes as part of the **Skill India effort.**

PM GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAAN

News: With a total cost of Rs. 39,293 crore, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan generated 50.78 crore Person Days of employment.

Introduction	• "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan" is a **massive rural public works scheme** aims to empower and **offer rural residents and returning migrant workers** opportunities for a living. • The **Abhiyaan was introduced in 2020 from the Bihar village of Telihar** in the block of Beldaur.
Aims & Objectives	• Provide **returning immigrants and rural residents** who are equally impacted employment possibilities • Villages should be fully **equipped with public facilities** like Anganwadis, Panchayat Bhawans, and Community Sanitary Complexes. • Provide the foundation for **improving long-term employment chances**.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** The programme will give migratory workers and rural residents who have returned to their home states as a result of the Covid-19-induced lockdown power and job prospects. • **Duration and Outlay:** With a budget of Rs. 50,000 crore, this campaign will operate in mission mode for 125 days. • **Coverage:** The campaign will target 116 districts in six states, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Odisha (where the majority of migrant workers have returned). • **Implementation:** To employ migrant workers on the one hand and build infrastructure in the country's rural areas on the other, 25 various types of activities will be intensified and focused on during implementation.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA-III

News: Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, all-weather road connection has been delivered to 99% of the targeted habitations.

Introduction	• It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** that is a part of efforts to reduce poverty.
Aims & Objectives	• To establish communication to isolated settlements **via an all-weather road**. • The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana's third phase aims to upgrade the through **routes and major rural links that link habitations to**: Higher secondary schools, agricultural markets in Gramin, and hospitals.
Salient Features	• **Eligibility:** Unconnected habitations in the core network for improving the socioeconomic situation of the rural population with a predetermined population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States, Deserts, and Tribal Areas according to the 2001 census). • **Funding Pattern:** Funds have been allocated to states in succeeding years in proportion to the value of projects that have been sanctioned to those states. • In North-Eastern and Himalayan States, when projects sanctioned under the programme are concerned, the Union Government bears 90% of the project cost; in other states, the Union Government bears 60% of the cost.

Significance	• **Connectivity of rural roads** is crucial for two reasons in particular. One, by improving access to social and economic services, it is a crucial part of rural development, raising farm earnings and providing more options for people to find work. Second, it is a crucial component in reducing poverty. • **Distributing Social Goods:** Improved connectivity will make it easier for the rural population to take advantage of the **government's social welfare programmes** for employment, health, education, and other services. • **Reach to Essential Service:** Also, connectivity motivates government employees to voluntarily relocate to the villages to **provide their services**, including teachers, health professionals, and agricultural extensionists.

MISSION ANTYODAYA

- Mission Antyodaya is a mission mode project envisioned by the Ministry of Rural Development. It is a **convergence paradigm for quantifiable outcomes** on metrics that transform lives and means of subsistence.

Aims & Objectives	• It seeks to **end rural home poverty in all of its manifestations**. • Ensuring **efficient resource utilisation** by combining multiple government initiatives, with Gram Panchayats serving as the fundamental planning unit. • Work with a targeted micro plan to provide every underprivileged household with a **stable income.** • To track the growth of rural regions, conduct an **annual survey on quantifiable outcomes** at the Gram Panchayat level. • Supporting the **Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)** participatory planning process, which would strengthen citizenship, boost service delivery, set the stage for an alliance of people's institutions and organisations, and improve local governance.
Salient Feature	• **Encourages collaborations** with a network of institutions, businesses, and professionals to speed up the transformation of rural livelihoods. • It is a framework for convergence and accountability designed to ensure the best use and administration of the resources provided by **27 Ministries and Departments of the Indian Government** under various programmes for the development of rural areas. • It is intended to be a state-led programme, with **Gram Panchayats serving as the main hubs for coordination efforts.** • The **primary agents** for moving the mission forward are the Ministries of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development. • An essential component of Mission Antyodaya's structure is the **annual survey conducted in Gram Panchayats all across the nation.**

START-UP VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

News: The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) have signed a memorandum understanding (MoU) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the 'start-up village entrepreneurship programme' (SVEP).

Introduction	• The scheme was **launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Rural Development** as a sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
Aims & Objectives	• To **support the rural poor to come out of poverty by supporting them to set up enterprises** and provide support till the enterprises stabilize. • It also **focuses on providing self-employment opportunities** with financial assistance and training in business management and soft skills while creating local community cadres for promotion of enterprises.
Salient Feature	• **Pillars**: It addresses three major pillars of rural start-ups namely – finances, incubation and skill ecosystems. Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad is the technical support partner of SVEP. • SVEP promotes both individual and group enterprises set-up and promotes enterprises majorly in manufacturing, trading and service sectors. • **Community Resource Persons – Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP):** These are certified local persons who provide business support services to the entrepreneurs. • **Block Resource Center (BRC):** It has been set up to monitor and manage the community resource persons, appraise SVEP loan application and acts as the repository of enterprise related information in the concerned block.

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14 Ministry of Power

REVAMPED DISTRIBUTION SECTOR SCHEME

News: The government has recently suspended smart metre bids under its Rs 3.03 trillion Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) till 15 March due to multiple issues.

Introduction	• The scheme will offer **financial support that is contingent upon the DISCOMS' supply infrastructure** being strengthened (power distribution companies). • The financial support will depend on fulfilling prerequisite requirements and reaching fundamental minimal benchmarks.
Aims & Objectives	• **By 2024–2025, AT&C losses**—operational losses brought on by an inefficient electricity system—should be reduced to pan–India levels of 12–15%. • Closing of the **cost-revenue gap by 2024–2025.** • **Developing the Institutional Capabilities** for Contemporary DISCOMs.
Salient Features	• **Nodal Agencies:** To facilitate the implementation of the scheme, REC and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) have been named as nodal agencies. • **Goal:** By 2024–2025, AT&C losses will be reduced to pan–India levels of 12–15%. • With a **financially viable and operationally effective distribution sector**, customers will receive an increase in the quality, dependability, and affordability of their power supply. • **Components:** ○ Consumer Meters and System Meters ○ Feeder Segregation ○ Modernization of Distribution system in Urban Areas: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) in all urban areas.
Significance	• The goal of the **largest electrical energy smart metering programme** in the world is to replace 250 million conventional metres with smart ones that will not only help reduce energy theft but also provide reliable electrical energy supply. • Also, the improvements are intended to **increase the dependability and superior quality of the energy delivered.** • It enables the collection and switching of power usage statistics in almost **real time**. • It will **enable reductions in AT&C losses**, provide financial stability, encourage energy efficiency, and guarantee a smoother billing cycle.

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAM JYOTI YOJANA (DDUGJY)

- The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana was introduced by the Indian government in 2015 to ensure an **uninterrupted power supply** in India's rural areas.

Aims & Objectives	• Incorporate electricity into India's **rural areas.** • Improve the power distribution system's **feeder separation.** • Enhance the **standard or consistency** of the electrical supply. • Invest in **high-quality metres** to cut losses.
Salient Feature	• **Separation of feeders for agriculture and non-agriculture,** allowing for wise rostering of supply to consumers in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in rural areas. • **Sub-transmission and distribution (ST&D) infrastructure** strengthening and expansion in rural areas, including metering at distribution transformers, feeders, and consumers end.
Significance	• India's rural areas will all have access to power. • Rural India's agricultural fields will all have access to 24-hour electricity. • the enhancement of bank services in rural areas • More access to healthcare in the villages • School performance will improve with the aid of dependable electricity connections.

VIRTUAL SMART GRID KNOWLEDGE CENTER

News: The Union Minister for Power has launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC) and Innovation Park.

Introduction	• It was **established by PowerGrid** with support from the Ministry of Power and National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM) and technical assistance from United States Agency for International Development (USAID). • **Smart Grid:** The term "smart grid" refers to an electrical grid that includes automation, communication, and information technology systems that can monitor power flows from points of generation to points of consumption (even down to the level of individual appliances) and control the power flow or curtail the load to match generation in real-time or very-close to real-time.
Aims & Objectives	• Through the active involvement of all stakeholders, transform the Indian power industry into a safe, flexible, sustainable, and digitally enabled ecosystem that offers dependable and high-quality electricity for everyone.

Salient Features	• The **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC),** a first-of-its-kind effort by the Union government, is situated inside the power grid centre in Manesar (Haryana). • As a component of the **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Program**, the effort will rank among the world's top Centers of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Research in Smart Grid Technologies. • It was **created by POWERGRID** with aid from **the US Agency for International Development (USAID)** and backing from the Union Ministry of Power to demonstrate and advance cutting-edge smart grid technologies.
Significance	• In order to **promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and research** in smart grid technologies and build capacities in the power distribution industry, SGKC strives to be one of the top Centers of Excellence globally. • The physical structure of SGKC will be able to **leave a digital trail**, which was necessary during the Covid-19 pandemic.

National Smart Grid Mission

- Launched in **2015** by the **Ministry of Power.**
- **Objective**: To address key issues of Smart Grid Initiatives on a large scale in the country and to make the Indian Power infrastructure cost-effective, responsive and reliable.

GREEN ENERGY OPEN ACCESS RULES 2022

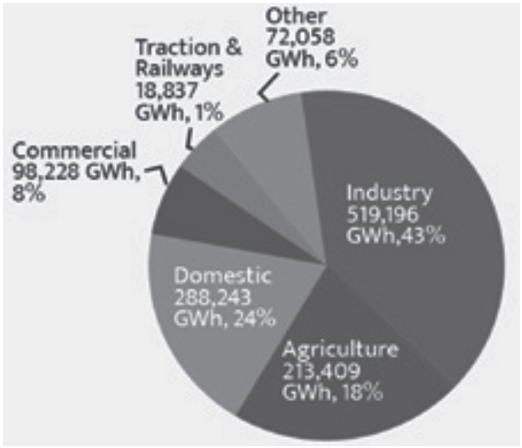
News: Recently, the Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy launched the Green Energy Open Access Portal.

Introduction	• These regulations are published to **encourage the production, acquisition, and use of green energy,** including through waste-to-energy facilities. It allows for a streamlined process for public access to green power. • India committed to generating 50% of its total electricity from clean energy sources by 2030 when we signed the **Paris Accord in 2016**. To make sure that we reach our deadline, improvements were made to green energy open access.
Aims & Objectives	• To **continue the Government of India's numerous efforts** to promote clean and green energy, and to ensure that everyone has access to inexpensive, dependable, sustainable, and green energy.
Salient Features	• **Setting up of Central Nodal Agency**: The rules provide for the setting up of a central nodal agency for operating a single-window green energy open access system through a centralized registry. • **Faster Application Process**: The decision to grant green energy open access or not would have to be taken in 15 days failing which it would be treated as deemed permission.

	• **Lower Limit for green energy open access**: The limit of open access transactions has been reduced from 1 MW (megawatt) to 100 kW for green energy in order to enable small consumers also to purchase renewable power through open access. • **Duration:** The open access must be granted within 15 days, failing which, it will be taken as granted. • **Stakeholder:** Traders, Electricity Exchanges, National/Regional/State Load Despatch Centers, and Central/State transmission utilities are among the stakeholders with open access.
Significance	• A **transparent, fast, uniform, and standardised process** for allowing open access to green energy is provided. • It will be essential for supporting the development of electricity markets and making it possible for **RE resources to be integrated into the grid**.
Implications	• **Firstly, open-access rules for green power**, though helpful to the consumers, will put the discom finances under further strain. • If India really wants to reach 500 GW of non-fossil capacity, the **financial health of the discoms needs to improve** by taking the following actions: Retail tariffs need to be raised, the discoms need to bring down their commercial losses and the government needs to pay the promised subsidy to the discoms. • The states will still be able to thwart open access by citing technical issues, meaning a **lack of transmission capacity**.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES OF MINISTRY OF POWER

URJA (Urban Jyoti Abhiyan) App	• The **Power Finance Company** created the app. The performance of Discoms in IT-enabled municipalities is being put in front of the public as part of a digital project with the **goal of fostering healthy competition**. • The App **evaluates the effectiveness of Discoms** based on a range of **consumer-centric metrics,** including the resolution of customer complaints, the opening of new service connections, the typical number of disruptions experienced by customers, etc.
Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)	• In addition to offering standalone **Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based systems** for un-electrified families in distant and inaccessible locations, it was launched to achieve nationwide household electrification by the end of March 2019. • **Implementation:** The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd carried it out. • **Highlights of scheme:** ○ In accordance with the **Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data from 2011**, all homes in rural areas and economically underprivileged households in urban areas that have at least one deprivation received free energy. ○ For recipients, **one DC power plug, one DC fan, and five LED lights**. Also, it comes with five years of Repair and Maintenance (R&M).

National Power Portal (NPP)	• It is a **centralised platform for the collection and dissemination of data** for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in India (via GIS enabled navigation and visualisation chart windows). • The **NPP Dashboard** also serves as the centralised user interface for all prior government-launched Power Sector Applications like TARANG, UJALA, VIDYUT PRAVAH, GARV, URJA, and MERIT.
Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme	• The **National Mission for Improved Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)** launched the PAT Programme in 2008 with the goal of enhancing energy efficiency in Indian enterprises and thus lowering greenhouse gas emissions. • One of the programmes included in the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** is NMEEE.  • It includes information on **13 energy-intensive industries**, such as TPP, cement, aluminium, iron and steel, pulp and paper, fertiliser, and petroleum refineries, among others. • **According to it**, the government restricts the amount of energy that certain industries (designated consumers) may use and specifies a time frame of three years, referred to as one PAT cycle, by which this restriction must be reached. • **Energy savings certificates (ESCerts),** which can be exchanged for goods with businesses that didn't meet their aims, are given to those who exceeded their goals.

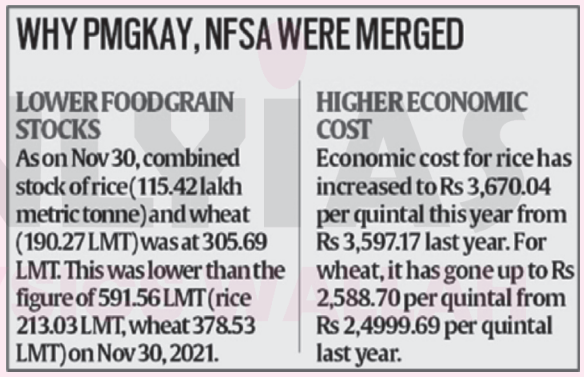


15 Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSA), 2013

News: The Union Cabinet recently decided to allocate free foodgrains to all 81 crore beneficiaries who are covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) till December 2023.

Introduction	• Under the NFSA, the Union government offers food grains i.e., **rice at Rs. 3 per kg, wheat at Rs. 2 per kg, and coarse grains at Rs.1 per kg.**
Aims & Objectives	• By guaranteeing **access to sufficient, high-quality food** at affordable rates, the legislation seeks to safeguard people's food and nutritional security.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries:** The NITI Aayog calculated the state-by-state coverage using data from the NSSO's 2011–12 Household Consumption Spending Survey. ○ The **NFSA covers 75% of the population in rural areas and 50% of the population in urban areas.** • Under the NFSA, recipient **households fall into one of two categories**: 1. **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** Regardless of the number of family members, AAY households are entitled to 35 kg of food every month. 2. **Priority Households:** Depending on the size of their family, priority households receive food grains (each member 5 kg per month).
Benefits	• Under the Public Distribution System, food grains would be offered at significantly discounted rates. • The Act **guarantees women's and children's nutritional support**. The MDM and ICDS programmes would grant pregnant and nursing women the right to complimentary, nutrient-dense meals. • Under the MDM and ICDS programmes, **kids between the ages of 6 and 14 would also be eligible for free, nutrient-dense meals.** • **Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers** are also given maternity benefits worth at least Rs. 6000. • The Act further empowers women by designating the eldest female household member as the household's head and authorised to issue ration cards.



Note	• The **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** has been discontinued by the government: ○ It was introduced in 2020 alongside Covid-19, under which 5 kilograms of free food grains were given to every citizen in addition to their 5 kg NFSA allocation of food grains purchased at a discount. ○ The **NFSA and the PMGKAY have now been merged.**
Significance	• **Global food security** refers to everyone having access to affordable, wholesome food at all times. The availability, accessibility, consumption, and stability of food are its defining traits. • **The right to food is not explicitly stated in the Indian Constitution.** Before the NFSA was passed, the right to life guaranteed by Article 21 was understood to include the right to a dignified life, which might include the right to food and other requirements of life.

ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD (ONORC)

News: Assam has implemented the One Nation One Ration Card, making it the 36th State/UT to do so (ONORC).

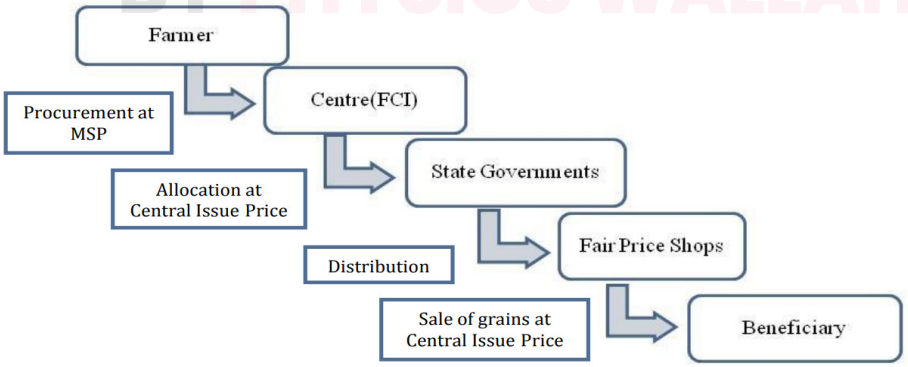
Introduction	• The scheme **provides for a national ration card** that will enable migrant workers and their families to access the public distribution system (PDS) benefits from any fair price shops across the country.
Aims & Objectives	• To enable the mobility of all NFSA beneficiaries' current ration cards, **enabling them to become AtmaNirbhar for their food security** anywhere in the nation. • To enable seamless **lifting of their entitled subsidized foodgrains** (in part or full) from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) of their choice. • To make it possible for family members to **withdraw the needed amount of food from the FPS** of their choosing at home or anywhere else using the same ration card and balance.
Salient Features	• **Coverage:** The ONORC programme is providing coverage to 65 crores of people. The programme has covered 80 percent of the beneficiaries who have registered with the NFSA. ○ Once all states and UTs are included in the programme, 81 crore beneficiaries are expected to receive benefits. • **Implementation:** This scheme is being implemented under the Integrated Management of PDS (IMPDS.) The programme has been implemented in 25 states and UTs. • To help beneficiaries, the government will establish a helpline number. • **MERA RATION mobile application:** Launched to make the most of the ONORC plan, the "MERA RATION" mobile application is another component of the ONORC plan. ○ The smartphone app, which is accessible in 13 languages, offers a wealth of essential real-time information to the recipients.

Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS)

- Implementing "one nation, one ration card" means allowing people to use their ration cards at any fair price shop (FPS) in the country to buy food.
- Establishment of a national data repository for the purpose of reducing beneficiary data duplication (Aadhaar based).
- Use of cutting-edge data analytics methods to create ongoing improvements.

TARGETED PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (TPDS)

- The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a crucial tool for alleviating poverty by providing the **population living below the poverty line** with the minimal amount of food grains they need at prices that are significantly subsidised.
- TPDS aims to offer **subsidised food and gasoline** to the underprivileged through a network of ration shops.

Aims & Objectives	• It strives to give poor and vulnerable individuals **food security.** • It offers fuel that is subsidised for use in homes for **lighting and cooking**.
Salient Features	• With 34% of all cardholders in our sample participating in this programme, it is the **largest food distribution programme in the world.** • The **Central and State/Union Territory (UT) governments jointly oversee** the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). • The procurement, distribution, and transportation of food grains to the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India are **the responsibility of the Central Government**.  • The **respective State/UT governments are responsible for overseeing and monitoring** the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs), allocating and distributing food grains within the States/UTs, identifying eligible beneficiaries, giving ration cards to them, and other operational duties. • To enhance domestic food grain purchase and storage, the Indian government formed the **FCI and the Committee on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).** • Under the TPDS, all ration card holders are split into APL and BPL families. ○ BPL families pay half as much for staple items like sugar, cereals and kerosene as APL families do.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVES OF MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

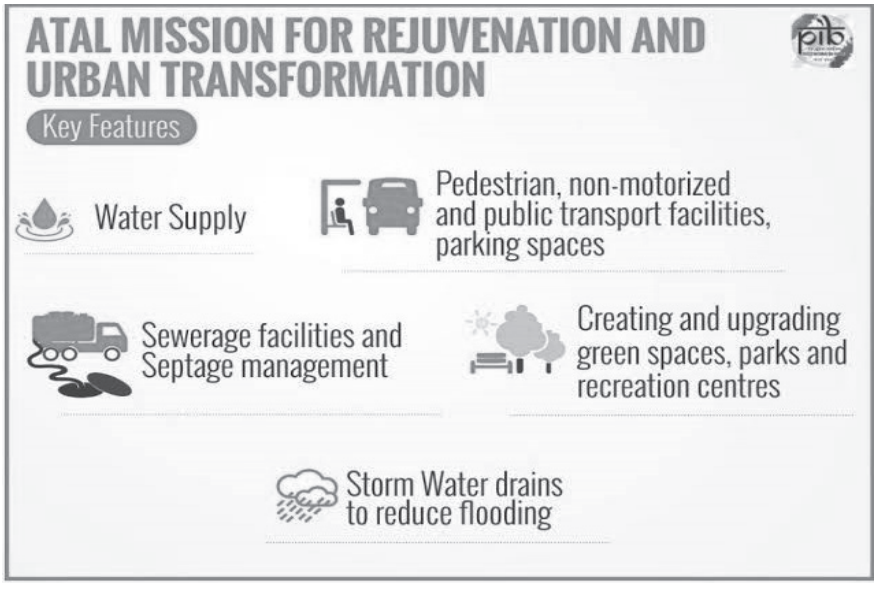
Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)	• At the farm gate or Mandi, **promote direct purchases from farmers or farmers' associations.** • Keeping a **strategic buffer supply** to thwart hoarding and unethical speculating. • **Protecting consumers** by providing these goods at fair costs through a controlled stock release. • **NOTE:** Since 2003, the Ministry of Trade & Industry has also had a PSF formed to offer financial assistance to small-scale producers of coffee, tea, rubber, and tobacco who have land holdings of up to four hectares.
Integrated Grievance Redress Mechanism (INGRAM)	• This portal was established to **spread knowledge, offer guidance, and address consumer complaints.** • Also, the portal serves as a **central repository for customer complaints.** • Additionally, it unites all the participants on **a single platform**. • It offers the option of **registering issues online**, which would be resolved within 60 days.

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16 Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

ATAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION – AMRUT 2.0

- The AMRUT project is an initiative to bring essential public services to urban areas to enhance quality of life, with a major **focus on the underprivileged and the impoverished**.
- It is the **first national water mission** that is specifically focused, and it was launched in **500 cities, reaching 60% of the urban population.**

Aims & Objectives	• **In order to fulfil water needs**, restore water bodies, better manage aquifers, reuse treated wastewater, and promote a circular economy of water, it will build on the success of AMRUT. • **In 500 AMRUT cities**, it will completely cover sewage and septic systems. • It is anticipated that **treated wastewater will be recycled and used** to meet 40% of industrial demand and 20% of urban water needs. To ensure the sustainability of natural resources, freshwater bodies will be protected against pollution under the Mission. • **Pey Jal Survekshan** will be carried out in cities to make sure that water is distributed fairly, that wastewater is reused, and that water bodies are mapped.
Salient Features	• By establishing over 68 crore tap connections, 100% of the households in 4,700 urban local bodies will have **access to water.** • By installing 64 crore **sewer and septage connections**, 500 AMRUT cities will have 100% coverage of these systems. 

	• **Embrace the circular economy's** guiding principles (Generating wealth from waste using 3Rs). ○ By creating a **City Water Balance Plan (CWBP)** for each city that focuses on recycling and reusing treated sewage, restoring water bodies, and water conservation, AMRUT 2.0 will advance the circular economy of water. • Encourage the **preservation and renewal of surface and groundwater resources**. • **Technology for data-driven water management** Use the most recent technologies and abilities available worldwide.
Significance	• With the help of this reform, India's ranking in the **World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report (DBR) 2020** of obtaining construction licences rose from 181 to 27. • **Energy-saving LED lights** have replaced 89 lakh traditional streetlights, resulting in an estimated 195 crore units of energy saved annually.

DEEN DAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA- URBAN (NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOODS MISSION): DAY-NULM

- It is a programme run by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs that aims to **lessen urban poor households' vulnerability and poverty.**

Aims & Objectives	• To increase through **handholding support** the ability of the urban poor, their institutions, and the machinery engaged in implementing livelihood development and poverty reduction programmes. • To create unique sections within homeless shelters and **provide special service links for the needs of particularly vulnerable parts** of the urban homeless, such as the dependent children, elderly, crippled, mentally ill, and recovering patients. • To create **solid rights-based connections** with other programmes that cover the urban homeless population's right to food, healthcare, education, etc. • **To guarantee that populations that are homeless have access to a range of entitlements**, such as social security pensions, PDS, ICDS, food programmes, drinking water, sanitation, identity, financial inclusion, school admittance, etc., as well as affordable housing.
Salient Feature	• **Component:** There are two parts to the NULM scheme: 1. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation will implement the **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (Urban),** which is the urban component. 2. The Ministry of Rural Development will carry out **the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana**'s rural component.

Significance	• **Self-Employment Program:** The urban poor can obtain a bank loan at a rate of interest of 7% if they want to start their own microbusinesses or self-employment projects. • **Self Help Groups**: All urban poor SHGs are eligible to apply for bank loans at an interest rate of 7%. All women's SHGs that repay their loans on time will receive an additional 3 percent interest subsidy. • **Urban street sellers are** the focus of the National Urban Livelihood Mission, which strives to improve their skills. • Moreover, **NULM assists microenterprises** with finance enablement and business development.

SMART CITY MISSION

News: Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has announced that all 100 smart cities will have Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCCs), under Smart Cities Mission (SCM).

Introduction	• It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, launched in June **2015 to transform 100 cities** to provide the necessary core infrastructure and clean and sustainable environment to enable a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of "Smart Solutions".
Aims & Objectives	• To **encourage the development of cities** that offer basic services, fair living conditions, a healthy environment, and the use of "smart" solutions. • **Make cities inclusive**, liveable, and sustainable (Area-based development). • And make **work opportunities** available to all.
Salient Feature	• One of its strategic components is **"area-based development,"** which comprises "smart solutions" that are applied to bigger areas of the city and involves city improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment), and city extension (greenfield development).  • The programme **evaluates a number of indicators** to monitor urban development, including the Municipal Performance Index, the City GDP framework, the Climate Smart Cities evaluation framework, etc. • **Funding:** During the course of five years, the Central Government will provide financial support of Rs. 48,000 crores, or on average Rs. 100 crore per city, every year. The State/Urban Local Bodies shall contribute an equal amount on a matching basis (ULB).

	○ **Additional resources** from ULB funds, grants from the Finance Commission, creative financing methods including municipal bonds, other government initiatives, and borrowings. • **100 cities have been selected** to be developed as Smart Cities under the mission. A minimum of five years is given for a city to be completed. • Under the mission, the government aims to focus on innovative digital technologies **interlinked with its 'Digital India'**, providing technology solutions such as surveillance systems to reduce crime and improve the safety of residents. • Projects related to **e-governance, mobility, integrated traffic management and solid waste management** have also been envisaged. • ICCC will act as the "**nerve centre**" for operations management in the city with day-to-day exception handling and disaster management. • The ICCCs are now also linked to **the CCTNS** (Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems) network under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**

SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDDHI PROGRAM

News: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi' program in additional 126 cities across 14 States/UT.

Introduction	• It is a separate PMSVANidhi initiative that was introduced on January 4th, 2021 in 125 cities with the **goal of mapping the socioeconomic profile** of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide **social security benefits to street vendors** for their holistic development and socio-economic upliftment.
Salient Features	• **Implementation:** Quality Council of India (QCI) is the Implementing Partner • Under the program, socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families is conducted to assess their eligibility for Eight Government of India's welfare schemes and facilitate sanctions of eligible schemes. • **These Eight schemes include**: 1) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, 2) PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, 3) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, 4) Building and other Constructions Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (BOCW), 5) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, 6) National Food Security Act (NFSA)-portability benefit – One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), 7) Janani Suraksha Yojana and 8) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. • **The socio-economic profiling** will also help States if they deem fit to extend their State-specific welfare schemes & benefits to the eligible PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families.

Quality Council of India (QCI)

- Quality Council of India (QCI) was **established as a National body for Accreditation in 1996**.
- Accordingly, QCI was set up through a PPP model as an independent autonomous organization with the support of Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations:
  1. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
  2. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
  3. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- **Objectives**: To create a mechanism for independent third-party assessment of products, services, and processes.
- It is **governed by a Council of 38 members** with **equal representations of government, industry and consumers**.
- **Chairperson of QCI:** appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the industry to the government.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

PM SVANIDHI SCHEME

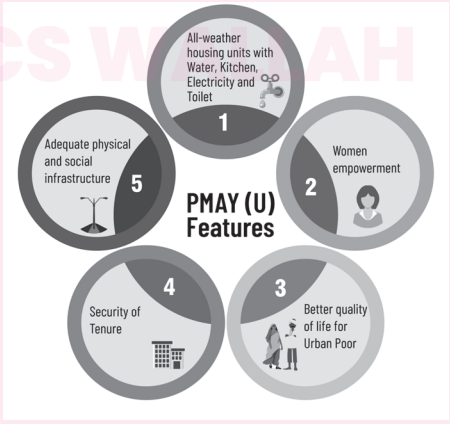
News: The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme has been extended beyond March, 2022.

Introduction	• It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2020 as a **Central Sector Scheme.**
Aims & Objectives	• To **facilitate affordable working capital loans** of up to ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy @7% on regular repayment. The street vendors are not required to pay any collateral for the loan.
Salient Features	• **Implementing Agency**: SIDBI has been appointed as the implementation agency for scheme administration. • **Features:** ○ The scheme provides **Graded Guarantee Cover**, to Lending Institutions, on a portfolio basis. ○ The street vendors also stand a chance to avail a loan of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively on timely repayment of the loan. ○ To encourage digital transactions a cashback up to ₹1,200 on digital transactions at ₹100 per month is provided to the street vendors under the scheme.

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA-URBAN (PMAY-U)

News: The Centre has committed Rs 2.01 lakh crore for the PMAY-U, of which Rs 1.18 lakh crore has been released and Rs 1.10 lakh crore has been spent.

Introduction	• The PMAY-U, a flagship Mission of GoI **being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), was launched on 25th June 2015.** • **Housing for Everyone by 2022,** a government initiative being carried out by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, includes Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (MoHUA). • By **offering a rebate on the Interest Rate** of a Home Loan during Repayment via EMI, it makes Home Loans Affordable for the Urban Poor (Equated Monthly Installments). • It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS),** except for Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS), which is a Central Sector Scheme. • The **Mission promotes women's empowerment** by providing the ownership of houses in the name of a female member or in a joint name.
Aims & Objectives	• It envisions provision of Housing for All by 2022, when the Nation completes **75 years of its Independence.**
Salient Features	• 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 sections through credit linked subsidy. ○ Affordable Housing in Partnership with **Public & Private sectors.** ○ **Subsidy** for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement. ○ **Credit linked subsidy component** will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme while other three components will be implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). • **Ownership of houses**: Houses are to be allotted in the name of adult female members 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.



	• **Coverage**: The scheme covers the entire urban area of the country, i.e., all statutory towns as per Census 2011 and towns notified subsequently, including Notified Planning/ Development Areas. • **Verticals**: The scheme is being implemented through four verticals: 1. **Beneficiary Linked Construction (BLC)**: Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction/enhancement. 2. **Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)**: Promotion of affordable housing for weaker sections through credit subsidy. 3. **Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)**: Creation of houses by both public and private sectors. 4. **In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR)**: Rehabilitation of slum dwellers with the participation of private developers using land as a resource.

PROJECT NIPUN

News: Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs launched a project named National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers (NIPUN) for the promotion of Upskilling of 1 lakh Nirman Workers.

Introduction	• The project NIPUN is an **initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).** • This project is **running under the flagship programme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**
Aims & Objectives	• More than **1 lakh construction employees** are to be trained through new skill-upgrading programmes. • Also, it will **open up employment prospects for employees abroad**.
Salient Features	• **Implementing Agency**: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). NSDC workers under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It will be responsible for the overall execution of training, monitoring and candidate tracking. ○ It will provide trainees "Kaushal Bima," a three-year accidental insurance plan with a 2 lakh rupee coverage limit. ○ The learners will also receive digital skills training in areas like cashless transactions, entrepreneurship orientation, and EPF and BOCW services. • **Implementation process**: The project implementation is divided into three parts: 1. Training through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) at construction sites. 2. Training through Fresh Skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure Sector Skill Council (SSC). 3. International Placement through industries/builders/contractors.

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA - GRAMIN (PMAY-G)

News: Recently, the data shared by the government over 69% houses constructed under PMAY in rural India are either wholly or jointly owned by women.

Introduction	• It was launched by the Prime Minister in **2016** with the **aim of constructing 2.95 crore houses.**
Aims & Objectives	• Under the scheme, **financial assistance is provided for construction of pucca houses to all houseless and households living in dilapidated houses.**
Salient Features	• **Implemented** in rural areas throughout India except Delhi and Chandigarh. • **Funding Pattern:** ○ The cost of unit assistance is to be shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and hilly states. ○ The unit assistance given to beneficiaries under the programme is Rs 1, 20,000 in plain areas and to Rs 1, 30,000 in hilly states/difficult areas /Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts. • **Features:** ○ The **beneficiary is entitled to 90/95 days of unskilled labor from MGNREGA.** ○ The beneficiary would be facilitated to avail loan of up to Rs.70,000/- for construction of the house which is optional. ○ Funds will be transferred electronically directly to the account of the beneficiary. • **Target Group:** ○ Identification of beneficiaries eligible for assistance and their prioritisation to be done using information from **Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC)** ensuring total transparency and objectivity. ○ The list will be presented to Gram Sabha to identify beneficiaries who have been assisted before or who have become ineligible due to other reasons. The finalized list will be published. ○ **Gram Sabha** will need to justify in writing with reasons for any alteration of priority in the original list.

BHARAT TAP INITIATIVE

News: The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the BHARAT TAP initiative and Nirmal Jal Prayas Initiative at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition. This exhibition is aimed at products and services related to the plumbing, water and sanitation industry.

Introduction	• It is a **concept to use low flow tap and fixtures**, which will provide low-flow, sanitary-ware at scale, and thus reduce water consumption at the source significantly.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide low-flow, sanitary ware at scale to reduce water consumption at source considerably.
Salient Features	• By **reducing the financial obstacles** that prevent those in need from having access to safe water and domestic sanitation, it aims to assist in resolving the worldwide water issue. • As it is crucial to **preserve underground water, Nirmal Jal Prayas' programme** will investigate mapping groundwater and strive to conserve 500 billion litres of water annually. • The **women's division of NAREDCO** was established in 2021 with the goal of empowering female entrepreneurs and promoting their involvement in the real estate industry and related disciplines.
Significance	• It is predicted to **save about 40% of the water**. As a result, less water and energy will be needed for pumping, transporting, and purification, which will lead to water and energy savings. • The country will swiftly adopt this proposal and put a **renewed emphasis on water conservation measures** as a result.

NAMASTE SCHEME

News: The Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs has said that the Government has formulated a NAMASTE scheme for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

Introduction	• **NAMASTE** - National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem • **Nodal Ministries**: Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. • **Erstwhile Scheme**: This scheme replaces the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.
Aims & Objectives	• To **achieve outcomes like** zero fatalities in sanitation work in India, no sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter and all Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.
Salient Features	• **Implementation**: The scheme will be implemented from 2022 to 2026 across 500 cities and townships already notified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) which aims to equip cities with basic quality of life services.

National Heritage City Development And Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)	• It was launched as a **central sector scheme** and the scheme ended on 31st March, 2019. • **Four theme areas** are physical infrastructure, institutional infrastructure, economic infrastructure, and social infrastructure. • Aim is to prioritise the **development of heritage cities holistically**. • To **maintain and revitalise the heritage city's essence** in order to reflect the city's distinctive personality by promoting an aesthetically pleasing, approachable, educational, and secure environment.
Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)	• PM SVANidhi's term has just been extended by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** from March 2022 to December 2024. • It is a Central Sector Scheme. • It was **started with the goal** of offering street vendors inexpensive working capital loans up to $10,000 to help them resume their livelihoods after being negatively impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. It is expected to help more than 50 lakh street vendors. • Small Industries Development Bank of India(SIDBI) is the **implementing partner**.

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17 Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

SAGARMALA PROGRAMME

News: Sagarmala, the flagship programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways completed seven years in 2022.

Introduction	• The **Sagarmala is a series of projects to leverage the country's coastline and inland waterways to drive industrial development**. • The concept of Sagarmala was **approved by the Union Cabinet on March 25, 2015**. • The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways' main initiative is **to advance port-led development** in the nation by utilising its **7,500 km of coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways,** and advantageous placement on major maritime trade routes.
Aims & Objectives	• The Sagarmala Programme's **major goal is to lower logistics costs for domestic and EXIM trade** with the least amount of infrastructure expenditure possible. • **Port modernization** and new port development. • **Port connectivity enhancement** port-led industrialization coastal community development.
Salient Features	• When possible, the programme has used **a tiered approach to implementation**, starting with a first pass at putting maritime projects into place through PPPs. • **Port-led growth** prioritises sectors with a high level of logistics (where transportation either represents a high proportion of costs, or timely logistics are a critical success factor). • **Implementation:** ○ State governments would establish **State Sagarmala committees**, led by the chief minister or the minister in charge of ports, to carry this out. ○ A **Sagarmala Development Company (SDC)** will be established at the federal level to offer equity support to help several special purpose entities (SPVs) set up for various projects. • **Sagarmala Programme's components:** ○ **Port Modernization & New Port Development:** De-bottlenecking and capacity extension of current ports, as well as the development of new Greenfield ports, are examples of port modernization and new port development.

	○ **Port Connection Development:** By improving port connectivity to the interior, multimodal logistics solutions, such as domestic waterways, can reduce the cost and time of moving cargo (inland water transport and coastal shipping). ○ **Port-linked Industrialization:** To cut the cost and time of logistics for EXIM and domestic freight, port-linked industrialization involves creating industrial clusters close to ports and Coastal Economic Zones. ○ **Coastal Community Development:** Fostering the sustainable development of coastal communities through initiatives aimed at generating income from the fishing industry, coastal tourism, and other means. ○ **Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways Transport:** Promotion of environmentally friendly and sustainable coastal and inland waterway transportation.

Difference between Bharatmala and Sagarmala:

- **Bharatmala** is an umbrella programme to enhance road connectivity across the country while **Sagarmala** is the government's flagship programme to develop and modernize ports along the coast line.
- Under the 'Bharatmala Project', construction or upgradation of about 35,000 kilometers of national highways is to be undertaken by 2022.
- Under the 'Sagarmala Project', a network of good-quality roads is being constructed in coastal areas and areas adjoining ports.

PM GATI SHAKTI - NATIONAL MASTER PLAN FOR MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY

Introduction	• The government unveiled the PM Gati Shakti programme in October 2021, as part of which a portal would be established to **connect 16 Ministries for coordinated planning and execution** of infrastructure connectivity projects.
Aims & Objectives	• To **deal with the significant disconnect** between macro-planning and micro-implementation caused by a lack of coordination and advanced information exchange as a result of departmental thinking and working in isolation. • To **build high-calibre infrastructure for sustainable growth**, which will stimulate economic activity and generate jobs on a broad scale.
Salient Features	• **Infrastructural plans from various Ministries and State Governments**, including UDAN, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, etc., would be incorporated. ○ To increase connection and boost the competitiveness of Indian businesses, economic zones such as textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fisheries clusters, and agro zones would be covered.

- Additionally, it will make substantial use of technology, including BiSAG-spatial N's planning tools using ISRO images (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).



- **The Plan is supported by six pillars:**
  1. **Comprehensiveness:** Through a single centralised site, it will encompass all of the Ministries' and Departments' ongoing and future programmes.
  2. **Prioritization:** By cross-sectoral interactions, this will enable various Departments to prioritise their initiatives.
  3. **Optimization:** After identifying crucial gaps, the National Master Plan will help various ministries plan for initiatives.
  4. **Synchronization:** Individual Ministries and Departments frequently operate in isolation, and the lack of collaboration in project planning and execution leads to delays.
  5. **Analytical:** The plan will compile all the data in one location using GIS-based spatial planning and analytical tools with more than 200 levels, giving the executing agency more visibility.
  6. **Dynamic:** Now that satellite images will regularly provide on-the-ground progress and project progress will be updated on the GIS platform, all Ministries and Departments will be able to visualise, review, and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects.

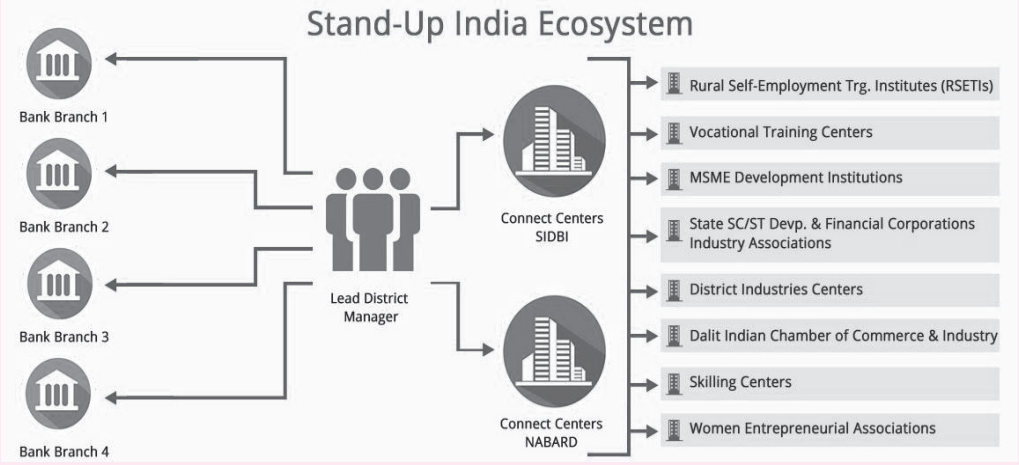
- According to sources, studies peg **India's logistics expenses at 13–14% of GDP**, compared to 7-8% in wealthy nations. India's exports are far less competitive due to these high logistics costs.
- The programme works hand in hand with the **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP),** which was unveiled to offer a clear framework for monetization and provide potential investors with a ready list of assets to spark investor interest.
- A comprehensive and well-rounded approach to transport connections can tremendously **aid "Made in India"** and combine all types of transportation.

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18 Ministry of Finance

STAND UP INDIA SCHEME

News: The Stand-up India programme was introduced by the Indian government on April 5, 2016. On April 5, 2022, it would have been six years old.

Introduction	• In order to encourage **entrepreneurship at the grassroots level** with an emphasis on economic empowerment and job creation, it was introduced in April 2016.
Aims & Objectives	• **Assisting at least one SC or ST borrower and one women borrower per bank branch** in obtaining loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for the establishment of new businesses in the manufacturing, service, or trading sectors.
Salient Features	• **Eligibility:** ○ SC/ST and/or female business owners; at least 18 years old. ○ Only Greenfield projects are eligible for loans under the programme. ○ Borrowers shouldn't owe any banks or other financial institutions any money. ○ In the event of non-individual businesses, a SC/ST or woman entrepreneur must possess at least 51% of the stock and the controlling interest.  • **Stand-Up Connect Centers:** include the locations of SIDBI (the Small Industries Development Bank of India) and NABARD (the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development) (SUCC).

Significance	• In the last five years, **banks have approved Rs 26,204 crore** to approximately 1,16,266 beneficiaries under the Scheme. • The programme has assisted over **93,094 female business owners**.

PRADHAN MANTRI VAYA VANDANA YOJANA (PMVVY)

News: The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is a **pension programme** that the Indian government launched specifically for **senior adults 60 years of age and older**. It was offered from May 4, 2017, until March 31, 2020.

- The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is a **pension programme** that the Indian government launched specifically for **senior adults 60 years of age and older**. It was offered from May 4, 2017, until March 31, 2020.
- The programme has been **extended for an additional three years through March 31, 2020, to March 31, 2023.**

Aims & Objectives	• It aims to provide **social security to senior citizens** and for the protection of the elderly against a fall in the interest rate due to unfavourable market conditions in the future.
Salient Features	• **Threshold:** Under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) programme, an individual may deposit a maximum of 15 lakh rupees. The policy's duration is set at 10 years. • **Eligibility:** The candidate must be an Indian national, 60 years of age or older and possess an Adhar Card. • **Other Features:** ○ The plan offers an **initial assured rate of return of 7.40% annually** for the years 2020–21, with the rate reset annually after that. ○ **During the 10-year insurance term**, pension is paid at the conclusion of each period in accordance with the frequency of monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or annual payments selected by the pensioner at the time of purchase. ○ The programme is **GST-exempt.** ○ After three policy years, a **loan up to 75% of the purchase price** will be permitted (to meet the liquidity needs). ○ The plan also **permits early exit** for the treatment of any serious or terminal sickness in oneself or one's spouse. ○ 98% of the Buying Price will be returned in the event of such an **early departure**.

PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA (PMMY)

News: Recently, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was discussed in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Minister of State for Finance.

Introduction	• It is a programme that the Honourable Prime Minister introduced on April 8, 2015, for **lending money to small and micro businesses** that are not corporations or farms. • According to PMMY, these loans are categorised as MUDRA loans. • With the exception of FY 2020–21 owing to the Covid–19 epidemic, the national-level targets under the scheme have been routinely met since its establishment.
Aims & Objectives	• **Funding the unfunded**: Providing loans up to Rs. 10 lakhs to those with business plans to make money from non-farming activities including manufacturing, processing, selling, or services but without the necessary funds to make the necessary investments. • **Reducing jobless economic growth**: Providing credit facilities to micro-enterprises can assist provide sources of employment and boost GDP overall while reducing the growth of the unemployed economy. • **Monitoring and regulating microfinance institutions (MFI)**: MUDRA Bank will assist in monitoring the network of microfinance institutions and facilitating new registration. • **Integrating the informal economy into the formal sector**: As incomes from the informal sector are not taxed, it will also help India expand its tax base. • **Promoting financial inclusion**: PMMY expands on the idea of financial inclusion with the aim to reach the last mile credit delivery to micro-businesses and taking the help of technology solutions.
Salient Features	• **Type of Loans:** Under PMMY, loans up to Rs. 10 lakh are made available through Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), including Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs), and other financial intermediaries. These MLIs fall into one of three categories—Shishu, Kishore, or Tarun—based on the borrowers' stage of development and funding requirements. ○ **Shishu** will cover loans up to Rs. 50,000, and ○ **Kishore** will cover loans from Rs 50,000 up to Rs. 5 lakh. ○ **Tarun:** covering loans from Rs 5 lakh up to Rs. 10 lakh **Sectors covered:** • **Land Transport Sector:** Loans to support the purchase of transport vehicles. These vehicles could be used for goods or personal transport. • **Service Sector:** This includes community services, social services, or personal services. • **Food Product Sector:** Support for small scale food industries. • **Textile Sector:** Supporting micro textile industries that produce garment and non-garment products.

Significance	• The Plan, which was **developed as a targeted response** to an unprecedented circumstance, intends to reduce the cost of loan for borrowers at the "**bottom of the pyramid**" in order to ease their financial strain. • It will encourage individuals to make **consistent repayments of loans.**

PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA

News: Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has completed 7 years of providing social security benefits.

Introduction	• It was launched in the year 2015. • The **nodal ministry** is the **Ministry of Finance.**
Aims & Objectives	• To ensure that the people from the unorganised section of the country are financially secure, and to cover the exigencies in old age.
Salient Features	• **Eligibility**: People in the age group of 18 to 70 years. • **Premium**: Subscriber needs to deposit a premium of Rs.12/- per annum to be auto debited from subscriber's bank account. • **Coverage**: It provides a cover of Rs. Two Lakh for accidental death or total permanent disability and Rs One Lakh in case of permanent partial disability. • **Implementation**: The scheme is offered by Public Sector General Insurance Companies or any other General Insurance Company who are willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with banks for this purpose.

PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA (PMJJBY)

News: Recently, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) completed 7 years of providing social security net.

Introduction	• The scheme was launched in the year 2015. • The **nodal ministry** is the **Ministry of Finance.**
Salient Features	• **Eligibility**: People in the age group of 18 to 50 years • **Premium**: The subscriber needs to deposit a premium of Rs.330/- per annum to be auto debited from the subscriber's bank account. • **Coverage**: It offers a renewable one year term cover of 2 lakh rupees in case of death for any reason. • **Implementation**: The scheme is being offered by Life Insurance Corporation and all other life insurers who are willing to offer the product on similar terms with necessary approvals and tie up with banks for this purpose.

ATAL PENSION YOJANA (APY)

News: Recently, a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Finance stated that Income tax payers will soon be disallowed to be a part of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

Introduction	• To offer social security for those employed in the **unorganised sector**, as these individuals are typically low-income.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide social security for the people working in an unorganized sector as people working in such sectors mainly belong to a low-income group.
Salient Features	• **Administered By**: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) through the National Pension System (NPS). • **Eligibility**: This scheme is open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years and the contributions differ, based on the pension amount chosen. • **Benefits**: The subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years, based on the contributions made by the subscriber after joining the scheme. • Under the scheme, the spouse gets a monthly pension after the death of the subscriber. Further, the nominee gets the corpus amount of up to ₹8.5 lakh in the event of the death of the subscriber and the spouse. • **Contribution by Central Government**: The Central Government also co-contributes 50% of the subscriber's • **Contribution** of Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower.
National Pension System	• A **government-sponsored pension programme** is the NPS. • It was **introduced in 2004** for use by government workers. • Every Indian citizen between the ages of 18 and 65 can now join the NPS, whether they are a resident or not.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

- It is the **statutory authority** established by an enactment of the Parliament, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the National Pension System (NPS).
- It works under the **Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance.**
- It performs the function of appointing various intermediate agencies like Pension Fund Managers, Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) etc.
- It develops, promotes and regulates the pension industry under the NPS and also administers the APY.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY)

News: Recently, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completed eight years of successful implementation.

Introduction	• It is a **national mission to make a variety of financial services**, such as remittance, credit, insurance, pension, and banking savings and deposit accounts, accessible to all in an affordable way.
Aims & Objectives	• **Provide affordable access** to financial products and services. • **Use of technology** to increase reach and reduce costs.
Salient Features	• The Government has decided to extend the comprehensive PMJDY program beyond 2018 with some modifications: ○ Focus shifts from 'Every Household' to Every Unbanked Adult. ○ RuPay Card Insurance – Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh for PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018. ○ Enhancement in **overdraft facilities** – OD limit doubled from Rs 5,000/- to Rs 10,000/-; OD upto Rs 2,000/-(without conditions). ○ Increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to 65 years.
Basic tenets of the scheme	• **Banking the unbanked**: Opening of Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) account with minimal paperwork, relaxed KYC, e-KYC, account opening in camp mode, zero balance & zero charges. • **Securing the unsecured**: Issuance of Indigenous Debit cards for cash withdrawals & payments at merchant locations, with free accident insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakhs. • **Funding the unfunded**: Other financial products like micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption, micro-pension & micro-credit.
Six Pillars of the Scheme	1. **Universal access to banking services**: Branch and Banking Correspondents. 2. **Overdraft Facility**: Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000/- to every eligible adult. 3. **Financial Literacy Programme**: Promoting savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, using basic mobile phones for banking. 4. **Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund**: To provide banks some guarantee against defaults. 5. **Insurance**: Accident cover up to Rs. 1,00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015. 6. **Pension scheme:** for the Unorganized sector.

INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME

News: Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance notified India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme), a scheme for financial support for project development expenses of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects.

Introduction	• The IIPDF Scheme was set up in 2007. It is a Central Sector Scheme with total outlay of Rs 150 crore for a period of three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25.
Aims & Objectives	• It is aimed to provide financial support for quality project development activities
Salient Feature	• It is available to **the Sponsoring Authorities for PPP projects** for meeting the project development costs. • It would be necessary for the Sponsoring Authority to create and empower a PPP Cell to undertake PPP project development activities and also address larger policy and regulatory issues. • **Financial Outlay:** ○ The **IIPDF will contribute up to 75%** of the project development expenses to the Sponsoring Authority as an interest free loan. The balance 25% will be co-funded by the Sponsoring Authority. ○ **On successful completion of the bidding process**, the project development expenditure would be recovered from the successful bidder. ○ However, **in the case of failure of the bid**, the loan would be converted into grant. ○ **In case the Sponsoring Authority does not conclude the bidding process** for some reason, the entire amount contributed would be refunded to the IIPDF.

EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS)

News: Due to the pandemic's disruption to the hospitality and associated industries, the government recently approved an expansion of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). The sum for these industries has been enhanced by the government by Rs 50,000 crore, from Rs 4.5 lakh crore to Rs 5 lakh crore, and is valid through March 31, 2023.

Introduction	• Under ECLGS, National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) would provide 100% guarantee coverage in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) **facility for collateral Free Automatic Loans up to Rs. 5 lakh** to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers.
Aims & Objective	• To help banks, NBFCs, and other lenders give emergency credit to companies/ MSMEs affected by the Covid-19 outbreak and failing to fulfil their working capital requirements, ECLGS wants to offer 100% guaranteed coverage to them.

Salient Features	**The government periodically issued ECLGS 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, and now ECLGS 4.0 in an effort** to increase the value and impact of ECLGS by offering more assistance to MSMEs. • **ECLGS 1.0:** For extending credit to companies having outstanding debt of up to Rs 25 crore as of Feb. 29, 2020, with a cap on annual revenue of Rs 100 crore for the fiscal year 2019–2020. A one-year moratorium and a four-year repayment period were both included. • **ECLGS 2.0:** The healthcare industry and 26 other challenged sectors identified by the Kamath Committee were included in the ECLGS scheme's expansion. • **ECLGS 3.0:** Under the initiative, loans would be available to business firms in the hospitality, travel & tourism, leisure, and athletic industries. • ECLGS 4.0: ○ Subject to a maximum additional ECLGS assistance to each borrower being limited to 40% or Rs 200 crore, whichever is lower, the cap of Rs 500 crore loan outstanding for eligibility is lifted. ○ 100% guarantee cover for loans up to Rs. 2 crore, with an interest rate maximum of 7.5%, given to hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and medical colleges for the construction of on-site oxygen producing plants. ○ Extra ECLGS support up to 10% of the outstanding balance as of February 29, 2020 for borrowers covered by ECLGS 1.0. ○ The Civil Aviation industry will be eligible for ECLGS 3.0.

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19 Ministry of Defence

ONE RANK ONE PENSION SCHEME

News: Recently, the Supreme Court requested information from the Center regarding the number of military members who have benefited from the "One Rank One Pension" (OROP) policy. The court further ruled that the Centre's position on OROP painted a much "rosier picture" than what is actually provided to the Military Forces pensioners.

Introduction	• Regardless of the date of retirement, **OROP refers to** the payment of the same pension to military officers for the same rank and the same amount of service. • **Prior to OROP**, former service members received pensions in accordance with the Pay Commission's recommendations at the time of their retirement.
Aims & Objectives	• Regardless of their retirement date, uniform pension payments shall be made to members of the armed forces retiring in the same rank with equivalent service. • To periodically close the gap between the pensions of former service members.
Salient Features	• **Four half-yearly payments** will be made to cover the back arrears. All widows, including combat widows, will, however, receive their back pay in a single instalment. • **All pensioners retiring in 2013** in the same rank and with the same amount of service will have their pensions re-fixed to the average of the minimum and maximum pension. • **Employees who elect to retire** on their own will not be covered by the OROP programme. • The pension would be adjusted in the future **every five years**. • **Prior to OROP**, former service members received pensions in accordance with the Pay Commission's recommendations at the time of their retirement.

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF) SCHEME

News: The Defence Minister has approved the enhancement of funding under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme to Rs 50 crore per project from Rs 10 crore.

Introduction	• As part of **the "Make in India" policy**, the Technological Development Fund (TDF) was formed to encourage self-reliance in defence technologies. • It is a MoD (Ministry of Défense) programme that **DRDO executes** to satisfy the needs of the Tri-Services, defence Production, and DRDO.

Aims & Objectives	• Creating an **ecosystem for promoting self-reliance** by building indigenous state-of-the-art systems for defence application. The scheme will provide a major fillip to the defence manufacturing sector by promoting self-reliance under the Make in India initiative
Salient Features	• **Executing Agency**: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). • **Features:** ○ Under the Scheme, DRDO extends financial support and expertise to upgrade existing products/ systems, processes, and applications. It helps firms in reducing production costs, improving functionality and quality. ○ The participation of public/private industries especially MSMEs and Startups is encouraged. ○ It facilitates up to 90% of the total project cost. Earlier, it was subject to the upper limit of Rs 10 crores, which is increased to Rs 50 crores now. ○ An entity with more than 49% foreign investment will not be eligible.

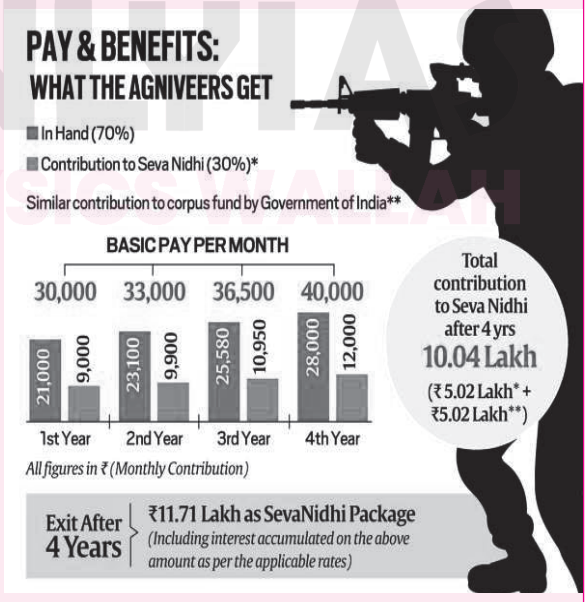
SEHAT INITIATIVE

News: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched services for home delivery of medicines for veterans and serving military personnel services under an online medical consultation platform named Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT).

Introduction	• Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT), a **tri-services teleconsultation programme** of the Ministry of Defence, is intended for all qualified troops and their dependents. • This is consistent with the government's dedication to **e-Governance and Digital India**. That has been a fantastic display of inventiveness, particularly at a time when the nation is fighting COVID-19.
Aims & Objectives	• It aims to **provide healthcare services to patients in their homes.**
Salient Features	• **SeHAT stay-home OPD** is a patient-to-doctor system where the patient can consult a doctor remotely through the internet using his smartphone, laptop, desktop or tablet. This initiative aims to provide quality healthcare services to patients from the comfort of their homes. • Furthermore, taking the **healthcare delivery right to the patient's doorsteps**, the Ministry of Defence launched another novel initiative of providing Home Delivery or Self Pickup of Medicines to patients seeking consultation on SeHAT.

AGNIPATH SCHEME

News: : To ease continuing education and the granting of suitable skill certificates to Agniveers, the MoD, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Skill Development, and Ministry of Entrepreneurship exchanged Memoranda of Understanding with key partners.

Introduction	• It is a programme for enlisting Indian youth in the armed forces. Agniveers will be the name given to the soldiers recruited under the plan. • The plan calls for hiring persons below officer rank (PBOR) for four years, including a six-month training period, in the armed forces.
Aims & Objectives	• It aims to give determined and patriotic young people the chance to enlist in the armed forces by giving them the **"Josh" and "Jazba"** • The **average age of the Indian Armed Forces is predicted to decrease** by around 4 to 5 years as a result. • The plan predicts that the average age of the armed forces, which is currently 32 years old, **will drop to 26 years old within six to seven years**.
Salient Features	• **Eligibility:** It is only applicable for personnel below officer ranks i.e., those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers. ○ Candidates must be between the **ages of 17.5 and 23 to be eligible.** ○ **Commission Officer:**The highest-ranking officers in the army are commission officers. In the Indian armed services, commissioned officers are the only members of that rank. They frequently serve on a commission under the president's authority and are mandated by law to defend the nation.  • Each year, 45,000 to 50,000 troops between the ages of 17.5 and 21 will be recruited. • **Just 25% of all recruits will be permitted to continue** under permanent commission for a further 15 years. • The planned MoUs will help the remaining 75% of Agni veers who will be demobilised with an **exit or "Seva Nidhi" package**.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVE OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti	• This initiative was started by the Department of Defence Production to **increase defence self-reliance.** • The initiative is being coordinated and carried out by the **Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA).** • Its goal is to **embed a culture of intellectual property rights (IPR)** into the Indian defence industry.
Defence Space Agency (DSA)	• The **Indian Armed Forces' DSA is a tri-service organisation** that oversees the Army, Navy, and Air Force's space capabilities, including their anti-satellite capability. • **Personnel for DSA** are drawn from each of the military's three branches. In November 2019, it began to function. • The organisation, which has its main office in Bengaluru, is **in charge of managing India's space-warfare equipment.** • The Defence Space Research Organization (DSRO) is the scientific agency in charge of creating space-warfare technologies and systems for the Defence Space Agency.

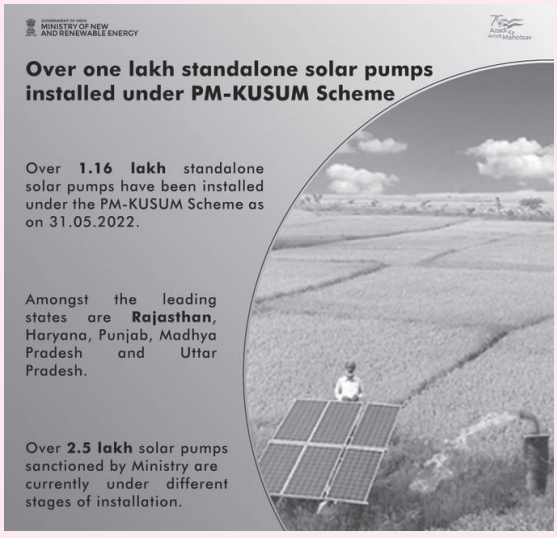
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20 Minister for New and Renewable Energy

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

News: By March 2026, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will have installed 30,000 MW of solar power capacity in rural India (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttham Mahabhiyan).

Introduction	• In order to encourage the **installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas** and lessen reliance on the grid in grid-connected areas, the MNRE introduced the PM-KUSUM in 2019. • **Components:** ○ 10,000 MW of decentralised, grid-connected renewable power plants on the ground. ○ Installation 20 lakh agricultural pumps powered by solar ○ Converting 15 lakh existing grid-connected agricultural pumps to solar power.
Aims & Objectives	• Its goal is to make it possible for farmers to **install solar energy production capacity on their dry land and sell it to the grid.** • By enabling farmers to **sell excess solar energy to the grid**, it also aims to boost their revenue.
Significance	• **Increase in revenue**: By exploiting dry/non-cultivable land, this scheme offers landowners a steady and ongoing source of income for 25 years. • **Employment:** This would enable the government sector to solarize pipe wells and carry out pump water irrigation projects by increasing green energy output and generating jobs in rural areas.



	• **Energy accessibility and security:** This system makes local solar and other renewable energy sources available, which are sufficient to operate agricultural pump units and rural load centres that mostly use electricity during the day. • **Transmission losses are reduced:** Since these power plants are placed close to substations or agricultural loads, which benefits both STUs and Discom. Also, this initiative aids Discom in achieving its RPO objectives. • **Cost reduction:** Solar pumps give farmers a dependable source of irrigation by reducing the need for diesel to operate diesel pumps. • **Environmentally Friendly:** This programme aids in reducing harmful emissions caused by diesel pump operation. • **Realizing national objectives:** This is in line with India's pledge to install 40% more non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.

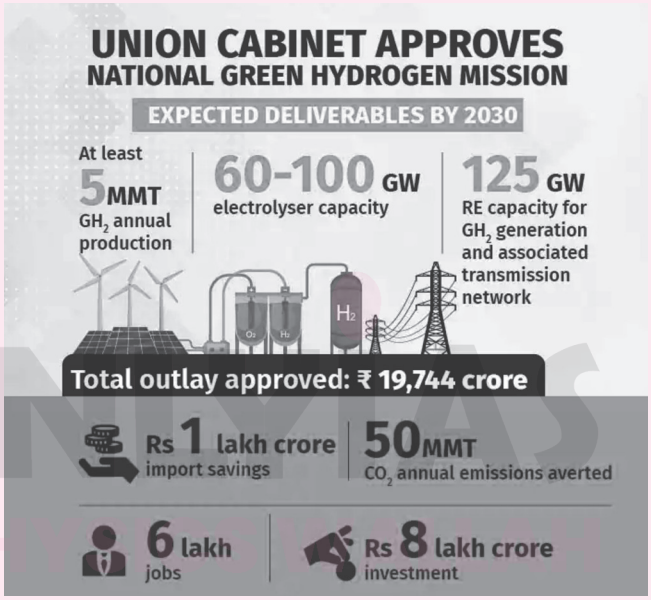
GRID CONNECTED ROOFTOP SOLAR PROGRAMME (PHASE-II)

News: A photograph of the installed system for the distribution utility is sufficient to qualify for benefits or a subsidy under the Rooftop solar scheme, which is made possible by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. Households are now free to install their own rooftop solar panels or to hire any vendor of their choice.

Introduction	• Households had to purchase rooftop solar panels from the listed vendors in order to be eligible for the program's advantages and subsidies in the past. • The Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Plan (Phase II), which is now being implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, **seeks to attain a total capacity of 40,000 MW** from Rooftop Solar Installations by the year 2022. • **Distribution businesses** are implementing this plan in the state (DISCOMs).
Aims & Objectives	• To encourage the **use of small, grid-connected SPV power plants and rooftop SPV power plants** in residential, communal, institutional, industrial, and commercial settings. • To **promote environmentally friendly solar electricity generation** and lessen reliance on fossil fuel-based electricity generating. • To **foster a climate that will encourage** corporate industry, state government, and individual involvement in the solar energy sector. • To establish a setting that will **facilitate the supply of solar energy** from rooftops and small plants to the grid.
Significance	• **An alternate energy source** to the grid's power supply. • **Environmental advantages:** It lessens the reliance on electricity produced by burning fossil fuels. • **Ability to deliver electricity to remote sites** and regions where it is challenging to build power stations and lay power lines because of the terrain. These areas include those that are not yet connected to the grid.

NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION

News: The Union Government has recently approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Introduction	• The mission's implementation guidelines will be developed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
Aims & Objectives	• The goal is to progressively wean India off fossil fuels by making it the world leader in the production of green hydrogen.
Salient Features	**Sub Component:** • **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT):** This programme aims to provide incentives for domestic electrolyser manufacture and green hydrogen production. • **Pilot projects:** To promote large-scale production or consumption of hydrogen, the Mission will identify and create Green Hydrogen Hubs that will assist pilot projects in developing end-use industries. • **Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership (SHIP):** The Mission will promote a goal-oriented, appropriately scaled-up Public-Private Partnership framework for R&D. • **Skill Development:** The Mission will also implement a skill development programme for the sector's personnel. 
Significance	• **High Calorific Value:** Switching to hydrogen helps us meet our climate goals and reduces natural gas imports because hydrogen has almost 2.5 times as much energy per tonne as natural gas. • **Alternative to Coke and Coal in Steel Production:** Decarbonizing this industry might have a big impact on India's climate goals. Hydrogen has the potential to replace coal and coke in the manufacturing of iron and steel. • **Fuel Cells in Electric Vehicles:** Hydrogen can be utilised successfully as a fuel for heavy-duty cars, and many automakers are already working nonstop to accomplish the feat. These vehicles emit water vapour as a by-product, which lowers their emissions of greenhouse gases. • **Refuelling at faster rate:** Hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles can refuel at the same rate as gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles, which gives them an inherent advantage over electric vehicles.

SURYAMITRA SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

News: Up to June 2022, a total of 51331 number of candidates have benefited from the skill development training provided under Suryamitra programme, out of which 26967 number of candidates gained employment.

Introduction	• **Implemented by:** National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) since 2015-16.
Aims & Objectives	• To train the youth of age above 18 years as solar PV technicians for installation, operation and maintenance of solar power projects.
Significance	• The **impact assessment report for Suryamitra training programme** reported that more than 90% of the trainees have reported improvement in technical know-how, improved performance in the sector and 88% of trainees reported an increase in job opportunities.

National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)

- It is an **autonomous specialized institute under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** located at **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- It is mandated for research and development, solar component testing and certification, capacity building and development of solar products and applications.

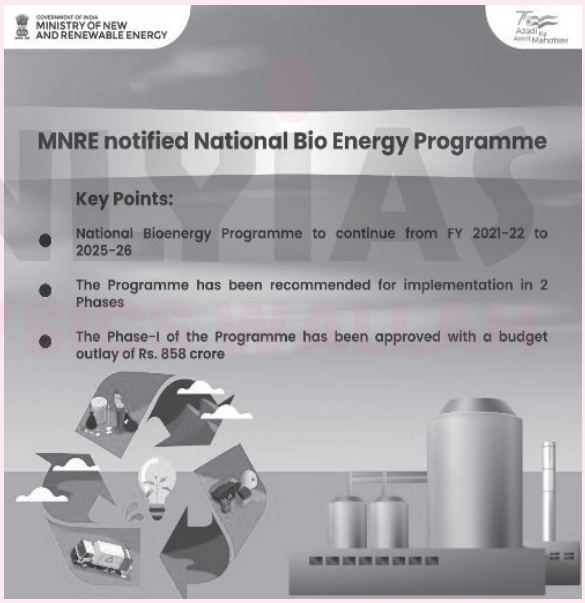
NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON HIGH EFFICIENCY SOLAR PV MODULES

News: Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme on 'National programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules'.

Introduction	• **Solar PV Module**: Solar PV modules are created by joining together solar cells with photovoltaic (PV) cells. They are produced using semiconductors like crystalline silicon. Solar modules transform solar energy into electric energy.
Aims & Objectives	• To build an ecosystem for manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules in India and thus reduce import dependence in the area of Renewable Energy.
Salient Features	• Under the scheme, Solar PV manufacturers will be selected through a **transparent selection process**. • The **PLI will be disbursed for five years** post commissioning of solar PV manufacturing plants on sales of high efficiency solar PV modules from the domestic market will be incentivised.
Significance	• It is estimated that **about 65,000 MW per annum manufacturing capacity** of fully and partially integrated, solar PV modules would be installed. • **Generate employment** and direct investment. • **Import substitution** of approximately Rs.1.37 lakh crore. • **Provide impetus to Research and Development** to achieve higher efficiencies in Solar PV Modules.

NATIONAL BIO ENERGY PROGRAMME

News: The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has said that it will continue the National Bio Energy Programme till 2025-26.

Introduction	• In November 2022, the National Bioenergy Programme was notified by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. • The National Bioenergy Programme has been continued by MNRE through FY 2025–26. • **Two phases** have been suggested for the implementation of the programme.
Aims & Objectives	• To aid the **use of huge surplus biomass**, cattle dung, and industrial and urban bio-waste available in the country for energy recovery.
Salient Features	• **Sub-Schemes:** It will include the three Sub-schemes: 1. **Waste to Energy Programme**: It will support the setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power plants (excluding MSW (municipal solid waste) to power projects). 2. **Biomass Programme** (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries) to support setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse based power generation projects.  3. **Biogas Programme** to support the setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas. • Using biogas, an environmentally friendly fuel, helps cut down on pollution and carbon emissions. • India has a **wealth of renewable energy resources**, thus it is important to promote their use in every way.
GOBAR-Dhan:	• The Government of India introduced GOBAR-Dhan in 2018 as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (SMB-G) Biodegradable Waste Management component to improve rural cleanliness and produce wealth and energy from livestock and organic waste.

SATAT	• It is a project that aims to offer an affordable and sustainable alternative to driving as a development effort that will help farmers, business owners, and others who use vehicles. • This effort has a lot of potential for effective municipal solid waste management and for addressing the issue of urban air pollution brought on by burning farm slash and carbon emissions.



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21 Ministry of Minority Affairs

SEEKHO AUR KAMAO SCHEME

News: The 'Seekho Aur Kamao' scheme has met its target of earmarking 33% of the total trained beneficiaries are female.

Introduction	• The Scheme is a **100% Central Sector Scheme** for "Skill Development of Minorities", which is implemented from the **12th Five Year Plan**.
Aims & Objectives	• The **aim of this scheme is to upgrade the skills of minority youth** (age group of 14-35 years) and ensure 75% placements, out of which 50% should be in the organized sector.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries**: ○ The scheme will be implemented for the benefit of the **6 notified minority communities** under **National Commission for Minorities Act 1992**. The six minority communities are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. ○ However, in the States/UTs where some other minority communities notified by respective State/UT Governments exist, they may also be considered but they will not occupy more than 5% of the total seats. ○ The scheme can be taken up anywhere in the country but preference will be given to organizations that impart training and propose the program for identified minority concentration districts/ towns/ blocks. • **Implementation:** ○ This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) through selected **Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).** ○ **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has been assigned for the implementation of **Seekho aur Kamao scheme** for union territories of **J&K and Ladakh.** ○ The **pattern of funding and course** will be as per the common norms issued by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

NAI ROSHNI SCHEME

News: The Ministry of Minority Affairs has informed the Rajya Sabha that the Government has sanctioned Rs 26 crore under the Nai Roshni scheme in the last three years (2018-19 to 2020-21) through which around one Lakh women have been trained.

Introduction	• A **Central Sector Scheme started in 2012-13** and comes under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
Aims & Objectives	• To empower and **instill confidence among minority women**, including their neighbours from other communities living in the same village/locality, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels.
Salient Features	• **Target Group**: For women belonging to minority communities in the age group of 18 to 65 years. • **It is run with the help of NGOs**, Civil societies, and Government Institutions all over the country. • **It includes various training modules** like Leadership of women, Educational Programmes, Health and Hygiene, Swachch Bharat, Financial Literacy, Life Skills, Legal Rights of Women, Digital Literacy and Advocacy for Social and behavioural change.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVE OF MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Tehreek-e-Taalim Scheme	• To **integrate Madrasas and other minority institutions into society**, the Central Government has established a programme in 100 districts across the nation. Teachers at these institutions will receive training in math, science, computers, hindi, and english. 50% of the teachers who will benefit from the programme will be female.
Jiyo Parsi	• The Jiyo Parsi Plan was created to **stop the Parsi population decline in India**.
USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)	• It was established in May 2015 with the **goal of preserving the rich tradition of indigenous artisans' and craftsmen's traditional skills**. • **Hunnar Haats** are also hosted nationwide as part of this programme to give minority artists and business owners a national marketing platform and to generate employment opportunities.
Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)	It implements the following linked programmes **focused on employment and education**: • The **Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship** for Distinguished Girls from Economically Weaker Minority Groups, which provides scholarships to minority girl students. • The **Gharib Nawaz Employment Program** was launched in 2017–18 to give young people short-term, job-focused skill development training. • A **bridge course** for school dropouts and madrasa student



22 Ministry of Heavy Industries

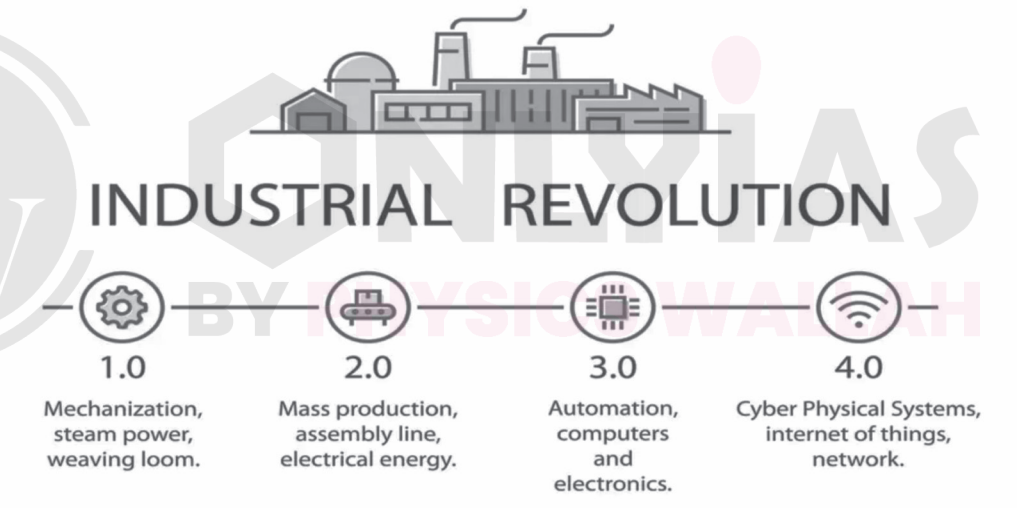
PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI) SCHEME 'NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON ADVANCED CHEMISTRY CELL (ACC) BATTERY STORAGE

News: NITI Aayog recently presented a report on the status and future trends in the ACC battery sector.

Introduction	• **ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies** which store electric energy either in the form of electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.
Aims & Objectives	• It intends to **provide businesses with incentives** on further sales of goods produced domestically.
Salient Features	• **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India • **Budget Allocation:** Rs. 18,100 crores • **Target:** Manufacturing capacity of 50 GigaWattHour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of niche ACC. • **Other Features:** ○ **Imposes requirements on each chosen ACC battery storage manufacturer**, including the establishment of an ACC manufacturing facility with a minimum 5 GWh capacity, achievement of a domestic value addition of at least 25%, and the payment of the required investment of Rs. 225 crore per GWh within two years. ○ **Also, within five years**, the beneficiary enterprises must guarantee a minimum of 60% domestic value addition at the Project level. ○ **The incentive will be paid out over a five-year period**. Sales, energy efficiency, battery life cycle, and localisation levels will all be taken into account when determining pay-outs.
Significance	• An estimated Rs. 45000 crore in direct investment has been made in **ACC Battery storage manufacturing plants.** • It will **support the Make in India Initiative** and draw foreign capital to establish "Gigafactories" here. • Promoting cutting-edge and specialised cell technologies.

	• The **production and use of electric vehicles** will be made easier by the manufacturing of ACCs. • An **annual import substitution** of almost Rs. 20,000 crore. • **Use of non-renewable resources will decline**, as will reliance on imported oil. • It will **aid in lowering emissions**, allowing us to meet our INDCs. • It will encourage the producers to **spend money on R&D** and to produce these cells in India.

SMART ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND RAPID TRANSFORMATION HUB (SAMARTH) UDYOG BHARAT 4.0

Introduction	**Industry 4.0:** • This term refers to the fourth industrial revolution, which is the transformation of manufacturing into a **cyber-physical process**.  • According to its definition, it is "a term for the present trend of **automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies**, including cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing, and cognitive computing, and developing the smart factory.
Aims & Objectives	• The goal was to hear from Samarth Udyog Centres specialists on domestic technological advancements and strategies to collaborate in the fields of **Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0.**
Significance	• It will boost decision-making using data-based tools, raise productivity, efficiency, and quality in processes, improve worker safety by decreasing tasks in hazardous areas, and boost competitiveness by creating customized products.

Some of the initiatives towards Industrial Revolution 4.0

- In order to work with the Indian government, the **World Economic Forum (WEF) opened its Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution** in India in 2018.
- The **National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** has been designated by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as the authorised nodal agency for communicating with the WEF for the creation of new regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies.
- The Indian government has already established the necessary policy framework and set up incentives for infrastructure development using a **PPP (Public-Private-Partnership) model.**
- Industry 4.0 is the only method to achieve **India's National Manufacturing Policy (NMP),** which was recently passed and aims to increase manufacturing's GDP contribution to 25% by 2025.

PLI SCHEME FOR THE AUTO SECTOR

News: Recently, the NITI Aayog has commenced work on evolving a set of objective criteria to track value addition by companies which avail financial rewards under Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.

Introduction	• The programme for the industry is a component of the overall production-linked incentives announced in the **Union Budget 2021–22 for 13 industries with a total spending of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.** • It is a key step towards **"Atma Nirbharta"** for India and will allow it to compete with the world's top auto and drone producing nations.
Aims & Objectives	• The scheme was launched in 2021 to propose financial incentives to **boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT)** products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.
Salient Features	• **Eligibility**: The scheme incentivizes only those eligible AAT products for which a minimum of 50% Domestic Value Addition (DVA) is achieved. • This criterion shall **reduce imports from outside India,** enable deep localization for AAT products in India and enable Indian Automotive Industry to be an important player in the global supply chain. • It aims to increase the **economy of clean fuels and modern technology**.
Significance	• This programme will greatly accelerate the production of electric vehicles, combined with the previously announced **PLI for Advanced Chemical Cell** and **Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) Program.** • It will aid in **lowering carbon dioxide emissions** and oil imports. • It will promote the production of car parts **utilising cutting-edge technologies,** which will **increase localization,** domestic manufacturing, and draw in foreign capital. • It will aid in **establishing new facilities and increase employment**. For the car industry, 7.5 lakh employment are anticipated to be created.

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23 Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY SCHEME

News: The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphoric and potassium (P&K) fertilisers for the Rabi season 2022–2023—which runs from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023—have recently been authorised by the Union Cabinet.

Introduction	• The Department of Fertilizers has been using the nutrient-based subsidy programme since 2010. • **According to the NBS policy**, the government annually announces a fixed rate of subsidy for the nutrients nitrogen (N), phosphate (P), potash (K), and sulphur (S).
Aims & Objectives	• The NBS strategy seeks to increase P&K fertiliser usage to **achieve the ideal N:P: K ratio of NPK fertilisation (N:P: K= 4:2:1).** The farmers would make more money as a result of the higher crop output that would arise from this. The condition of the soil would be improved.
Salient Features	• Although the farmer who **pays less than the market-determined rates (MRPs)** ultimately benefit from the NBS subsidy, fertiliser businesses receive it. • After the actual sale of fertilisers to farmers by merchants, the **subsidy has been paid from 2018 through a Direct Benefit Transfer** (DBT) method (there are over 2.3 lakh retailers across India). • A point of sale (PoS) device connected to the Department of Fertilizers' **e-Urvarak DBT portal** is present at every shop. Aadhaar or a Kisan Credit Card number must be provided by farmers. • The **Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS),** which tracks sales on the **e-Urvarak platform**, processes a company's subsidy application once a week.
Significance	• **Availability:** This will enable the farmers to easily get all P&K fertilisers during the Rabi season at fertiliser costs that are subsidised and benefit the agriculture sector. • **Absorbing the volatility:** The Union Government has largely taken on the volatility in the prices of fertilisers and raw materials on the world market. • **Ensuring supply:** Supply is assured since enough P&K fertilisers are made available to farmers. • **Wider choice:** The NBS Scheme now covers a larger range of P&K fertilizers grades, offering farmers more options when using more complex fertiliser grades.

UREA SUBSIDY

News: India is struggling to meet its demand for fertiliser because the supply was interrupted before the kharif sowing season as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Introduction	• It is a Central Sector Scheme.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide the **prompt and simple availability** of urea fertilisers at reasonable costs.
Salient Features	• Farmers are receiving urea at a **legally specified Maximum Retail Price (MRP).** • The **government of India provides the urea manufacturer and importer with a subsidy** equal to the difference between the delivery cost of fertilisers at farm gates and the net market realisation by the urea units. Thus, it also contains freight subsidies for the nationwide transportation of urea.

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR PHARMACEUTICALS

News: The Union Cabinet recently has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the pharmaceuticals and IT hardware sectors, entailing an outlay of Rs. 15,000 crore and Rs. 7,350 crore, respectively.

Introduction	• PLI for pharmaceuticals was implemented for a five-year period, from FY 2020–21 to 2028–29. For the six-year period from 2022–2027, it is projected that total additional sales will be Rs. 2,94,000 crore and total incremental exports will be Rs. 1,96,000 crore.
Aims & Objectives	• **To improve India's manufacturing skills** through increased output and investment in the industry, as well as through assisting in the pharmaceutical industry's product diversification into high-value commodities. • **To develop Indian companies** into global leaders with the ability to scale up using cutting-edge technology and so enter global value chains
Salient Features	• Based on the applicants' **Global Manufacturing Revenue for FY 2019–20, which is divided into three categories**—less than Rs. 500 crore, between Rs. 500 (inclusive) crore and Rs. 5,000 crore, and greater than or equal to Rs. 5,000 crore—applications are invited in one of three categories. • **Financial Year 2019–20 serves as the baseline year.** ○ **Tenure:** The Scheme will be in effect from the 2020–21 fiscal year to the 2028–29 fiscal year. • The **Project Management Agency** is in charge of carrying out the plan. • **Three categories** have been used to group the qualifying products. Formulations, biopharmaceuticals, active pharmaceutical ingredients, essential raw materials, drug intermediates, in vitro diagnostic medical devices, etc. are among the products covered by the programme.

	○ **Category-1 and category-2 products attract 10% incentive** ○ **Category-3 products attract 5% incentive** on the incremental sales. Incremental sales of a product mean sales of that product in a year over and above the sales of that product in FY 2019-2020.

PRADHAN MANTRI BHARTIYA JANURVARAK PARIYOJNA

News: The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has announced that it has been decided to implement One Nation One Fertiliser by introducing a "Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo" under the fertiliser subsidy scheme named "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna" (PMBJP).

Introduction	• Under ONOF companies are allowed to display their name, **brand, logo and other relevant product information** only on **one-third space of their bags.** • On the remaining **two-thirds space,** the "Bharat" brand and Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana logo will have to be shown.
Aims & Objectives	• Ensure that the **fertiliser brand is consistent across the entire nation**. As a result, it will lessen the number of companies and trademarks.
Salient Features	• The **single brand name** for UREA, Di-Ammonium Phosphate DAP, Muriate of potash (MOP) and Nitrogen Phosphorus Potassium NPK etc. would be **BHARAT UREA, BHARAT DAP, BHARAT MOP and BHARAT NPK etc.** respectively for all Fertiliser Companies, State Trading Entities (STEs) and Fertiliser Marketing Entities (FMEs). • This scheme applies to **both the public & private sector**. It will bring about **uniformity in fertilizer brands** across the country. • More than **3.25 lakh fertiliser stores** throughout the nation are expected to open under this plan, known as **Pradhan Mantri Sammridhi Kendras**. These facilities will offer supporting services including information about soil testing and soil testing, among others.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-AUSHADHI YOJANA

News: Janaushadhi Diwas week to be observed from 1st March to 7th March 2022. Theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".

Introduction	• It was launched in 2008, the scheme was rechristened in 2015.
Aims & Objectives	• It seeks to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra**.

Salient Features	• **Implementing Agency**: Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the administrative control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India **Other Features:** • **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 prices. • 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.

ONLYIAS BY PHYSICS WALLAH

24 Minister of Education and Skill Development

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) PROGRAM

News: Recently, the Union Minister of Education and Skill Development presented certificates to NDMC workers for completing the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program in Delhi.

Introduction	• **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** is a process used to evaluate a person's existing skill sets, knowledge and experience gained either by working on-the-job or learning over the years.
Aims & Objectives	• The objective of this **Skill Certification Scheme** was to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. • Under this programme the **workers will be skilled in multiple trades** across construction, electrical, plumbing, pottery, handicrafts and more. • **To provide opportunities for reducing inequalities** based on privileging certain forms of knowledge over others.
Salient Features	• **No fee is charged** from a candidate for participating in the RPL program. • **RPL recognizes the value of learning** acquired outside a formal setting and provides a government certificate for an individual's skills. • Every successfully certified candidate **receives INR 500.** • Candidates receive exposure to concepts of **digital and financial literacy**. • Candidates receive **accidental insurance coverage for three years** at free of cost.

PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA (PMKVY)

News: Recently, the Ministry of Education informed Lok Sabha that, during 2021-22, more than 3 Lakh women were trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme.

Introduction	• The scheme was launched in 2015, it is a flagship program of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Aims & Objectives	• By 2022, it hopes to have trained more than 40 crore individuals in India in various disciplines. It strives to provide Indian youngsters with **vocational training and certification** for a better standard of living and social respect.
Salient Features	• Under PMKVY, training and assessment fees are paid completely by the Government. **Pay-outs are provided to the Training Providers (TPs)** in alignment with the common norms. • **Funding**: The scheme is being implemented at the Centre and the State level with a 50:50 allocation of funds and targets with more enhanced involvement of District Skill Committees (DSC). • It will be **more student and trainee focused**. The emphasis is on encouraging skill development in areas relevant to new-age and Industry 4.0 job roles in order to close the demand-supply imbalance. • It will **promote vocational education** at a young age so that youth can take advantage of opportunities connected to the business. ○ Vocational training is emphasised in the **National Educational Policy 2020** for overall growth and improved employability. • **Vocal for Local:** By approaching training from the ground up, it **will identify employment roles that are in demand locally** and equip kids, connecting them to these opportunities • By increasing allocation to states that perform better, **it will promote healthy competition between states.**

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROMOTION SCHEME (NAPS)

News: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced that NAPS will be part of the Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme.

Introduction	• NAPS was launched in 2016 to **promote apprenticeship training** in the country and provide financial support to establishments undertaking apprenticeship. NAPS has **replaced Apprentice Protsahan Yojna (APY)** from 2016. • **In an apprenticeship**, a person is hired by a business as an apprentice and receives short-term classroom learning followed by on-the-job (practical) training.
Aims & Objectives	• It aims to motivate employers to hire apprentices and aid them in discovering right job roles while maximizing their potential through in-depth skill development.

Salient Features	• Now, **the government will directly transfer its contribution to bank accounts** of apprentices through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), 25% of the stipend payable up to Rs. 1500/- per month. • **The two elements of the plan are as follows:** 1. All employers who hire apprentices are entitled to a reimbursement from the Government of India of 25% of the prescribed stipend, up to a maximum of Rs. 1500 per apprentice per month. 2. The Government of India reimburses Basic Training Providers (BTPs) for the cost of basic training (up to a limit of Rs. 7500 for a maximum of 500 hours/3 months) in respect of apprentices who come immediately for apprenticeship training without any formal training.

BHARAT SKILLS PLATFORM

News: A new feature called the Bharat skills Forum has been added to the Bharat skills learning platform that allows sharing of books, notes, videos, question banks, etc. and other relevant skill-related content for learners.

Introduction	• It was launched in 2019 by the Directorate General of Training (DGT) in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
Aims & Objectives	• It is a **Central Digital** Repository for the trainees and trainers of the ITI ecosystem, providing easy access to updated curriculum, e-books, Question Banks, mock/practice papers, learning videos for courses under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), Craft Instructor Training Scheme (CITS) and the Apprenticeship Training Scheme (ATS).
Significance	• This platform **presents unique access to a centralized, scalable, and thriving support ecosystem** through its industrial partners for the students and teachers who can now learn the new age (Industrial Revolution 4.0) skills to meet the demands of the industry

GRAMEEN UDYAMI PROJECT

News: Skill India certifies candidates trained under the second phase of Grameen Udyami Project to boost skill development in tribal communities.

Introduction	• The project was funded by the National Skill Development Corporation. It aims to **skill tribal youth across India** to enable them to create a perennial stream of income without having to migrate to urban areas.

Aims & Objectives	• Increase in Rural/Local Economy. • Reduce forced migration due to lack of local opportunities. • Conservation of natural resources. • Enhance employment opportunities.
Salient Features	• **Implementation**: Grameen Udyami Yojana is implemented under Sansadiya Parisankul Yojana. • **The project is being implemented in six states** - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat. **Training:** • The training under the project will be conducted in the Job roles which are relevant to the local economy. • It focuses on agriculture, fisheries, and forest-related roles to suit the local demand. • Skilling will also be done in upcoming sectors like construction, food processing, handicraft, healthcare, BFSI, IT-ITES, etc. • The content and curriculum will also include employability skills, financial and digital literacy, and entrepreneurship modules.
Significance	• In order to create awareness about such programmes and activities, there is an urgent need to **strengthen tribal ownership**. • All we need to do is set up the proper channels for the tribal youth to use their gift in the appropriate contexts because they have so much potential and ability. • This initiative will empower the tribal population economically.

ATAL RANKING OF INSTITUTIONS ON INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS 2021

News: The Ministry of Education's innovation cell released the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021.

Introduction	• It is a **joint endeavour** of the Ministry of Education and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to systematically rate all the major universities and higher education centres in India on metrics linked to **"Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development"** among students and faculty.
Aims & Objectives	• To systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India

Salient Features	• **Parameters**: The various parameters considered in ARIIA for ranking are- ○ Budget & Funding Support. ○ Infrastructure & Facilities. ○ Awareness, Promotions & support for Idea Generation & Innovation. ○ Promotion & Support for Entrepreneurship Development. ○ Innovative Learning Methods & Courses. ○ Intellectual Property Generation, Technology Transfer & Commercialization. ○ Innovation in Governance of the Institution. • **Categories**: The rankings were made under two categories - 1. **Technical Top 3**: This is the third time that IIT Madras has secured the first rank. IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi were placed at the second and third ranks respectively. 2. **Non-technical Institutions**: The top central universities under this category include Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode.
Significance	• The rankings will undoubtedly motivate Indian academic institutions to alter their perspectives and create supportive environments for entrepreneurship, high-quality research, and innovation on their campuses. • Additionally, the recently unveiled New Educational Policy 2020 will make these efforts longer-lasting, more successful, and efficient. • India is moving up the Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings, rising from 81st place in 2015 to 46th place in 2021. **It has also become the third-largest start-up cluster in the world**.

PADHE BHARAT CAMPAIGN

News: The Ministry of Education has launched a 100 days reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat' (1st January to 10th April 2022).

Introduction	• Padhe Bharat is a **100-day reading campaign** starting from January 1,2022 to April 10, 2022.
Aims & Objectives	• **To improve the learning levels of students** as it develops creativity, critical thinking, vocabulary, and the ability to express both verbally and in writing. • It also helps children **to relate to their surroundings** and real-life situations.

Salient Features	• The campaign will **focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8**. It expects the participation of all stakeholders at the national and state level including children, teachers, parents, community, educational administrators among others. • Under the campaign, **one activity per week per group** will be taken up with the focus on making reading enjoyable and building a lifelong association with the joy of reading. • The campaign will also focus on Indian languages, including mother tongue/ local/regional languages. • In this regard, 21st February which is celebrated as **International Mother Tongue Day** has also been integrated with this campaign. • The day will be celebrated with the activity of **Kahani Padho Apni Bhasa Main** (Reading story in own language) across the country by encouraging children to read in their mother tongue/local language. This will help in promoting the local language and culture of our society.
Significance	• The Campaign is in **alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which emphasizes on promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring availability of age appropriate reading books for children in local/ mother tongue/regional/tribal Language.

NEAT 3.0

News: Recently, the Union Education Minister has launched National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT 3.0) and AICTE-prescribed technical books in regional languages.

Introduction	• It is a **Public-Private Partnership** model between the Government (through its implementing agency AICTE) and the Education Technology companies of India. • It is an initiative to provide the use of **best-developed technological solutions** in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience. • AICTE, Ministry of Education (MoE) is acting as the facilitator in the process. The ministry will also ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of socially and economically backward students.
Aims & Objectives	• It is a **single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions** and courses to students of the country.

Salient Features	• **Target Areas:** For exhibiting on the site, technology solutions utilising artificial intelligence are being sought out for tailored learning or e-content in specialised fields that require highly marketable talents. • **Modus Operandi:** In accordance with this, the government intends to hand out free coupons for a selection of courses provided by ed-tech businesses. • **Implementing Agency:** All India Council for Technical Education is in charge of implementation (AICTE). • **AICTE prescribe technical books in regional languages:** ○ It was launched as India's strength lies in its diverse languages, and harnessing them is a key for building an innovative society. ○ Moreover, education in regional languages will further help in developing critical thinking capacity and enable our youth to become global citizens.

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

News: The Central Board of School Education, CBSE has announced the holding of 27th edition of the National Conference of Sahodaya School Complexes on 17th and 18th of this month.

Introduction	• It is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education. It was launched in 2014.
Aims & Objectives	• To **engage the faculty and students of HEIs** in identifying development issues in rural areas and finding sustainable solutions for the same. • **Identify & select existing innovative technologies**, enable customisation of technologies, or devise implementation methods for innovative solutions, as required by the people. • **To allow HEIs to contribute to devising systems** for smooth implementation of various Government programmes.
Salient Features	• **Coordinating Institute**: Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT, Delhi) has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA scheme. • **Mission**: To enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. • **Major Areas:** ○ Health, education, culture, values, and skills. ○ Human development ○ Material development ○ Organic agriculture, renewable energy sources, rural and artisan industries, water management, harnessing local natural resources, E-support, and basic amenities

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

- It is the upgraded version of UBA 1.0. It was launched in 2018.
- The scheme is extended to all educational institutes.
- Moreover, UBA 1.0 was the Invitation Mode in which Participating Institutions were invited to be a part of UBA. Whereas UBA 2.0 is the Challenge Mode of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

NEW INDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME

News: Ministry of Education (MoE) has approved the 'New India Literacy Programme' for the period FYs 2022-2027, to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with the National Education Policy (NEP).

Introduction	• It is in line with **Budget 2021-22**, which announced the introduction of increased access to resources, online modules covering the entire gamut of adult education. • **The expected total expenditure** for the programme is Rs. 1037.90 crore, of which the Centre contribution for the FYs 2022–27 is Rs. 700 crore and the State portion is Rs. 337.90 crore.
Aims & Objectives	The scheme is to impart **not only foundational literacy and numeracy but also to cover other components such as-** • Critical life skills like financial & digital literacy, commercial skills, health care, child care & education, and family welfare. • Vocational skills development with a view towards obtaining local employment. • Basic education including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency. • Continuing education includes engaging holistic adult education courses, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills.
Salient Features	• **Implementation**: The scheme will be implemented via online mode through volunteerism • **Target**: The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is 5 crore learners at one crore per year by using "Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)". • All the resources and materials shall be provided through digital modes like TV, radio, cell phone-based free, open-source apps, portals, etc.

	Other Features: • School will be Unit for implementing the scheme. • Schools to be used for conducting surveys of beneficiaries and Voluntary Teachers (VTs). • Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be imparted through Critical Life Skills to all non-literates in the age group of 15 years and above. • Performance Grading Index (PGI) for State/UT at district level. • CSR/Philanthropic Support may be received by hosting ICT support, providing volunteer support.

NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

News: The Government has approved the continuation of the Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) over the 15th Finance Commission cycle for a period of five years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Introduction	• A Central Sector Scheme was launched in 2008
Aims & Objectives	• To award **scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections** to deter them from dropping out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at the secondary stage.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries**: The scheme envisages the award of one lakh fresh scholarships every year to selected students of class IX and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools. • **Scholarship Amount**: An amount of Rs. 12000 (Rs.1000/- per month) per student per annum. • **Selection of Students**: Students are selected for award of scholarships through an examination conducted by the State/ UT Governments. Scholarships are disbursed directly into the bank accounts of students by electronic transfer through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) following DBT mode. • **Eligibility Criteria**: ○ Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 3,50,000/- p.a. ○ The student must have a minimum of 55 % marks or equivalent grade in Class VII exam for appearing in the selection test (relax able by 5% for SC and ST students). ○ The student should be studying as a regular student in Government, Government-aided and local body schools. ○ Students of NVS, KVS and residential schools are not entitled for the scholarships.

VIDYA SAMIKSHA KENDRA

News: The Minister of Education has informed Rajya Sabha about Vidya Samiksha Kendra.

Introduction	• It is a **monitoring system that keeps tabs on** enrolment, attendance, academic progress, drop-out rates, and school accreditation. In addition, it keeps an eye on the coordinators of the block and cluster resource centres as well as the schools and teachers. • **Note:** Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan are not considered for Vidya Samiksha Kendra as they are approved under the STARS Project. Financial assistance is not given to Gujarat as the State is already having the system.
Aims & Objectives	• It is aimed at **leveraging data and technology** to bring a big leap in learning outcomes. • **To help states in tracking** student enrolment, progress in their learning levels, Out of School Children mainstreamed, textbook delivery, support required by teachers and schools etc.
Significance	• There are **various initiatives** of the Ministry of Education like UDISE, Student Database, NAS, NIPUN BARAT, Teacher Database, DIKSHA among others. • However, **these initiatives are working in silos**. Integrating various data sets of these initiatives by breaking the barrier of silos will help in effectively leveraging different entities towards a common goal. • Hence, in view of this, States/UTs have been advised to establish a Central system (Vidya Samiksha Kendra) at the state level.

PM SHRI SCHOOLS

News: On the occasion of National Teachers' Day, the Prime Minister has announced a new initiative – PM SHRI Schools.

Introduction	• PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI). It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Education.
Aims & Objectives	• To **upgrade and develop more than 14500 Schools** across the country by strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.

Salient Features	• PM-SHRI schools will have a **modern, transformational and holistic method** of imparting education. • The **focus of these schools** will be on modern infrastructure including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more. • They will also be **developed as "green schools"** with water conservation, waste recycling, energy- efficient infrastructure and integration of an organic lifestyle in the curriculum. • Hence, these schools will **showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020** and act as exemplar schools and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION'S AWAKENING PROGRAMME

News: Recently, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched Ramakrishna Mission's 'Awakening' Programme for students of classes I to V.

Introduction	• It is an initiative towards ensuring overall personality development of a child in line with the philosophy of **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.** It is for the students of classes I to V. • **Motto:** "For one's personal salvation and for the welfare of the world" **(ATMANO MOKSHARTHAM JAGAD HITAYA CHA).**
Aims & Objectives	• One of the main objectives of education is **social transformation.** • Building a future-ready and socially conscious generation requires **value-based education.**
Significance	• **Social transformation is one of the key goals** of education. Values and wisdom are more important than material wealth.

Ramakrishna Mission:

- It carries out extensive educational and philanthropic work and expounds a modern version of Advaita Vedanta—a school of Indian philosophy.
- The society was founded near Kolkata by Vivekananda in 1897 with a twofold purpose: to spread the teachings of Vedanta as embodied in the life of the saint Ramakrishna (1836–86) and to improve the social conditions of the Indian people.
- The organizations were brought into existence by Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886), the great 19th-century saint from Bengal who is regarded as the Prophet of the Modern Age, and Sri Ramakrishna's chief disciple, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902).
- Motto "ATMANO MOKSHARTHAM JAGAD HITAYA CHA" ("For one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world").

YOUNG, UPCOMING AND VERSATILE AUTHORS (YUVA) 2.0

News: The Union Ministry of Education has recently launched the PM's Scheme for mentoring (YUVA 2.0).

Introduction	• It is an **Author Mentorship programme** to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
Aims & Objectives	• To **put writing and reading as a chosen profession** on the same footing with other career possibilities. • To **provide young minds a psychological boost** in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic's effects on kids' mental health.
Salient Features	• **Theme:** of YUVA 2.0 is 'Democracy (institutions, events, people, constitutional values – past, present, future)'. • **Implementing Agency**: National Book Trust of India. • **Other Features**: ○ Under the scheme, a total of 75 authors will be selected through an **All India Contest**. These young authors will be trained by eminent authors/ mentors. Under the mentorship, the first set of published books will be launched. ○ The books prepared under this scheme will be published by the **National Book Trust of India**. Further, it will also be translated into other Indian languages ensuring the exchange of culture and literature, thereby promoting **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.**
Significance	• The scheme will **help to develop a stream of writers** who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system. • The scheme will also **provide a window for the aspiring youth** to articulate themselves and present a comprehensive outlook of Indian Democratic values on domestic and international platforms.

FOOTBALL4SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

News: Recently, the Ministry of Education has signed an MoU with Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and All India Football Federation (AIFF) for the 'Football4Schools' initiative in India.

Introduction	• The Football4Schools program is a step towards translating Prime Minister's vision of **making sports a way of life** as well as creating well-rounded citizens.

Aims & Objectives	• To **empower 25 million young boys and girls** in India through sports-integrated learning. It espouses the **spirit of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.**
Salient Features	• Empower learners (boys and girls) with **valuable life skills and competencies.** • **Build the capacity of stakeholders** (Schools, Member Associations and public authorities) to deliver training in life skills through football. • **Strengthen the cooperation** between governments and participating schools to enable partnerships, alliances and intersectoral collaboration.

SHABD SHALA INITIATIVE

News: The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) will soon launch the 'Shabd Shala' initiative.

Introduction	• The Shabd Shala is a website which will **invite suggestions for the translation of words** that are recent additions to the English language and are used widely in India.
Aims & Objectives	• To **evolve technical terminology** in all Indian Languages, propagate its use and distribute it widely.
Salient Features	• **People across India can log onto** the website and provide suggestions for possible translations of these words or the most prevalent usages in their respective languages. • **The suggestions will not be limited to only 22 languages** (covered under the Eight Schedule). People can provide translations in other languages like Bhojpuri and Nagamese.
Significance	• **'Selfie', 'drones', 'metaverse', and 'Artificial Intelligence' are among the new "technical" English words** that become a part of the Indian psyche and culture but have no formal translations into Indian languages. • This initiative will help in finding **standardized vernacular versions** of these words in common usage.

Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)

- It was **established in 1961** by the Government of India under Article 344(4) of Indian Constitution.
- The Mandate is to evolve technical terminology in all Indian Languages, propagate its use and distribute it widely.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi.



MEET OUR OPTIONAL FACULTIES



RAJNEESH RAJ

(HISTORY - HINDI)

- >MOST LOVED FACULTY FOR HISTORY OPTIONAL
- > 20+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AT RENOWNED NSTITUTES
- > MENTORED MORE THAN 2,00,000 UPSC CSE ASPIRANTS
- > MORE THAN 2000 SELECTIONS IN UPSC
- > POST GRADUATE FROM DLHI UNIVERSITY



RAJESH MISHRA

(GEOGRAPHY - HINDI)

- > 10+ YEARS OF UPSC TEACHING EXPERIENCE WITH MENTORING OF 1 LAKH+ ASPIRANTS
- > UGC-NET QUALIFIED
- > EX. FACULTY FOR MULTIPLE RENOWNED INSTITUTES



ALOK S JHA

(HISTORY - ENGLISH)

- > GRADUATE FROM DU IN HISTORY
- > MENTORED MORE THAN 1,00,000 STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM
- > 14+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING WITH VARIOUS RENOWNED INSTITUTES
- > PUBLISHED AUTHOR WITH OAKBRIDGE PRESS



BHARAT SINGH

(PSIR - ENGLISH)

- > 12+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AT RENOWNED INSTITUTE
- > MENTORED MORE THAN 1,00,000 UPSC CSE ASPIRANTS
- > GRADUATE FROM DU IN POLITICAL SCIENCE & POST GRADUATE FROM PUNE UNIVERSITY



DR. ADARSH KUMAR

(PSIR - HINDI)

- > EDUCATIONAL & LEGAL CONSULTANT
- > PHD IN ROLE OF BUREAUCRACY, UGC-NET QUALIFIED
- > 23+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING, MENTORING 3,00,000+ STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM
- > AUTHORED BOOKS ON INDIAN POLITY, CONSTITUTION & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FOR UPSC ASPIRANTS



RAVI SHEKHAR

(SOCIOLOGY - ENGLISH)

- > B.TECH IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.
- > MENTORED MORE THAN 1,00,000 STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM
- > 6+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING WITH VARIOUS RENOWNED INSTITUTES



GAUTAM ANAND

(SOCIOLOGY - HINDI)

- > UGC NET QUALIFIED
- > 12 + YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING, MENTORING 100000+ STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM
- > FACULTY, COACH AND MENTOR- GS- INDIAN SOCIETY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL ISSUE, IR AND SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL
- > EX. FACULTY FOR MULTIPLE RENOWNED INSTITUTES.



HIMANSHU THAPA

(GEOGRAPHY - ENGLISH)

- > 10+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING, MENTORING 100000+ STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM IN BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE MODE.
- > ENOWNED FACULTY IN UPSC STUDENT COMMUNITY
- > FACULTY, COACH AND MENTOR
- > B.SC GRADUATE AND POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



ARVIND KUMAR MISHRA

(HINDI LITERATURE)

- > BA IN ECONOMICS HONORS
- > MENTORED MORE THAN 1,00,000 STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM AND 500+ SELECTIONS
- >20+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING WITH VARIOUS RENOWNED INSTITUTES



MANOJ KUMAR DUBEY

(PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - ENGLISH)

- > GRADUATE IN BSC AND POST GRADUATE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FOR IGNOU
- > APPEARED TWICE IN UPSC CSE INTERVIEW
- > MENTORED MORE THAN 1,00,000 STUDENTS FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM
- > 14+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING WITH VARIOUS RENOWNED INSTITUTES



HARPREET SINGH KUKREJA

(ANTHROPOLOGY - ENGLISH)

- > 5+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AT RENOWNED INSTITUTE
- > MENTORED MORE THAN 50,000 UPSC CSE ASPIRANTS
- > CAPF QUALIFIED
- > B.TECH. IN IT & POST GRADUATION IN M. A. ANTHROPOLOGY

25 Ministry of Food Processing Industries

ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT SCHEME

News: PM Modi calls for giving boost to One District One Product scheme & further develop Aspirational Districts.

Introduction	• ODOP was **launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries**, to help districts reach their full potential, foster economic and socio-cultural growth, and create employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. • This initiative is carried out with the '**Districts as Exports Hub' initiative** by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce.
Aims & Objectives	• The ODOP programme aims to make the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's vision of **promoting balanced regional development** across all of the nation's districts a reality.
Salient Features	• There may be more than one cluster of ODOP products in one district. The **States would identify the food product for a district**, keeping in perspective the focus of the scheme on perishables. • The ODOP **product could be a perishable Agri produce, cereal-based product, or a food product widely produced in a district and their allied sectors.** • The ODOP launched on January 24, 2018, by the **Uttar Pradesh Government**, and due to its success, was later adopted by the Central Government. • **Recently in December 2022**, One District One Product (ODOP) approach has been operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative. • DEH aims to **convert each district into an export hub** for which Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry through DGFT is engaging with State / UT Governments.

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

News: In accordance with the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, three districts, one product brand, and five products were introduced.

Introduction	• It is a Centrally Sponsored scheme, launched as **a part of "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan"**. • The **lead bank** for implementing it is Union Bank of India.
Aims & Objectives	• **Offering financial, technical, and business support** for upgrading current micro-enterprises for food processing.
Salient Features	• **The plan will cost** Rs 10,000 crore and be implemented over five years, from 2020–21 to 2024–25. • **Approximately 2 lakh FME** will receive direct financial assistance through the scheme in the form of a credit-linked subsidy. • Existing Individual Micro Food Processing Units can apply for **credit-linked capital subsidies** at 35% of qualifying project costs, up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakh per unit, if they want to upgrade their facility. • For operating capital and the acquisition of minor tools, **SHG members will get seed funding** at a rate of Rs. 40,000. • Producer cooperatives, **SHGs, and FPOs would receive a 35% credit-linked grant for capital investments** along the value chain. • A large number of micro units in clusters might benefit from support for marketing and branding that would be offered to establish brands for micro units and groups with a **50% grant at State or regional level.** • The cost would be shared 60:40 between the central government and states or UTs with legislatures, and 90:10 between the North Eastern and Himalayan States. • The **One District One Product (ODOP) method** is used by the Scheme to take advantage of economies of scale in terms of input procurement, use of shared services, and product marketing. • The Plan also emphasises **minor forest products, aspirational districts, and waste to wealth products.** • The Plan gives **capacity building and research** particular attention. Together with State Level Technical Institutions chosen by the States, NIFTEM and IIFPT, two academic and research institutions under the MoFPI.

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (PLISFPI)

Introduction	• A central sector Scheme, would be implemented from 2021–2022 to 2026–2027 with a budget of Rs. 10,900 crore to **encourage the development of world leaders** in the food manufacturing industry.

Aims & Objectives	• Assist food manufacturing companies that have minimal sales requirements and are prepared to invest a minimum amount for increased processing capacity and international branding to encourage the establishment of powerful Indian brands. • To increase global awareness and wider acceptance in the foreign markets, strengthen a few Indian cuisine brand names.
Salient Features	• **Eligibility:** Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) or Indian-registered companies, co-operatives, and SMEs are eligible to apply for coverage under the Program. **Two Elements** • Promotion of branding and international marketing to encourage the establishment of powerful Indian brands • encouraging the production of four major food product segments

OPERATION GREENS

News: The Operation Greens Scheme's current status was recently reported to the Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for M/o Food Processing Industries.

Introduction	• The scheme, with an investment of Rs 500 crores to **stabilise the supply of TOP (Tomato, Potato, Onion),** was announced in the Budget Speech for 2018–19. • To **ensure increased production of TOP crops** and to strengthen the value chain, the government has established particular strategies and grants-in-aid under the programme.
Aims & Objectives	• Through strengthening TOP production clusters and associated Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and connecting them to the market, tailored interventions might **help TOP farmers realise more value.** • **Stabilization of prices** for producers and consumers by effective TOP cluster production planning and the introduction of dual use varieties. • **Reduction of post-harvest losses** by development of farm gate infrastructure, appropriate agro-logistics, and storage capacity linking consumption centres to lengthen shelf life. • **Increasing the capacity for food processing** and adding value to the TOP (Tomato, Potato, Onion) value chain with connections between farms and production clusters. • **Establishing a market intelligence network** to gather and compile current information on TOP crop demand, supply, and price.

Salient Features	• **Short-term Price Stabilisation Measures:** will be implemented by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), which will serve as the Nodal Agency. • **Long Term Project:** Agri-Logistics, Marketing / Consumption Points, Capacity Building of FPOs & Their Consortium, Quality Production, Post-Harvest Processing Facilities, and Creation and Management of E-Platform for Demand and Supply Management of TOP Crops are some long-term integrated value chain development projects. • **Grants-in-Aid:** The assistance programme will consist of grants-in-aid at a rate of 50% of the eligible project cost in all areas, up to a maximum of Rs. 50 crores per project (for FPOs, the grant-in-aid would be at a rate of 70%).
Eligible Crops	• **Vegetables:** French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chilies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato, and Tomato. • **Fruits** include Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, and Jackfruit. • On the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture or the State Government, any other fruits or vegetables may be introduced in the future.

PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

News: According to the Ministry, the PMKSY programme has been extended from 2021–2022 to 2025–2026 with a budget of Rs 4,600 crore.

Introduction	• It is a Central Sector scheme, **initially named as SAMPADA** (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters).
Aims & Objectives	• Modernise processes, reduce Agri-waste, and enhance agriculture.
Salient Features	• It is an **umbrella programme** that includes both the Ministry of Food Processing Industry's existing programmes and brand-new programmes. • The establishment of a contemporary infrastructure with **effective supply chain management from the farm gate to the retail outlet** is the consequence of this full package.

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26 Ministry of Rural Development

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

Introduction	• **One of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world**, MGNREGA was introduced by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2005. • There are 15.4 crore active workers under the MGNREGA as of 2022–2023
Aims & Objectives	• The scheme's main goal is to **provide 100 days of guaranteed employment** each fiscal year to every adult member of a rural household who is willing to perform unskilled physical labour for the public good. • **Reduce the movement of workers** from rural to urban areas. • Increase **economic security.**
Salient Features	• **Demand-Driven Scheme:** The most crucial component of the MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed promise that any rural adult would find employment within 15 days of requesting it; in the event that this promise is not met, a "unemployment allowance" must be provided. ○ The demand-driven system allows for worker self-selection. • **Decentralized Planning:** By giving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) a significant role in organising and carrying out these projects, there is a focus on deepening the decentralisation process. ○ The act requires that Gram Sabhas recommend the projects to be undertaken and that they complete at least 50% of those projects.



	• It **strengthens Panchayati Raj Institutions** by giving Gram Panchayats a sizable level of control over the administration of public works. Recommendations from Intermediate and District Panchayats may be accepted or rejected at the discretion of Gram Sabhas. • It **ensures compliance and transparency** at all levels and includes responsibility into its operational rules.

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA

News: Recently, the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana's "Captive Employer" programme was promoted during a webinar hosted by the Union Rural Development Secretary (DDU-GKY).

Introduction	• DDUGKY launched on 25 September, 2014, is a nationwide placement-linked skill training program funded by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). • It is a part National Rural Livelihood Mission aimed towards **rural poor youth** between 15 and 35 years of age. • **Captive Employer:** Any corporation or industry that offers employment to candidates in their own company or one of its subsidiaries and has enough internal training resources is considered a captive employer.
Aims & Objectives	• To **help rural adolescents realise their career dreams** and to diversify revenue sources for impoverished households. • To **provide underprivileged rural kids with skills** and offer them employment with regular monthly pay or higher.
Salient Features	• **Demand Driven:** It is a ground breaking programme designed to fulfil the vision of a **dynamic and demand-based skilling ecosystem** that caters to the needs of industrial partners while ensuring sustainable placements for young people from underprivileged rural communities. • It stipulates that **women must make up 30% of all candidates** receiving training under the programme. The maximum age for female candidates is 45 years old. • The programme is moving towards **minimum obligatory certification** and features an **outcome-driven design** with guaranteed placements for at least 70% of trained students. • For rural poor adolescents, DDU-GKY is already being implemented in 27 states and 3 UTs, with a focus on placements.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA-III

News: Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, all-weather road connection has been delivered to 99% of the targeted habitations.

Introduction	• India's Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a **national initiative to connect unconnected villages with good all-weather roads.** • **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, the country of India's then-prime minister, started this centrally sponsored programme in 2000. (Previously, it was a 100% centrally-sponsored programme; starting in 2015–16, financing is split 60:40 between the Center and the State.) • The programme is currently in its **third phase, PMGSY-III.**
Aims & Objectives	• The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana's third phase aims to **upgrade the through routes and major rural links that link habitations to**: Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals
Significance	• **Connectivity of rural roads** is crucial for two reasons in particular: ○ Improving access to social and economic services is a crucial part of rural development, raising farm earnings and providing more options for people to find work. ○ Crucial component in reducing poverty. • Improved connectivity will make it easier for the rural population to **take advantage of the government's social welfare programmes** for employment, health, education, and other services. • Also, connectivity **motivates government employees to voluntarily relocate** to the villages to provide their services, including teachers, health professionals, and agricultural extensionists. In the end, this promotes prosperity by enabling economies of scale and long-term employment

MISSION ANTYODAYA

Introduction	• Mission Antyodaya was envisioned by the Ministry of Rural Development which is a **convergence paradigm for quantifiable outcomes** on metrics that transform lives and means of subsistence.
Aims & Objectives	• The major goal of Mission Antyodaya is to make the **gram panchayat the focal point of a development strategy** by ensuring the best possible use of resources through the coordination of numerous programmes that target multiple aspects of poverty. • **In ensuring efficient resource utilisation** by combining multiple government initiatives, with Gram Panchayats serving as the fundamental planning unit.

Salient Features	• **Constitutional Mandate (Articles 243G and 243W):** The Constitution of India mandates local governments to prepare and implement plans for '**economic development and social justice**' . • **Annual Survey:** An essential component of Mission Antyodaya's structure is the annual survey conducted in Gram Panchayats all across the nation. ○ It is conducted concurrently with the Ministry of Panchayat Raj's People's Plan Campaign (PPC). ○ Its goal is to help the Gram Panchayat Development Plan's participatory planning process (GPDP). • By gathering information on the 29 issues that are delegated to panchayats under the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is possible to evaluate the various development gaps at the gram panchayat level.

SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJI RURBAN MISSION

News: Aibawk cluster in the Aizawl district of Mizoram has become the first cluster to be completed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).

Introduction	• The scheme was **launched in 2016** with the aim to **preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life** with a focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus **creating a cluster of 'Rurban villages'.**
Aims & Objectives	• To stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well-planned Rurban clusters.
Salient Features	• **Target**: To develop 300 clusters in the country holistically by provisioning economic, social and physical infrastructure facilities. • **Identification of Rurban Clusters**: ○ Rurban Clusters are identified across the country's rural areas showing increasing signs of urbanization – i.e. increase in population density, high levels of non-farm employment, presence of growing economic activities and other socioeconomic parameters. ○ For the purposes of SPMRM, Rurban areas refer to a cluster of 15-20 villages having about 30 to 40 lakh population. ○ The clusters will be geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas. • **Role of States:** The State Government identifies the clusters in accordance with the Framework for Implementation prepared by the MoRD.



27 Ministry of Earth Sciences

ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE RESEARCH – MODELLING, OBSERVING SYSTEMS AND SERVICES (ACROSS)

Introduction	• It covers all facets of weather and climate services and is related to the atmospheric scientific programmes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
Aims & Objectives	• To offer **better forecasts and services** for the water, climate, and weather. This would cover storm surge, heat wave, thunderstorm, and cyclone warnings.
Salient Features	• **The umbrella scheme "ACROSS" includes eight sub-schemes** for each of these components. ❍ The sub-schemes are Monsoon Mission III, Monsoon Convection, Clouds and Climate Change (MC4), High Performance Computing System, Upgrading of Forecast System, Weather & Climate Services, Atmospheric Observations Network, and Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate (HPCS). • **Implementation:** It will be carried out by the Ministry of Earth Sciences' institutes, which include the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service, the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting, the India Meteorological Department, and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (INCOIS). • **Generating Employment Opportunities:** The entire process, from forecast production through delivery, necessitates a lot of labour at each level, creating employment chances for many individuals.

COASTAL CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

News: The Union Minister of Earth Sciences has convened a meeting of Union Ministers and Members of Parliament from coastal states of the country to discuss the ongoing countrywide Coastal Clean Up Campaign launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Introduction	• It is a Coastal Clean-Up campaign is a **75-day campaign** launched by the government to clean up coastal beaches and raise awareness about "**Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar**".
Aims & Objectives	• The goal of the Coastal Clean-Up effort is to inspire the entire country to **protect human health and safety throughout India's 7500 km of coastline.**

Salient Features	• **Important Activities:** Throughout the past 20 days, in addition to clearing the sea coasts of trash, other initiatives included the Campaign Pledge, Nukkad Natak, Bike Rally for Plastic se Azadi, Beach Cleaning and Planting, and Sensitization of Local Communities to the Coastal Clean-up Campaign. • **Participation:** To convert it into a Jan Andolan, the Ministry of Earth Sciences will enlist the aid of NGOs, community organisations, child and youth forums, businesses, non-profits, consular personnel, and municipal corporations of the coastal states. • **Impact**: Through this campaign, a mass behavioral change among the masses is intended by raising awareness about how plastic usage is destroying our marine life.

SWACHH SAGAR, SURAKSHIT SAGAR/CLEAN COAST, SAFE SEA CAMPAIGN

News: Recently, The Union Environment Minister participated in the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' campaign, which aims at promoting environmental sustainability.

Introduction	• Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar/Clean Coast, Safe Sea Campaign is a 75-day citizen-led initiative aimed at **improving coastal and ocean health via community action.** • The campaign began on July 5, 2022 and will culminate on 17th September 2022 – International Coastal Clean-up Day.
Aims & Objectives	• To alter and save the environment through **behaviour change**.
Salient Features	• **Goals**: The campaign's three overarching goals are: (1) Consume Responsibly (2) Separate waste at home (3) Dispose of waste responsibly. • **Features:** The campaign is being taken at 75 beaches along the coastline with an average of 75 volunteers for every kilometre of the coastline. National conferences and workshops on the conservation of the Coastal Ecosystem, marine environment, safe beaches, and waste management are also being conducted. • **Nodal Ministry**: The campaign is spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other institutions. • **Eco Mitram:** A smartphone app called "Eco Mitram" has been released to raise awareness of the initiative and to encourage regular people to sign up voluntarily for the beach cleaning effort.

PACER INITIATIVE

News: The Minister of Earth Sciences has informed Rajya Sabha about the Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER) Initiative.

Introduction	• The PACER Initiative is implemented through the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).**
Aims & Objectives	• To **study various aspects relating to Polar and the Cryosphere** with special emphasis on the Antarctic, Arctic and Glaciers of the Himalayas.
Salient Features	• **Programmes**: The important programmes under the initiative include: the Antarctic program, Indian Arctic program, Southern Ocean program and Cryosphere and Climate program. • **Implementing Agency**: National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR). • **Duration of the Initiative**: The initiative has been approved for continuation during 2021- 2026. • **Major achievements of the PACER Initiatives:** ○ Executed 39th & 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica. The 41st Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica is ongoing. ○ Ten sediment cores were collected from lakes to reconstruct the past climate associated with the ice-sheet dynamics. ○ Clear-air atmospheric observatories containing automatic weather stations, a suite of sensors to measure aerosol and greenhouse gas concentrations have been established at Maitri and Bharati stations. ○ The IndARC mooring system along with the Hydrophone system was successfully retrieved and deployed in Kongsfjorden, Svalbard. ○ Glaciological field campaigns were carried out in six benchmark glaciers in Chandra basin of Lahaul-Spiti region of Western Himalaya. ○ The 11th Indian Southern Ocean Expedition was executed successfully.

National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)

- It is a separate organisation under the control of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It is situated in Goa state.
- **Its responsibilities consist of:**
- **Administration and maintenance** of the Indian bases in the Arctic (Himadri and Maitri) and the Antarctic (Bharati).
- **Management of the other research vessels** hired by the Ministry as well as the Ocean Research Vehicle (ORV) Sagar Kanya.
- **The ORV Sagar Kanya** is a flexible ocean observation platform outfitted with cutting-edge scientific tools and supporting infrastructure.
- It plays **a facilitative role in the scientific research projects** being carried out in Antarctica, the Arctic, and the Indian Ocean portion of the Southern Ocean by a number of national institutes and organisations.
- It plays a **key role in deep-sea drilling in the Arabian Sea** basin through the **International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP),** exploration for **ocean non-living resources** such as gas hydrates and multi-metal sulphides in mid-ocean ridges, and geoscientific surveys of the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and its extended continental shelf beyond 200 metres.

SAMUDRAYAAN MISSION

News: By the year 2026, the Samudrayaan Mission is anticipated to be realised, according to the Ministry of Earth Science.

Introduction	• In order to conduct deep ocean exploration, the Samudrayaan Mission plans to **create a self-propelled manned submersible (MATSYA 6000)** that can take three people to a depth of 6,000 metres.
MATSYA 6000	• The **National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai**, is creating MATSYA 6000. • It has created a **Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) with a 6000 m depth** rating as well as a number of other underwater devices for deep sea exploration, including the Autonomous Coring System (ACS), Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), and Deep Sea Mining System (DSM).

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ONLYIAS BY PHYSICS WALLAH

28 Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF&CC)

CLIMATE RESILIENCE BUILDING AMONG FARMERS THROUGH CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

Introduction	• The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change established **Climate Resilience Building Among Farmers through Crop Residue Management** to address the issue of climate change. • **Usage of Crop Residue:** Once crops are harvested, vegetation in an agricultural field is left to decompose. This is referred to as crop residue. It is well known for its wide range of competing uses, including composting, packaging, roof thatching, animal feed, and fuel.
Aims & Objectives	• Improving **crop residue management practices** in project locations to increase farmers' revenue and climate effects.
Salient Features	• **Regional project:** It has started as a regional project through the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC). • **Implementation:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). • **Major activities:** ○ Capacity building ○ Awareness generation ○ Technological interventions for timely management of crop residue • **Greenhouse gas emissions** in the project areas will be decreased through raising knowledge among farmers through crop residue management and the encouragement of alternative applications for crop leftovers. • **By involving FPOs, PACs and individual entrepreneurs** to scale up successful projects and new concepts for effective crop residue management in rural habitats, implementable and sustainable entrepreneurship models can be developed.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE (NAPCC)

Introduction	• The Union Government created the National Action Plan on Climate Change **to mitigate the consequences of climate change** and be ready for it.

Aims & Objectives	• It aims to **raise public awareness** of the danger posed by climate change and the initiatives being made to combat it by residents, members of the public, representatives of various governmental agencies, scientists, and business executives.
Salient Features	• **Protection of society's most marginalised** and at-risk groups through inclusive, long-term, climate change-sensitive development policies. • Changes in the quality of national growth result in increases in **ecological sustainability.** • **Deployment of appropriate technology** at a quick and widespread pace for both adaptation and greenhouse gas emission reduction.  • **Methods for promoting market innovation** and sustainable development through voluntary cooperation and regulation. • **Using unique links** like local governments and civic society through public-private partnerships, an effective plan can be implemented. • **Promotion of international IPR regulation** and adequate funding for data and technology development and transfer under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME

News: An analysis by the Center for Science and Environment (CSE) has found that there is barely any difference in trends in particulate matter pollution (PM2.5) between the group of cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and those outside its ambit.

Introduction	• It was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). • It is the **first time a national framework for air quality management** has been created in the nation with a deadline for decrease.
Aims & Objectives	• To bring a **20%-30% reduction in pollution levels** from PM2.5 and PM10 particles by 2024. Using 2017 pollution levels as a base year.

Salient Features	• **Preparation of city-specific action plans** that include actions to improve the monitoring system, lessen industrial and vehicular emissions, raise public awareness, etc. • **Cities covered**: The program covers 132 of India's most polluted or so-called non-attainment cities. This is defined as a city whose air quality did not meet the national ambient air quality standards from 2011 to 2015. • **122 non-attainment cities** have been identified nationwide based on the air quality data from 2014 to 2018. Cities that don't meet the national ambient air quality standards are classified as **non-attainment cities**. • **Creating the ideal blend with the current policies and programmes**, such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and other governmental climate change initiatives. • **Funding**: Under the programme, cities are required to quantify improvement starting 2020-21, which requires a 15% and more reduction in the annual average PM10 concentration and a concurrent increase in "good air" days to at least 200. Anything fewer will be considered 'low' and the funding consequently reduced. • **Note:** For disbursing funds, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) only considers levels of PM10, the relatively larger, coarser particles. • However, **PM2.5, the smaller, more dangerous particles, are not monitored as robustly in all cities mostly due to the lack of equipment**.

TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS IN INDIA INITIATIVE

News: The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, the Government of India and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced the launch of the "Trees Outside Forests in India" Initiative.

Introduction	• Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI) is **a joint five-year programme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) of the Government of India and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
Aims & Objectives	• To **increase tree coverage outside of forest lands** in India in a bid to support global climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

Salient Features	• The programme will **bring together farmers, companies and private institutions** in India to rapidly expand tree coverage outside of traditional forests by 28 lakh hectares. • It will use **innovative financing models and leverage India's private sector** to promote tree-based enterprises, helping to create sustainable markets and improve rural economies and livelihoods. • The program will be **implemented by a consortium led by** the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry. • The program will be **implemented in seven states** including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. • **Significance:** The program will enhance carbon sequestration, support local communities and strengthen the climate resilience of agriculture.

MISCELLANEOUS INITIATIVE OF MOEF&CC

PARIVESH (Proactive and Responsive Facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub)	• It is **a web-based, role-based workflow programme** that was created for the online filing and oversight of proposals filed by proponents in order to get Environment, Forest, Wildlife, and Coastal Regulation Zone Clearances from Central, State, and district level authorities. • The MoEFCC conceived, created, and hosted the system with technical assistance from the **National Informatics Center (NIC).** • **For improved compliance monitoring**, the system allows regulatory bodies or inspecting officers to monitor compliance reports, including geo-tagged photos of the location, even using a mobile app.
Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats	• It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, **aimed at wildlife conservation.** • **Components of the scheme:** ○ Protection of Wildlife Outside Protected Area ○ Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats ○ Support to Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves)
Himalayan Research Fellowships Scheme	• It **aspires to develop a youthful pool** of educated ecologists, socio-economists, and environmental managers. • **Information on** the physical, biological, administrative, and human components of the Himalayan environment and development will be generated with the use of this pool. • **The fellowship programme** is carried out by a number of colleges and organisations that operate in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), with preference given to institutions from the north-eastern states. • **The National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS),** a Central Sector Grant in-aid scheme, will offer the financial assistance, and the fellowships are given out for a maximum of three years.

Environmental Information System (ENVIS)	• It is a Central Sector Scheme which has been implemented since 1982-83. • **On a variety of environmental topics**, ENVIS offers scientific, technical, and semi-technical information. • As a result, it has helped **to facilitate decision-making** on environmental protection and enhancement in order to maintain a high standard of living for all living things at all levels of government. • **ENVIS is a decentralised network** of numerous centres that falls under the following broad categories: ○ **ENVIS Hubs**: Hosted by state governments or UT administrations, these centres focus on the "Status of the Environment and Related Problems". ○ **ENVIS Resource Partners (RPs):** Centres that are housed by governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned with the environment or centres of excellence. • It has been recognised as the National focal point for INFOTERRA, the UN Environment Program's (UNEP) **Global Environmental Information Network**.
'Leadership Group for Industry Transition' Initiative	• To assist in directing the **world's channelling-to-decarbonize** and energy-intensive sectors/industries towards the low-carbon economy, it was introduced at the 2019 UN Climate Action Conference. • A **public-private partnership** would be announced by Sweden and India alongside several other nations. • The European Climate Foundation, Stockholm Environment Institute, World Economic Forum, Energy Transitions Commission, Mission Innovation, and others all endorse it.
Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management	• It is a plan of action to **address nitrogen concerns that was put forth by Sri Lanka** in 2019 and supported by the UN member states. • By 2030, it **aims to cut nitrogen waste** in half. • The **International Nitrogen Management System (INMS),** a joint project of the UNEP and the **International Nitrogen Initiative financed by the Global Environment Facility**, provided technical assistance for the development of the **Colombo Declaration.**
Nagar van (Urban Forests) scheme	• In the next five years, it wants to **create 200 Urban Forests** across the nation. • It will put a strong emphasis on **public involvement and teamwork** between the forest department, local government, NGOs, businesses, and residents. • It will **concentrate on planting trees on property designated as forest areas** but devoid of any existing trees. The **state government will maintain the forest** once it has been developed.

PARIVESH (Proactive and Responsive Facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub)	• It is **a web-based, role-based workflow programme** that was created for the online filing and oversight of proposals filed by proponents in order to get Environment, Forest, Wildlife, and Coastal Regulation Zone Clearances from Central, State, and district level authorities. • The MoEFCC conceived, created, and hosted the system with technical assistance from the **National Informatics Center (NIC).** • **For improved compliance monitoring**, the system allows regulatory bodies or inspecting officers to monitor compliance reports, including geo-tagged photos of the location, even using a mobile app.
Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats	• It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, **aimed at wildlife conservation**. • **Components of the scheme:** ○ Protection of Wildlife Outside Protected Area ○ Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats ○ Support to Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves)
Himalayan Research Fellowships Scheme	• It **aspires to develop a youthful pool** of educated ecologists, socio-economists, and environmental managers. • **Information on** the physical, biological, administrative, and human components of the Himalayan environment and development will be generated with the use of this pool. • **The fellowship programme** is carried out by a number of colleges and organisations that operate in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), with preference given to institutions from the north-eastern states. • **The National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS),** a Central Sector Grant in-aid scheme, will offer the financial assistance, and the fellowships are given out for a maximum of three years.
Environmental Information System (ENVIS)	• It is a Central Sector Scheme which has been implemented since 1982-83. • **On a variety of environmental topics**, ENVIS offers scientific, technical, and semi-technical information. • As a result, it has helped **to facilitate decision-making** on environmental protection and enhancement in order to maintain a high standard of living for all living things at all levels of government. • **ENVIS is a decentralised network** of numerous centres that falls under the following broad categories: ○ **ENVIS Hubs**: Hosted by state governments or UT administrations, these centres focus on the "Status of the Environment and Related Problems". ○ **ENVIS Resource Partners (RPs):** Centres that are housed by governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned with the environment or centres of excellence. • It has been recognised as the National focal point for INFOTERRA, the UN Environment Program's (UNEP) **Global Environmental Information Network**.

'Leadership Group for Industry Transition' Initiative	• To assist in directing the **world's channelling-to-decarbonize** and energy-intensive sectors/industries towards the low-carbon economy, it was introduced at the 2019 UN Climate Action Conference. • A **public-private partnership** would be announced by Sweden and India alongside several other nations. • The European Climate Foundation, Stockholm Environment Institute, World Economic Forum, Energy Transitions Commission, Mission Innovation, and others all endorse it.
Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management	• It is a plan of action to **address nitrogen concerns that was put forth by Sri Lanka** in 2019 and supported by the UN member states. • By 2030, it **aims to cut nitrogen waste** in half. • The **International Nitrogen Management System (INMS),** a joint project of the UNEP and the **International Nitrogen Initiative financed by the Global Environment Facility**, provided technical assistance for the development of the **Colombo Declaration.**
Nagar van (Urban Forests) scheme	• In the next five years, it wants to **create 200 Urban Forests** across the nation. • It will put a strong emphasis on **public involvement and teamwork** between the forest department, local government, NGOs, businesses, and residents. • It will **concentrate on planting trees on property designated as forest areas** but devoid of any existing trees. The **state government will maintain the forest** once it has been developed.
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29 NITI Aayog

ATAL NEW INDIA CHALLENGE

News: Atal Innovation Mission has launched the phase 1 of the 2nd edition of the Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0).

Introduction	• Atal New India Challenge is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
Aims & Objectives	• To seek, select, **support and nurture technology-based innovations** that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.
Salient Features	• **Goal**: To support innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – Education, Health, Water and • Sanitation, Housing, Energy, Mobility, and Space Application among others. • The challenge addresses the **second Commercialization Valley of Death** – supporting innovators scale over the risks associated with access to resources for testing, piloting and market creation. • **Funding**: The challenge supports selected start-ups through the commercialization stage over a course of 12 – 18 months with a funding of up to INR 1 crore along with other associated support from the AIM's innovation ecosystem.

AIM-PRIME PLAYBOOK

News: AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness, and Entrepreneurship) Playbook was launched by NITI Aayog.

Introduction	• It was launched in April 2021 by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.** • It is a comprehensive resource for academic researchers, entrepreneurs and incubators involved in building science-based enterprises from lab to–market.
Aims & Objectives	• To promote science-based, deep technology ideas to market, through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.

Salient Features	• **Focus Area**: Science-based, knowledge-intensive, deep technology entrepreneurship. • **Implemented by**: Venture Center. • The Venture Center is India's leading science-based business and inventive enterprises' incubator. It is located in Pune. • It is a non-profit incubator hosted by the CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and part of the Pune Knowledge Cluster. • The Venture Center is a partner incubator of the Department of Science and Technology, BIRAC and IDEX.

NATIONAL DATA & ANALYTICS PLATFORM

News: NITI Aayog has launched the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) for open public use.

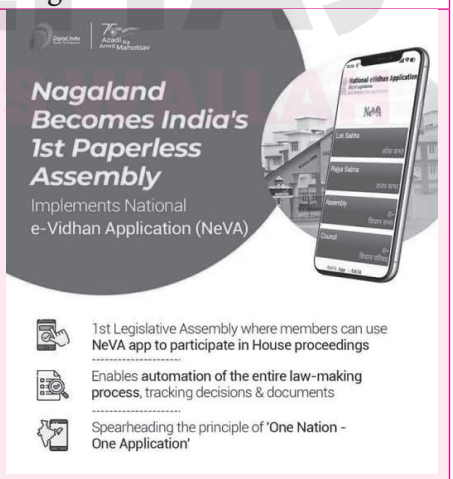
Introduction	• The platform was launched **by Mr. Suman Bery**, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.
Aims & Objectives	• To **democratize access to public government data** by making data accessible, interoperable, interactive and available on a user-friendly platform.
Salient Features	• **Accessibility**: The platform makes data more accessible by hosting data in clean, machine-readable formats, ensuring datasets are interoperable, and providing detailed documentation on the contents of each dataset. • **Case-based Approach**: It follows a use-case based approach to ensure that the datasets hosted on the platform are tailored to the needs of data users from government, academia, journalism, civil society and the private sector.



30 Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

NATIONAL EVIDHAN APPLICATION (NEVA)

News: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has developed a "National eVidhan Application (NeVA)", a Mission Mode Project for Digital Legislatures to make the functioning of all Legislative Houses in the country paperless.

Introduction	• National eVidhan Application (NeVA) is a **Mission Mode Project (MMP)** included in the Digital India Programme.
Aims & Objectives	• To make the functioning of all Legislative Houses in the country paperless on the theme of **'One Nation – One Application'**. • To transform all State Legislatures into **'DIGITAL HOUSES'** so as to enable them to transact entire • **Government Business on digital platforms** including information exchange with the State Government Departments in digital mode.
Salient Features	• **Funding**: The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA. It is on the pattern of Central Sponsored Scheme, i.e. 60:40 for States; 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs. • In 2021, Bihar Legislative Council became the first House in the country to transit to the NeVA platform completely and conducted Winter Session, 2021 on the NeVA platform in paperless mode.  **Key Features:** • **E-Assembly, often known as paperless assembly**, is a concept that uses electronic tools to make assembly labour easier. • It makes it possible to **track decisions and papers**, share information, and automate the entire legal process. • Data that has been deployed can be accessible from anywhere, at any time, **using cloud technology (Meghraj).** • **Himachal Pradesh** already has the nation's first digital legislature.

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31 Election Commission of India

MATADATA JUNCTION PROGRAM

News: Election Commission to launch Matadata Junction on All India Radio.

Introduction	• **All India Radio** in collaboration with the Election Commission of India has started a new weekly program 'Matadata Junction' on Voter Awareness. • The theme is the **Power of One Vote or Ek Vote ki Taqat**.
Aims & Objectives	• To increase **voter awareness.**
Salient Features	• It is a **year-long voter awareness program**. The Matadata Junction program will be broadcast in **23 languages** across the country. • The **weekly program covers** all aspects of the Voter ecosystem and shall be broadcast every Friday on the All India Radio network. • Each Program will be based on a particular Theme on the Electoral process. • **All the 52 Themes are aimed at** encouraging all eligible citizens and especially the young and first-time voters to vote and make an informed decision during the elections. • The **program includes a Citizen's Corner** where any citizen can ask a query or suggest any aspects of the voting.

INTERNATIONAL ELECTION VISITORS PROGRAMME

News: The virtual International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022 was hosted by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Introduction	• Since the 2012 elections, India has hosted the International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP), which invites international delegates to visit polling stations and observe electoral processes.
Aims & Objectives	• The programme aims to provide the participants with an overview of: ○ The large canvas of the Indian electoral process. ○ Insights into the elections underway in different states.

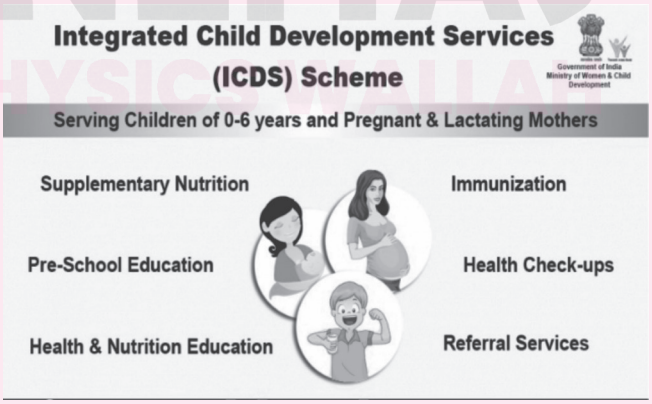
Salient Features	• Hence, this programme provides a **platform for the exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences, best practices and skills** in the field of Electoral Management with various countries. • **Participants of IEVP 2022**: was attended by delegates from nearly 32 countries and 4 international organizations: International IDEA, International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES), Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) and Community of Democracies.

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32 Ministry of Women and Child Development

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS)

Introduction	• It was established in 1975 and is one of the **biggest programmes in the world**, offering a comprehensive set of services for a child's whole development later renamed as Anganwadi Services.
Aims & Objectives	• To **enhance the nutritional and physical health** of kids in the **0–6 age range**. • To **create the framework** for the child's healthy physical, psychological, and social development. • To **lower the prevalence of** death, disease, hunger, and dropout from education. • To **successfully coordinate policy and execution** across the various divisions in order to advance child development. • To **improve the mother's ability to take care** of the child's regular nutritional and health needs, through good nutrition and health education.
Salient Features	• **Funding:** Financed by the federal government, state and union territory governments carry out the ICDS programme. • **Coverage:** The programme is nationwide and extends to every district in the nation.  • **ICDS beneficiaries**: children between the ages of 0 and 6, Pregnant women, and Lactating mothers.

POSHAN (PRIME MINISTER'S OVERARCHING SCHEME FOR HOLISTIC NUTRITION POSHAN) ABHIYAN

Introduction	• The government introduced POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) on March 8, 2018.

Aims & Objectives	• The Abhiyaan aims to reduce low birth weight among early children, women, and teenage females, as well as stunting, undernutrition, anaemia (among early children, women, and teenage females), and anaemia by **2%, 2%, 3%, and 2% year**. • The **mission's objective is to reduce stunting** among children aged 0 to 6 from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
Salient Features	• **Goals:** The use of technology to ensure service delivery, behavioural change through convergence, and the setting of specified goals to be reached across several monitoring metrics. • **One Swasth Bharat Prerak** will be stationed in each district as part of the Abhiyaan in order to coordinate with district officials and facilitate the quick and effective execution of the Abhiyaan throughout the nation. The Abhiyaan's implementation would move more quickly thanks to Swasth Bharat Preraks. • **Components: POSHAN 2.0** ○ **Convergence:** The goal of the Abhiyaan is to make sure that the target audience is reached by all of MWCD's nutrition-related programmes. Several programmes will merge thanks to the Abhiyaan. ○ **ICDS-CAS:** Nutritional status will be tracked using software. ○ **Behaviour modification:** The Abhiyaan will be conducted as a Jan Andolan in which widespread public participation is requested. Once a month, a community-based event will take place to raise awareness and address problems. ○ **Rewards:** Performance-based rewards will be awarded to front-line employees. ○ **Training and Capacity Building:** 21 theme modules will be taught using an incremental learning approach for training and capacity building. Front-line employees will receive the instruction from Master Trainers. ○ **Grievance Redressal:** To make it simple to find answers to any problems, a call centre will be established.

PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA

News: Five years since its introduction, there is vast scope for improvement in the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

Introduction	• A **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of Maternity Benefit Programme that is implemented in all the districts of the country under the platform of Integrated Child Development Scheme in accordance with the provision of the **National Food Security Act, 2013.**

Aims & Objectives	• To provide **partial wage compensation to women** for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare. • To **provide conditions for safe delivery** and good nutrition and feeding practices. • To **breastfeed the child during the first six months** of the birth. As it is very vital the development of the child.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries**: Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) who have their pregnancy on or after 1st January 2017 are eligible. The cash incentive is payable in three installments for the first live birth. • **Exclusion**: PW&LM who are in regular employment with the Central/State Government or PSUs or those who receive similar benefits under any law. • **Benefits**: Under the Scheme, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) receive a direct cash benefit transfer of Rs. 5,000 in three installments. The amount will be credited to the beneficiary on fulfilling the respective conditions. Such as: ○ Early registration of pregnancy (First instalment). ○ Ante-natal check-up (Second instalment). ○ Registration of the birth of the child and completion of the first cycle of vaccination (Third instalment). • The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on average, a beneficiary will get Rs. 6,000.

KANYA SHIKHSA PRAVESH UTSAV

News: On International Women's Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has launched a landmark campaign Kanya Shikhsa Pravesh Utsav.

Introduction	• It was launched by the Women and Child Development Ministry in partnership with the Education Ministry and UNICEF. This scheme will **fulfil the target of Right to Education Act** that says to bring out-of-school girls back to the education system. • **Umbrella Initiative**: The campaign has been rolled out under the umbrella of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Initiative.
Aims & Objectives	• It aims to **work for out-of-school girls** by building on existing schemes and programmes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), and National Education Policy (NEP).

Salient Features	• **Features:** ○ Under the campaign, over 400 districts across all states will be funded under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme for outreach and awareness generation at the grassroots level to sensitize communities and families to enroll adolescent girls in schools. This funding will be over and above the funding from Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. ○ Moreover, Anganwadi workers (AWWs) will also be further incentivised for counseling and referring out of school adolescent girls. • **Significance**: The campaign intends to build on the existing schemes and programmes like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and National Education Policy (NEP) to work on a comprehensive system for out of school girls.

MISSION VATSALYA

News: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has sent its draft guidelines for Mission Vatsalya Scheme to States and Union Territories to seek their suggestions.

Introduction	• The Ministry of Women and Child Development intended to **provide 'integrated benefits to children and women'** under Mission Vatsalya.
Aims & Objectives	• To secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in India. • To foster a sensitive, supportive and synchronized ecosystem for the development of children. • To assist States/UTs in delivering the mandate of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015. • To achieve the SDG goals.
Salient Features	• **Components Under the Mission**: It will include statutory bodies; service delivery structures; institutional care/services; non-institutional community-based care; emergency outreach services (through Childline or the national helpline 1098 for children); training and capacity building. • **Features:** ○ Under the mission, the Government plans to partner with the private sector as well as volunteer groups for its scheme for the protection of vulnerable children such as those abandoned or missing. ○ For this, a Vatsalya portal will be developed that will allow volunteers to register so that State and District Authorities can engage them in executing various schemes. • **Funding Pattern:** ○ It is implemented with the fund-sharing pattern in the 60:40 ratio. However, the Centre and state/ UT's share will be 90:10 for the 8 Northeast states as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. ○ The Centre will cover the whole cost in UTs without a legislature.

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SARA & CARA

- Mission Vatsalya will support the State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARA).
- The SARA will coordinate, monitor and develop the work related to non-institutional care, including adoption in the state.
- The SARA will support the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in promoting in-country adoption and regulating inter-country adoption.

NATIONAL CRECHE SCHEME

News: The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) said that no funds were released by the Centre in FY 2021-22 for the functioning of creches under the National Creche Scheme.

Introduction	• It was **launched in 2006**, the scheme was previously known as the Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for The Children of Working Mothers.
Aims & Objectives	• To primarily nurture **children from mothers belonging to low-income groups** who go to work at least 15 days in a month.

Salient Features	• **The fund sharing pattern** under National Creche Scheme amongst Centre, States/UTs & Non-Governmental Organizations/Voluntary Organisations 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. • **While BPL families pay** Rs. 20 per child per month, the fee ranges from Rs.100 to Rs. 200 for others. • **Features:** ○ Day care Facilities including Sleeping Facilities. ○ Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children. ○ Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced). ○ Growth Monitoring ○ Health Check-up and Immunization. • **The Guidelines Provide:** ○ The Crèches shall be open for 26 days in a month and for seven and half (7-1/2) hours per day. ○ The number of children in the crèche should not be more than 25 per crèche. ○ User charges will be levied to bring in an element of community ownership. • **Target Group**: The scheme focuses on children of 6 months to 6 years, of working women in rural and urban areas who are employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month, or six months in a year.

MISSION SHAKTI

News: Recently, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme.

Introduction	• It was launched during the **15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.**
Aims & Objectives	• It is a mission mode scheme aimed at **strengthening interventions for women's safety, security and empowerment.** • To provide to all **women and girls including differently-abled, socially and economically marginalized and vulnerable groups**, in need of care and protection, with short-term and long-term services and information for their holistic development and empowerment.

Salient Features	• **Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes**: ○ Sambal: It is for the safety and security of women. The components consist of erstwhile schemes of One Stop Center (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) with a new component of Nari Adalats – women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families. ○ Samarthya: It is for the empowerment of women. The components consisting of erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel have been included with modifications. In addition, the existing schemes of National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under umbrella ICDS have also been included. Moreover, a new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been added.

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33 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME FOR THE REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS (SRMS)

News: A nationwide census will be conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) to count all sanitation employees who clean septic tanks and sewers.

Introduction	• It is a Central Sector Scheme. The revised Scheme**, identified manual scavengers**, one from each family, are provided one-time cash assistance.
Aims & Objectives	• To aid in the **rehabilitation of manual scavengers** who were discovered through various surveys into alternate vocations.
Salient Features	**Other benefits** to the identified manual scavengers and their dependants. • Credit linked back-end **capital subsidy** • **Loans for project cost** on concessional rates of interest • **Skill Development Training** up to two years with stipend

Manual Scavenging

- Manual scavenging by definition is "the removal of human excrement from public streets and dry latrines, cleaning septic tanks, gutters and sewers".
- The **Prohibition of Work as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act of 2013** outlawed the practice in India.
- The Act prohibits the use of any person to manually clean, carry, dispose of, or otherwise handle human excreta until it is disposed of.
- Manual scavenging is recognised by the Act as a **"dehumanising practise".**

PRADHAN MANTRI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (PMAGY)

News: The Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana Implementation Data has been made available by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (PMAGY).

Introduction	• The Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is a rural development programme in India that was introduced by the central government in the fiscal year 2009–10. • By providing **Special Central Assistance** as an addition to the State Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), it augments the efforts of State Governments to promote the welfare of tribal people.
Aims & Objectives	• It strives to **bridge gaps and provide essential infrastructure** in communities with sizable tribal populations using monies from several Central Scheduled Tribal Component programmes. • **Other Objectives:** ○ Creating a village development plan based on potential, goals, and necessities. ○ Increasing the scope of state and federal government assistance programmes for individuals and families. ○ Enhancing the infrastructure in key areas such as health, education, connectivity, and subsistence.
Salient Features	• It was introduced by the central government in the fiscal year 2009–10 for **the development of villages where more than 50% of the population is from the scheduled castes** by fusing together central and state schemes and allocating financial funding on a per-village basis. • **The programme was introduced in five states**—Himachal Pradesh (Northern Region), Bihar (Eastern Region), Rajasthan (Western Region), Tamil Nadu (Southern Region), and Assam—on a pilot basis in 2009–2010 for the integrated development of 1000 villages (North-Eastern Region). • **In the designated States, PMAGY is used to build** village roads, community halls/meeting places, community toilets, drainage works, install hand pumps, construct solar-powered street lights, and implement drinking water schemes and programmes. • **At the central and state levels, advisory committees** would be set up to oversee and provide general direction for the System. The Central Advisory Council will be presided over by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. • The plan aims to close gaps in the following **eight important development sectors**: ○ Road connectivity (Internal and Inter village /block) ○ School ○ Anganwadi Centres ○ Drinking water facility ○ Telecom connectivity (Mobile /internet) ○ Health Sub-Centre ○ Drainage ○ Solid waste management

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION (2018-2023)

News: The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) is being implemented by the government, according to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to address the issue of drug abuse among the populace and youth in the nation.

Introduction	• A National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for the years 2018–2025 has started to be implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
Aims & Objectives	• The Plan is a **multi-pronged approach** that includes education, addiction treatment, and rehabilitation for impacted individuals and their families in order to lessen the negative effects of drug abuse.
Salient Features	• It entails hosting **awareness-raising programmes** for police officers, paramilitary forces, law enforcement agencies, judicial officials, and the Bar Council, among others, in schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces. • Together with increasing the **national toll-free helpline** for drug prevention, plans are also in motion for the production of awareness through social, print, digital, and internet media, as well as through celebrity participation. • Additionally, it urges **vice chancellors, directors, and principals of educational institutions** to make sure that no narcotics are marketed on or near the campus. • Additionally, it involves **survey-based identification of vulnerable areas**, skill development, vocational training, assistance for former drug users' livelihoods provided by **National Backward Classes Finance and other Development Corporations**, and ongoing research on drug use patterns. • **Monitoring:** ○ The ministry is also conducting a **national survey on the scope and pattern of drug addiction** in cooperation with the National Drug Dependency Treatment Centre (NDDTC) under the AIIMS. ○ The **secretary of the Social Justice Ministry would serve as the chairman of the steering group**, which would also include officials from the Ministries of Health, HRD, WCD, MHA, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship. ○ To ensure that the NAPDDR is being implemented effectively, the **committee will convene every three months.**

DEENDAYAL DISABLED REHABILITATION SCHEME (DRDS)

Introduction	• The government in accordance with the scheme gives **financial support to nonprofit groups** for the rehabilitation of disabled persons, including their education, training, and development of daily life skills.

Aims & Objectives	• To create an environment where **people with disabilities are provided equal opportunities,** equity, and social justice for their empowerment. • To promote **initiative for effective implementation** of the 2016 Rights of People with Disabilities Act
Salient Features	**Strategies Involved:** • By **expanding the range of available vocational and professional options,** sources of income, and well-paying employment, and by boosting educational chances at all levels and in all forms. • By establishing **neighbourhood-based rehabilitation projects** in both urban and rural locations. • By **preparing disabled people to participate in workforce** development initiatives at various levels. • To **instruct people with disabilities** in eco-friendly and environmentally conscious projects. • To **promote and make available the facilities** for hostels, homes, and sufficient housing.

RASHTRIYA VAYOSHREE YOJANA

News: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will distribute 4,800 daily living aids and assistive devices among 895 senior citizen beneficiaries under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY).

Introduction	• It was launched in 2017. A Central sector scheme funded from the **Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund**. The fund was notified in the year 2016. • **Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund**: All unclaimed amounts from small savings accounts, PPF and EPF are transferred to this fund.
Aims & Objectives	• It aims to provide aids and assistive living devices to senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category who suffer from age-related disabilities such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and locomotor disabilities.
Salient Features	• The aids and assistive devices, viz walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/ crutches, tripods/quad pods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are provided to eligible beneficiaries. • **Implementation**: The Scheme is being implemented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

PM-DAKSH YOJANA

News: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment released funds under the PM-DAKSH Yojana.

Introduction	• The Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana launched in 2021, by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. • **Purpose**: It is a National Action Plan for skilling marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.
Aims & Objectives	• To increase the skill levels of the target youth by providing them short term and long term skills, followed by assistance in wage/self-employment.
Salient Features	• **Implementation**: It is being implemented through 3 Corporations: National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC). • **Key Features:** ○ **Training Institutions**: The training is provided through Government Sector training institutions and reputed institutions enabling them to take up suitable job/self-employment opportunities. ○ **Age of the Candidates for Undergoing Skill Training:** Beneficiaries between the age of 18-45 years are considered for Skill Development Training. ○ **Stipend to the Trainees**: Stipend is provided to the eligible candidates based on their attendance through DBT.

SHRESTHA

News: The Ministry of Education has joined hands with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for SHRESTHA.

Introduction	• Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas.
Aims & Objectives	• **Enhance reach of development Intervention** of the Government and fill the gap in service deficient SCs dominant areas. • Earlier known as 'Grant in-aid to voluntary and other organizations for Scheduled Castes'. • **To provide high-quality education** for meritorious but poor Scheduled Castes(SC) students in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools across the country.

Salient Features	• **Eligibility**: The students belonging to Scheduled Castes studying in class 8th and 10th in the current academic year are eligible for availing of the benefits of the scheme. However, students belonging to marginalized income groups within the SC community are eligible only if their parental annual income is up to Rs.2.5Lakh. • **Selection Process**: Students are selected through a transparent mechanism through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS). • The test is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission in classes 9th and 11th. Successful candidates, after following the e-counselling process, are given admission to the school of their choice anywhere in the country for their academic persuasion. • **Significance**: The Scheme will be beneficial for SC students who could not reach for higher quality education. It will also bring a drastic change for the betterment of their life. • **Two Modes:** ○ **Mode 1:** To provide high quality residential education to bright scheduled caste (SC) students. District administration is its prime implementing agency. ○ **Mode 2**: It provides Grant-in-aid to Schools/ Hostels run by voluntary and other organizations meeting the required criteria.

ATAL VAYO ABHYUDAY YOJANA

News: Recently, The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment has informed the Lok Sabha about the Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY).

Introduction	• A central sector scheme to look after the **elderly population**.
Aims & Objectives	• To **improve the quality of life of the Senior Citizens** by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active aging through providing support.
Salient Features	• **Sub-Schemes:** ○ Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC). ○ State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC). ○ Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). ○ Senior Able Citizens for Re-employment in Dignity (SACRED). ○ Action Groups Aimed at Social Reconstruction (AGRASR). ○ Senior-care Aging Growth Engine (SAGE)-Silver economy for Senior Citizens.

	○ Elderline – National Helpline for Senior Citizens. ○ Channelizing the CSR fund for elderly care. ○ Training and capacity building for senior citizens. • **About the Elderly Population in India:** There has been a steady rise in the population of senior citizens in India. The number of elderly persons increased from 1.98 crores in 1951 to 7.6 crores in 2001, and 10.38 crores in 2011.

NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

News: Recently, The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment has informed Rajya Sabha about the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SCs and others.

Introduction	• The Scheme offers financial support to the chosen applicants so they can enroll in **Masters and Ph.D. programmes at foreign institutions or universities** in any field of study at institutions or universities recognised by the government or other authorised body of that nation.
Aims & Objectives	• To **facilitate the low-income students belonging to** the Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Laborers and Traditional Artisans category to obtain higher education viz., Master's degree or Ph.D courses by studying abroad thereby improving their Economic and Social status.
Salient Features	• **Features:** ○ 30% of the scholarships for each year shall be earmarked for women candidates. ○ Bachelors Level courses in any discipline are not covered under the Scheme. ○ Candidates already staying or studying or having completed studies abroad by utilizing any other scholarship from the State Government or through their own funds are not eligible to apply under the scheme. ○ Candidates having an unconditional offer of admission to top 500 ranked foreign Institutes /Universities as per the latest available QS rankings only will be selected for grant of scholarship during the first round of selection. In the second round, other students will be selected. • **Eligibility**: In order to be eligible for the scholarship, at least 60% marks or equivalent grade in the qualifying examination would be required. • **Age**: Age Not more than 35 (Thirty-Five) years, as on the first day of April for selection year. • **Income Criteria**: Income Ceiling Total family income from all sources shall not exceed Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum in the preceding financial year.

SMILE-75 INITIATIVE

News: The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the "SMILE-75 Initiative".

Introduction	• It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under the SMILE**: Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise Scheme.**
Aims & Objectives	• To make cities/towns **and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive** rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.
Salient Features	• Under the initiative, **seventy-five (75) Municipal Corporations in collaboration with NGOs** and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging. • These measures will **focus extensively on** rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, awareness, education, skill development, economic linkages and convergence with other Government welfare programmes etc. • **SMILE scheme:** Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise' (SMILE) scheme is set to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging. • **This umbrella scheme includes two sub-schemes:** ◦ Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons. ◦ Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging.

SEED SCHEME

News: The Ministry of Social Justice Ministry has so far received 402 online applications from across the country to avail benefits under the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified/Nomadic /Semi Nomadic (SEED).

Introduction	• The scheme is meant for the **upliftment of Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs/NTs/SNTs).**
Aims & Objectives	• Free competitive exam coaching to these students. • To provide health insurance to families. • Uplift clusters of these communities through livelihood initiatives • Provide financial assistance for housing.

Salient Features	• **Implementation**: The scheme will be implemented through an online portal that will issue a unique ID to each applicant so they can apply and track the status of their application online. • The agency has **created an online site that will guarantee simple registration** and serve as a repository for the data on these communities. • It **guarantees spending of ₹ 200 crore** over a five-year period beginning in 2021–22.

The De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

- These are the most economically and socially disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and ignored communities.
- The majority of them have been living in poverty for several generations and will probably continue to do so in the bleak future.
- They are not given the same support as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes because they somehow slipped the developmental framework of India.

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34 Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

RASHTRIYA YUVA SASHAKTIKARAN KARYAKRAM (RYSK)

News: The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to continue the RYSK Scheme for another five years from 2021 -22 to 2025-26.

Introduction	• It is an umbrella Central Sector Scheme with several sub-schemes under it including Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, National Youth Corps, National Young Leaders Programme etc.
Aims & Objectives	• To develop **personality and leadership qualities of youth** and to engage them in nation building activities.
Salient Features	• **Beneficiaries**: ○ In the age-group of 15-29 years. ○ For adolescents' specific components, beneficiaries are in the age-group of 10-19 years.

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E-KHEL PATHSHALA

News: Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports has virtually inaugurated the valedictory session of E-Khel Pathshala.

Introduction	• It is a programme conceptualized by **Sports Authority of India (SAI).** It is organized in association with the Ministry of Education, Khelo India and Fit India.
Aims & Objectives	• To develop the **competencies of Grassroots/ Community Coaches and Physical Education (PE) teachers** through the provisioning of physical & online training, enabling them to subsequently provide standardized coaching. • To make **sports-related knowledge accessible** to all parts of the country, regardless of geographical constraints.

Salient Features	• Under the programme, a **professionally designed curriculum** has been developed in consultation with National Sports Federations, eminent coaches, athletes and experts. • Moreover, SAI has also created **an online sports learning program** that would act as a catalyst to revolutionize sports delivery at the grassroots level. This will provide a standardized level-based quality coaching programme across the country.

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35 Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA

News: The first independent impact assessment of the Ujjwala programme has highlighted its benefits in terms of saving of lives and reduction in air pollution.

Introduction	• It was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in May 2016.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households and **reduce health risk associated with burning biomass.**
Salient Features	• A deposit-free LPG connection is given to eligible with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre. • **Achievement**: Government data shows that by January 2022, 9 crore new LPG connections had been rolled out under this scheme, and that 99.8 percent of the over 28 crore households in India now have access to LPG, up from 61.9 percent in 2015.
Eligibility Criteria	• Applicant must be a woman above the age of 18 and a citizen of India. • Applicants should belong to a BPL (Below Poverty Line) household. • No one in the applicant's household should own an LPG connection. • 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. • Applicants must not be a recipient of other similar schemes provided by the government.



36 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

NATIONAL DRUG DE-ADDICTION PROGRAMME

News: Recently, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has informed Rajya Sabha about the National Drug De-Addiction Programme (DDAP).

Introduction	• **Article 47** of the Constitution says that the state shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health. • The National "Drug De-Addiction Programme (DDAP)" is being run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the goal of offering all substance use disorders affordable, easily accessible, and evidence-based treatment through government health care facilities.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide **affordable, easily accessible and evidence-based treatment** for all substance use disorders through the government health care facilities. • To build the **capacities of health care staff** in recognition and management of substance use disorders.
Salient Features	• **Implementing agencies:** AIIMS, New Delhi; PGIMER, Chandigarh; NIMHANS, Bengaluru among others. • **National/ Nodal centre**: National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre(NDDTC), AIIMS.

NIKSHAY POSHAN YOJNA

News: Only two-thirds of people living with tuberculosis benefitted from the Union government's Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY), sole nutrition support scheme, in 2021, which raises major public health concern.

Introduction	• It was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
Aims & Objectives	• To **support every Tuberculosis (TB) Patient** by providing a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 500 per month for nutritional needs. Since its inception around Rs 1,488 crore has been paid to 5.73 million notified beneficiaries.

Significance	• **Performance**: ○ As per India TB Report 2022, only 62.1 % of 2.1 million notified cases across the country received at least one payment in 2021. ○ In Delhi, which has the highest burden of all forms of TB at 747 cases per 100,000 people, only 30.2 % of patients have got at least one DBT.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY

News: Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has announced the "National Suicide Prevention Strategy".

Introduction	• National Suicide Prevention Strategy is a **first of its kind in the country.**
Aims & Objectives	• It seeks time-bound action plans and **multi-sectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030**. The strategy is in line with the WHO's South East-Asia Region Strategy for suicide prevention.
Salient Features	• Establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years. • Establish psychiatric outpatient departments that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years. • Integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years. • Develop guidelines for responsible media reporting of suicides and restrict access to means of suicide. • Develop community resilience and societal support for suicide prevention.
India's Initiatives to Reduce Suicides:	• **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**: MHA 2017 aims to provide mental healthcare services for persons with mental illness. • **KIRAN**: The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline "KIRAN" to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns. • **Manodarpan Initiative:** is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It is aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.

37 Ministry of Tribal Affairs

PRADHAN MANTRI ADI ADARSH GRAM YOJNA (PMAAGY)

News: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs intends to transform 36,428 villages into model tribal villages under PMAAGY, with at least 50% of the population being from a tribe and 500 Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Introduction	• PMAAGY is a modified **version of 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme'** which will is being implemented during 2021-22 to 2025-26.
Aims & Objectives	• The goal of PMAAGY is to **use a convergence method** to accomplish comprehensive socioeconomic development in chosen communities.
Salient Features	The scheme's **principal elements** are: • Planning the development of the village. • Expanding the reach of state and federal government benefit programmes for individuals and families. • Enhancing infrastructure in key fields like communications, education, and health.

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

News: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has laid the foundation stone for the construction of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in Nashik, Maharashtra.

Introduction	• The scheme of EMRSs was introduced in the year 1997-98 to ensure tribal students get access to quality education in the remote tribal areas.
Aims & Objectives	• To ensure **quality education to tribal students** even in remotest areas.
Salient Features	• **Features:** ○ The schools would focus on providing quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST Students in these areas. ○ Apart from school building including hostels and staff quarters, provision for a playground, students' computer lab, teacher resource room etc. are also included in the EMRSs. ○ The EMR School follows the CBSE curriculum.

	○ Each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII. ○ 10% of the seats of EMRS can be filled up by non-ST candidates (shall not exceed the total strength of 480). • **Coverage:** ○ As per existing **EMRS Guidelines of 2010**, at least one EMRS is to be set up in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area. ○ **As per the budget 2018-19,** every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022. • **Currently, 367 EMRS are functional in India. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)** as an autonomous body under the Ministry has been set up to provide overall support and policy directions to the schools in order to bring uniformity in the administration of the schools.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY PROGRAMME

News: The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in collaboration with TATA Trusts and others have launched "Experiential Learning for 21st Century Programme".

Introduction	• Experiential Learning for the 21st Century Programme has been launched for the Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Principals and Teachers.
Aims & Objectives	• To provide children **a practical learning experience and prepare them for the outside world** when they enter the job, it is important that problem-solving and decision-making related disciplines be included in the school curriculum.
Salient Features	• **Purpose:** ○ It is conceptualized as an online programme for educators i.e. teachers and principals to help them adapt classroom learning to real-life experiences. ○ The program was offered free of cost to all the selected teachers and principals. The selected teachers were trained as "Teacher Leaders" who shall be espousing the Experiential Learning Pedagogy to all EMRS teaching fraternity in a phased manner. • **Key Features:** ○ Experiential learning can profit most from its capacity to compel each student to take an active part in the learning process, which in turn awakens their emotional intelligence and puts them on a path towards self-learning. ○ Experiential learning will also be made easier by integrating artificial intelligence with the educational sector.

AASHWASAN CAMPAIGN

News: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TB division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has organized a national conclave at the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) to disseminate the learnings of the 100-day Aashwasan Campaign under 'Tribal TB Initiative'.

Introduction	• It was organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the '**Tribal TB Initiative**'. • Under the campaign, **door-to-door screening for TB** was undertaken in more than 68,000 villages.
Aims & Objectives	• To **improve the cascade of TB care and support services** among Tribal Populations in India.
Salient Features	• Based on this campaign, the **government has now zeroed in on 75 tribal districts**, where a three-pronged strategy will be implemented to make these districts TB-free. • **The three-pronged strategy:** ○ Generating demand for TB services through continued engagement with community influencers. ○ Improving the delivery of TB services by enhancing the TB testing and diagnosis infrastructure. ○ Decreasing the risk of transmission and decreasing the pool of infections through active case-finding campaigns. • **Tribal TB Initiative:** • Tribal TB is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Central TB Division, Ministry of Health, supported by **USAID as a technical partner and Piramal Swasthya as implementing partner.**

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38 Other Schemes & Initiatives

PM-DEVINE SCHEME

News: In the Union Budget 2022-23, the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East (PM-DevINE) will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council.

Introduction	• The scheme will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti, and social development projects based on felt needs of the **North-East states**.
Aims & Objectives	• To enable livelihood activities for youth, women and fill gaps of various sectors. • The **North-Eastern Council is the implementing Agency**. An allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore will be made for the PM-DevINE scheme. • Under the PM-DevINE scheme, projects can be recommended by Centre and North East States as well but priority will be given to projects posed by the states.
Salient Features	• **Few projects to be implemented are:** ○ Dedicated Services for the Management of Paediatric and Adult Hematolymphoid Cancers in North East India, Guwahati. ○ Construction of Aizawl bypass on western side, gap funding for passenger ropeway system for Pelling to Sanga-Choeling in West Sikkim. ○ Gap funding for eco-friendly Ropeway (Cable Car) from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in South Sikkim. ○ Pilot project for the construction of Bamboo Link Road at different locations in various districts in Mizoram

EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME

News: Recently ECLGS has helped save almost 13.5 lakh units and 1.5 crore jobs in the MSME sector.

Introduction	• It was launched as part of the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package** announced in May 2020 to **mitigate the distress caused by coronavirus-induced lockdown**, by providing credit to different sectors, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Aims & Objectives	• To mitigate the distress caused by COVID pandemic
Salient Features	• The **scheme gives 100% guarantee coverage** which is being provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, whereas Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) provide loans. • The credit will be provided in the form of a **Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.** • **No Guarantee Fee shall be charged** by NCGTC from the Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under the Scheme. • **Interest rates** under the Scheme shall be capped at 9.25% for banks and FIs, and at 14% for NBFC.
Eligibility	• The scheme is extended to Mudra borrowers and Individual loans for business purposes. • The scheme is also extended through ECLGS 2.0 for 26 sectors identified by the Kamath Committee and for the Health Care sector up to Mar 21, for entities with outstanding credit of above Rs.50 crore and not exceeding Rs.500 crore.
Benefits of the scheme	• To provide credit to the sector at a low cost, thereby enabling MSMEs to meet their operational liabilities and restart their businesses. • It supports MSMEs to have a positive impact on the economy and support its revival.

MINIMUM ASSURED RETURN SCHEME

News: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has appointed EY Actuarial Services LLP as a consultant to design the Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS) under the National Pension System (NPS).

Introduction	• The scheme will provide **savers and people from the salaried class** an option for their investments. • The actual returns will depend on the market conditions and to future contributions (prospectively). • Any shortfall will be made good by the sponsor, and the surplus will be credited to the subscribers' account.
Aims & Objectives	• To have a **separate system which delivers a guaranteed minimum rate of return** to National Pension System (NPS) subscribers, especially to risk-averse individuals.

Salient Features	• **Two options are likely to be on offer:** ○ Under the fixed guarantee option, the guaranteed return is fixed along the accumulation phase. ○ Under the floating guarantee option, the guaranteed rate of return is not fixed along the savings phase. The guarantee depends on the development of the 1-year interest rate until retirement. • Lock-in period may be applicable on each contribution, and will be applied based on the period since that contribution has been made. • It may also consider multiple lock-in period options (or staggered guarantee periods) for flexibility. • The subscriber may have the option to withdraw or to stay invested after the lock-in period. However, there won't be any guarantee applied on the investment after lock-in.
National Pension System:	• The scheme was Introduced in 2004 (except for armed forces). It was made available to all Citizens of India from 2009. It is based on a unique individual pension account viz. Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) created for each subscriber. • A citizen of India aged between 18-70 years can join NPS either in their individual capacity or in association with their Employer. • **NPS is structured into two tiers:** ○ Tier-I accounts for Non-withdrawable permanent retirement accounts. ○ Tier-II account - Voluntary withdrawable account • Contributions to the Individual Pension Account can be made during one's working life. • It can be done either by the individual or employer or by the employer and employee together in equal or unequal proportion. • The accumulated corpus under the scheme is utilized to procure a pension upon retirement/superannuation of the subscriber. • **PFRDA, which is the pension regulator, operates the** National Pension System (NPS). National Pension System Trust (NPST) established by PFRDA is the registered owner of all assets under NPS.

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AAI)

News: Recently, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has launched an initiative named "'Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region (AVSAR).

Introduction	• **Airports Authority of India**: It is a statutory body (created through the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994) working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
Aims & Objectives	• To encourage the talent of craftsmen, women, and artisans and provide them with proper opportunities.
Salient Features	• **Features:** ○ The space will be allocated to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at the airports for the purpose of showcasing or selling the self-made products of their specific region. ○ At each AAI-operated airport, an area of 100-200 square feet has been earmarked for the SHGs. ○ On a turn-on-turn basis, this area will be provided to the SHGs for a duration of 15 days. • **Significance**: The initiative will strengthen the SHGs by providing them with visibility and will prepare them to market and promote their products to a larger population from the country as well outside the country.

OPEN ACREAGE LICENSING PROGRAMME

News: The Government has launched the eighth round of Open Acreage Licensing Programme.

Introduction	• The **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) was promulgated in 2016** and was launched with the vision of reducing hydrocarbon import dependency by 10% by 2022. • **Under the HELP Open Acreage Licensing (OAL) mechanism has been launched.** • It allows the investors to carve out blocks of their choice by assessing Exploration and production (E&P) data available at National Data Repository (NDR) & by submitting an Expression of Interest (EoI). • These blocks are subsequently offered biannually through a formal bidding process.
Aims & Objectives	• To examine the interest and if it is suitable for award, then the govt will call for competitive bids after obtaining necessary environmental and other clearances.

Salient Features	• It adopts the **Revenue Sharing Contract model** and has replaced the earlier model of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to improve the 'Ease of Doing Business' in the Indian Exploration and Production (E&P) sector. **Other Features:** • **Single license** that will cover exploration and production of all types of hydrocarbon viz. conventional oil and gas, coal-bed methane, shale oil, gas hydrates, etc. • **Reduced and graded royalty rates** to encourage exploration in deep water and ultra-deep-water areas, the royalty was exempted for the first seven years. Subsequently royalty of 5% and 2% applicable in deep water and ultra-deep water areas. • **Exemption of cess on crude oil and custom duty** applicable on equipment/ services for exploration and production activities. • **Full marketing and pricing freedom** of gas produced. • **Extended period for exploration and production** i.e. 8 years for on land/ shallow water and 10 years for deep water/frontier areas.

UJJWAL BHARAT UJJWAL BHAVISHYA – POWER @2047

News: The Prime Minister has participated in the Grand Finale marking the culmination of 'Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya-Power @2047' and also launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.

Introduction	• It is organized as part of the ongoing **'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'**.
Aims & Objectives	• It showcases the **transformation in the power sector achieved in the last eight years**. It aims to empower citizens by improving their awareness and participation in various power-related initiatives, schemes and programmes of government.
Salient Feature	**Revamped Based Power Distribution Sector Scheme:** • The Scheme aims to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of DISCOMs/Power Departments excluding Private Sector DISCOMs by providing conditional financial assistance for strengthening of supply infrastructure. • **Features:** ○ Reduction of AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% by 2024-25. ○ Reduction of ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25. ○ Developing Institutional Capabilities for Modern DISCOMs

	○ Improvement in the quality, reliability, and affordability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient Distribution Sector. • **Implementation**: Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have been nominated as the nodal agencies for the implementation of the scheme. The duration of the Scheme would be available till the year 2025-26.

GRAMEEN UDYAMI PROJECT

News: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society has launched the second phase of Grameen Udyami Project to augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth.

Introduction	• The project is implemented **under Sansadiya Parisankul Yojana.**
Aims & Objectives	• To **multiskilling India's tribal youth** and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods. ○ Increase in Rural/Local Economy, ○ Enhance employment opportunities, ○ Reduce forced migration due to lack of local opportunities and ○ Conservation of natural resources
Salient Features	• **Coverage**: The project is being implemented in six states-Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat. • **Funded by**: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). • The training under the project will be conducted in the following Job roles: Electrician & Solar PV Installation Technician Plumbing & Masonry 2-Wheeler Repair & Maintenance IT/ITES with e-Governance and Farm Mechanization. • **Launch in Phases:** ○ In the first phase of the project, candidates were mobilized from rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. ○ **The phase-II** of the pilot project was launched in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

SMALL SAVINGS SCHEMES

News: The government announced minor upticks of 0.1% to 0.3% in the interest rates payable on five small savings instruments (SSIs), including the Kisan Vikas Patra, Senior Citizens' Savings scheme and time deposits for 2 and 3 years.

Introduction	• **Small Savings Schemes** are a set of savings instruments managed by the central government with an aim to encourage citizens to save regularly irrespective of their age. • They are popular as they not only provide returns that are generally higher than bank fixed deposits but also **come with a sovereign guarantee and tax benefits**.
Aims & Objectives	• It aims to encourage citizens to save regularly irrespective of their age.
Salient Features	• All deposits received under various small savings schemes are pooled in the **National Small Savings Fund**. The money in the fund is used by the central government to finance its fiscal deficit. • **Classification:** ○ **Post office deposits:** Savings deposit, Recurring deposit and Time deposits with 1, 2, 3 and 5 year maturities and the Monthly Income Account. ○ **National Savings Certificate**: The interest that is earned is reinvested into the scheme every year automatically. ○ **Kisan Vikas Patra**: Open to everyone, doubles the one-time investment at the end of 12 months signifying a return of 6.9% compounded annually • **Social Security Schemes:** ○ **Public Provident Fund (PPF):** is a retirement savings scheme offered by the Government of India with the aim of providing a secure post-retirement life to everyone. ○ **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme**: Can be opened by anyone who is over 60 years of age.

TELECOM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND (TTDF) SCHEME

News: Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), a body under the Department of Telecommunications, officially launched the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme.

Introduction	• Under the scheme, USOF is targeting to develop standards to meet countrywide requirements and create the ecosystem for research, design, prototyping, use cases, pilots, and proof of concept testing, among others.

Aims & Objectives	• It aims to fund **R&D in rural-specific communication** • It provides **technology applications and form synergies** among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry to build and develop the telecom ecosystem. • Scheme aims to **promote technology ownership and indigenous manufacturing**, create a culture of technology co-innovation, reduce imports, boost export opportunities and creation of Intellectual Property.
Salient Feature	• **The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):** ○ Formed by an Act of Parliament, and was established in April 2002 under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act 2003. ○ It aims to provide financial support for the provision of telecom services in commercially unviable rural and remote areas of the country. ○ It is an attached office of the Department of Telecom, and is headed by the administrator, who is appointed by the central government. • **Funding Pattern:** ○ USOF is a non-lapsable Fund. ○ The Levy amount is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. ○ The fund is made available to USOF after due appropriation by the Parliament.

EPFO PENSION SCHEME

News: The Supreme Court has upheld the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2014 of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation as "legal and valid" while reading down certain provisions.

Introduction	• The **Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952** originally did not provide for any pension scheme. • In 1995, through an amendment, a scheme was formulated for employees' pension. The scheme which is administered by the EPFO aims to provide employees with pension after the age of 58.
Aims & Objectives	• It aims to provide employees with pension **after the age of 58.**
Salient Features	• **Both the employee and the employer contribute** 12% of the employee's basic salary and dearness allowance to the EPF.

- **The employee's entire part goes to EPF** while the 12% contribution made by the employer is split as 3.67% contribution to EPF and 8.33% contribution to EPS. Apart from this, the **Government of India contributes 1.16%** as well for an employee's pension. Employees do not contribute to the pension scheme.
- At that point of time, maximum pensionable salary was Rs 5,000 per month which was later raised to Rs 6,500



Amendment in 2014:

- The EPS amendment of 2014 had **raised the pensionable salary cap** to Rs 15,000 a month from Rs 6,500 a month and allowed members along with their employers to contribute 8.33% on their actual salaries (if it exceeded the cap) towards the EPS. It gave all EPS members, as on September 1,2014, six months to opt for the amended scheme.
- However, the **amendment required such members** (with actual salaries over Rs 15,000 a month) **to contribute an additional 1.16%** of their salary exceeding Rs 15,000 a month towards the pension fund.

Supreme Court ruling on 2014 amendments:

- The **court has struck down a requirement in the 2014 amendments** that employees who go beyond the salary threshold (of ₹15,000 per month) should contribute monthly to the pension scheme at the rate of 1.16% of their salary.
- The court also held that employees who were eligible to join the EPS Scheme but were unable to do so because they did not exercise their option by the deadline can do so within the next four months.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDIA PROGRAM

News: The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.

Introduction	• The 'Sustainable Cities India program' intends to enable cities to **decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way** that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems

Aims & Objectives	• The program's objective is to **develop an environment that will allow cities to produce decarbonization solutions** in the built environment, transportation, and energy sectors.
Salient Features	• **WEF and NIUA will adapt the WEF's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions** for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years. • **City Sprint process**: It is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops involving business, government, and civil society leaders to enable decarbonization, especially through clean electrification and circularity. • **Toolbox of Solutions**: This sprint process uses the Toolbox of Solutions. It is a digital platform containing over 200 examples of clean electrification, efficiency and smart infrastructure best practices and case studies across buildings, energy systems and mobility from over 110 cities around the world.

MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR

News: 75 ponds in Ghaziabad set for revival under Centre's 'Amrit Sarovar' scheme. Launched in April this year.

Introduction	• On April 24, 2022, the Amrit Sarovar Mission was established with the goal of **conserving water for the future**.
Aims & Objectives	• As part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Mission **aims to revitalise 75 water bodies in each district of the nation.** • It would result in the **construction of 50,000 water bodies**, each measuring at least an acre in size. • The Mission promotes the **mobilisation of private sector and non-governmental resources** to support these initiatives.
Salient Features	• **As part of the initiative**, each of the ponds will have a pondage area of minimum 1 acre (0.4 hectares) with water holding capacity of about 10,000 cubic metres. • In total, it would lead to the **creation of 50,000 water bodies** of a size of about an Acre or more. • **Participating Ministries/Departments**: Department of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate change. • **Technical Partner**: Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N). • **Duration of the mission**: The Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be completed by 15th August 2023.

Implementation Strategy	• **Refocusing of Schemes**: The Mission works through the States and Districts through refocusing of various schemes such as MGNREGA, 15th Finance Commission Grants, PMKSY sub-schemes such as Watershed Development Component, Har Khet Ko Pani besides States own schemes. • The mission also encourages the mobilization of citizen and non-govt resources for supplementing these efforts.

NTPC'S BIODIVERSITY POLICY

News: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd.) has issued a renewed Biodiversity Policy 2022 to establish a comprehensive vision and guiding principle for conservation, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity.

Introduction	• This Biodiversity Policy is an **integral part of NTPC's Environmental Policy**. Its objectives are aligned with environmental and sustainability policies.
Aims & Objectives	• Support Professionals to achieve Biodiversity Target • Addressing Local Threats • Mainstreaming the Concept of Biodiversity
Salient Features	1. **Support Professionals to achieve Biodiversity Target**: ○ The policy is designed to support all the professionals of the NTPC Group to help them contribute toward the achievement of the targets set in this field. ○ NTPC has always been mindful about avoiding operations in areas with the highest biodiversity value and judiciously selecting project sites. ○ Company's efforts will be further strengthened to ensure that biodiversity is not lost at any of its currently operating sites and that there is a net positive balance wherever possible. 2. **Mainstreaming the Concept of Biodiversity**: ○ The major aim is to mainstream the concept of biodiversity across NTPC's value chain. ○ It also aims to adopt a precautionary approach for sustainable management of biodiversity in all the decision-making processes to ensure the Earth's variety of life in and around the business units of NTPC. 3. **Addressing Local Threats**: The policy also aims to adopt systematic consideration of local threats to biodiversity beyond the company's business activities.

NTPC Limited

- NTPC Ltd. is a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power. It was established in 1975, NTPC aims to be the world's largest and best power major.
- It is India's largest power utility with an installed capacity of 68,961.68 MW and plans to become a 130 GW company by 2032.
- NTPC has comprehensive Rehabilitation & Resettlement and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies well integrated with its core business of setting up power projects and generating electricity. It became a Maharatna company in 2010.

HARIT AAYKAR INITIATIVE

News: The Income Tax Department launched the HARIT Aaykar initiative on the occasion of National Unity Day.

Introduction	• It was launched **by the Central Board of Direct taxes.**
Aims & Objectives	• To **increase the green cover by planting trees and creating micro-forests** in and around the Income Tax Department's buildings and other public areas.
Salient Features	• Further, the Department would continue to welcome dignitaries at events and programmes organized by it, with potted plants or a single stalk of a flower. • The first of such micro-forests has been inaugurated near the **Attari border in Punjab.**

Micro Forests

- It is a small, planted forest that maximizes tree density and biodiversity.
- Achieving this goal requires planting a wide variety of plants in a fairly dense manner so that the plot of land has different layers of a forest such as shrubs and canopies and not just trees.
- Plants typically require anywhere between eight to nine months of care before reaching a point where the micro forest becomes self-sustaining.

LEAD-IT INITIATIVE

News: India and Sweden hosted the LeadIT Summit on the side-lines of COP27.

Introduction	• **The scheme, launched by** Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and is supported by the **World Economic Forum**. • The initiative gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the **Paris Agreement.**

Aims & Objectives	• LeadIT members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industries can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.
Salient Features	• **Secretariat**: It is hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden. • **Significance:** ○ The low carbon transition of the industrial sector will not only contribute towards the reduction in required greenhouse gas emissions. ○ It has several co-benefits that include increasing resilience to changes in climate, enhanced energy security, innovation, socio-economic development and job creation.

VIGYAN JYOTI SCHEME

News: The Vigyan Jyoti programme is being implemented in 100 schools in the country and all the schools are situated in rural areas. It was launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls to pursue STEM.

Introduction	• It is an initiative to encourage girls to take interest in science and build a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
Aims & Objectives	• The scheme **envisages hand-holding and interventions right from the school level** i.e., Class IX and which will continue till the PhD level to encourage girls to pursue a career in underrepresented areas of STEM
Salient Features	• **Activities under the scheme**: Various activities such as science camps, special lectures/ classes, counseling of students and parents, interaction with role models, tinkering activities, and visits to Knowledge Partners/ Research Labs are being conducted in order to motivate girls. • **Implementation Partner**: Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Education, is the implementation partner of Vigyan Jyoti.

VIGYAN SARVATRA PUJYATE

News: Recently, The Government of India is organizing "Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate (science is revered all over)" as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Introduction	• It is a **nationwide week-long programme** of competitions and lectures for school students and collegians
Aims & Objectives	• To **attract students towards scientific knowledge** of articles of daily use and propagating scientific theories.

Salient Features	• **Organized by**: Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology, CSIR, DRDO and other ministries under the leadership of the office of the Principal Scientific Officer to the Government of India and the Ministry of Culture. • **Coordinating Agency**: Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organization of DST with a mandate to promote science communication is the coordinating agency. • **Themes under the programme**: The programme has been grouped under four themes: 1. The first theme is "from the annals of the history of S&T". This section traces the contributions of founders of modern science and institutions of national importance to nation-building. 2. **Milestones of Modern S&T**: It will highlight critical discoveries, innovations, or inventions that made a mark in the global science or India's development story. 3. **Swadeshi Paramparik Inventions and Innovations:** It will showcase 75 inventions or technologies that made India self-reliant. 4. **Transforming India**: It will look at the road ahead for the next 25 years of Indian S & T.

DHARA – AN ODE TO INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

News: The Ministry of Culture organized the first event of the series Dhara – an Ode to the Indian Knowledge System today as part of Science Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate.

About	• DHARA comprises a **series of lecture demonstrations** by eminent scholars across the world to revisit our history and celebrate the achievements of India and the contribution of great scholars, mathematicians, scientists, and leaders to its heritage. • The **lectures commenced with 'Mathematics in India'** which will focus on India's contribution to Mathematics through the ages.

DARE2ERAD TB PROGRAM

News: The Dare2eraD TB initiative was launched by the Department of Biotechnology on the occasion of World TB Day.

Introduction	• The Dare2eraD TB stands for Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB. The Dare2eraD TB" will be **an umbrella TB programme of DBT**.

Salient Features	• **Components**: The programme consists of key initiatives such as: ○ **InTGS – Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance Consortium**- It is proposed on lines of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG). It aims to monitor the genomic variations in Mycobacterium tuberculosis(Mtb) on a regular basis through a multi-laboratory network ○ **In TBK Hub-Indian TB Knowledge Hub-Webinar Series**- It will be a Webinar series starting from World TB Day that will create Academia-Industry connect to discuss challenges and exchange ideas and carry forward open innovations between all TB stakeholders. ○ Host Directed therapies against TB and developing an evidence-based regimen for treating extra-pulmonary Tuberculosis.
Other initiatives related to Tuberculosis (TB)	• Regional Prospective Observational Research in Tuberculosis (RePORT) India initiative- It is a bilateral, multi-organizational, collaborative research effort established in 2013 under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Program (VAP). It aims to advance tuberculosis (TB) research in India. • Department of Biotechnology has initiated a major network programme on "MDR-TB in Northeast India: a genomic driven approach" involving 22 North East Region (NER) institutes from 8 states and 14 other Institutes

5G VERTICAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

News: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has invited the Expression of Interest (EoI) for the "5G Vertical Engagement and Partnership Programme (VEPP)".

Introduction	• The DoT will "**facilitate relevant approvals, regulatory clearances** to enable use case prototypes, pilots, demos, and trials at the user or vertical industry premises" as part of this initiative.
Aims & Objectives	• To build strong collaborative partnerships across 5G Use-case ecosystem stakeholders with velocity and with an exclusive emphasis to address User/ Vertical Industry needs.
Salient Features	• The programme is being **offered to Industry verticals that have potential as testing cum breeding grounds** for innovative 5G use cases. • **Under the programme, DoT will partner with other** ministries, state governments and start-up hubs to facilitate necessary approvals, and regulatory clearances to enable use case prototyping, pilots, demos, and trials at the user or vertical industry premises. • On the other hand, **technology stakeholders will have to work to develop and deploy prototypes and pilots for 5G use** cases as per the needs of the respective ministries or industry verticals to help accelerate commercial usage and adoption by enterprises
Significance	• The program will **enable close collaboration between User verticals and 5G Tech stakeholders** (Service providers, Solution providers & partner Original Equipment Manufacturers). This can trigger a multiplier effect to try & finetune 5G digital solutions in respective economic verticals.

WISER PROGRAMME

News: The first 11 awardees of the Women Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER) programme were recently felicitated.

Introduction	• It was launched in 2021 by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC).
Aims & Objectives	• It is a first-of-its-kind programme to promote women in the field of research and development through lateral entry.
Salient Features	• The program will **support women scientists** holding regular/long-term research positions in academia or research institutes/industry. • The involvement in the program will be possible through **lateral entry**. There is neither requirement for a break-in-career nor any age limit, and it will enable easy participation. • **Financial Support**: IGSTC is going to support the awardees with a maximum amounting to Rs. 39 Lakh from the Indian side & €48000 from the German side. The WISER program offers 20 awards per year.

FASTER PLATFORM

News: The Chief Justice of India has launched the FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) platform.

Introduction	• It is a **digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, and bail orders of the Supreme Court** to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel
Aims & Objectives	• The project's goal is to **make courts more ICT-enabled** so that they may offer specific services to litigants, attorneys, and the judiciary.
Salient Features	• **Functioning:** ○ **FASTER Cell**: It has been established in the Registry of the Supreme Court. The cell will transmit digitally signed records of proceedings or orders related to bail and release passed by the court to the nodal officers and duty holders concerned through email. ○ **Nodal Officers**: To reach all districts of India, 73 nodal officers have been nominated at various levels. All nodal officers have been connected through a specific Judicial Communication Network (JCN) by creating a secured pathway. • **Significance**: It will ensure that undertrials are not made to wait for days on end behind bars to be released because the certified hard copies of their bail orders took time to reach the prison.

EARLY HARVEST AGREEMENT

News: India and Australia have announced that they are set to conclude an Early Harvest Agreement and a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) thereafter.

Introduction	• An interim or early harvest trade agreement is used to **liberalize tariffs on the trade of certain goods** between two countries or trading blocs before a comprehensive FTA (Free Trade Agreement) is concluded
Salient Features	• The interim agreement will **cover most areas of interest** for both countries including goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and customs procedures. • Under the agreement, **India is likely to seek easier visa access** for both students and professionals visiting Australia. • On the other hand, **Australia is likely to seek market access** for wines and agricultural products which are not produced on a large scale in India. ○ However, Australia would likely **not seek market access** for products in dairy, beef and wheat categories as they are sensitive sectors for India. • **Current Bilateral Trade** between India and Australia- Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at about $12.5 billion in FY21 and has already surpassed $17.7 billion in the first 10 months of FY22. • **Key imports from Australia** include coal, gold and LNG while key exports to the country from India include diesel, petrol and gems and jewellery.

OPERATION AAHT

News: Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched "Operation AAHT".

Introduction	• It is a **nationwide operation to curb human trafficking**. As part of the operation, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
Aims & Objectives	• To curb human trafficking
Salient Features	• The **infrastructure and intelligence network** of the RPF will be utilized to collect, collate and analyze clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, kingpins and shared with other law-enforcing agencies. • Hence, the **RPF could act as a bridge cutting across States** to assist the local police in the mission to curb the menace of human trafficking

Railway Protection Force

- The RPF is a security force established by the Railway Protection Force Act,1957.
- It was established for the better protection and security of railway property.
- RPF has the power to search, arrest, investigate and prosecute but the ultimate power rests in the hands of the Government Railway Police. The force is under the authority of the Indian Ministry of Railways.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

News: The National Health Authority has announced the integration of its flagship Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with the Aarogya Setu app, allowing users to create the 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers from the app.

Introduction	• The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will **provide a digital health ID** to the people who will hold their health records.
Aims & Objectives	• The mission aims to **liberate citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors**, seeking appointment, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for prescription sheets, among several others and will empower people to make an informed decision to avail the best possible healthcare.
Salient Features	• It is a digital health ecosystem under which every Indian citizen will now **have unique health IDs, digitized health records** with identifiers for doctors and health facilities. The scheme will come under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. • It **comprises six key building blocks** — HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy and Telemedicine. • The **National Health Authority** has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the mission in the country. • The **core building blocks of the mission is** that the health ID, DigiDoctor and Health Facility Registry shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the Government of India. • **Private stakeholders will have an equal opportunity** to integrate and create their own products for the market. The core activities and verifications, however, remain with the government. • Under the Mission, every Indian will get a **Health ID card that will store all medical details of the person** including prescriptions, treatment, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries.

	• **Health ID** is a randomly generated 14 digit number used for the purposes of uniquely identifying persons, authenticating them, and threading their health records (only with their informed consent) across multiple systems and stakeholders. • The citizens will be able to give their doctors and health providers **one-time access to this data** during visits to the hospital for consultation.

National Health Authority (NHA)

- NHA is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana" & has been entrusted with the role of designing strategy, building technological infrastructure and implementation of "National Digital Health Mission" to create a National Digital Health Ecosystem.
- National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency, which has been functioning as a registered society since 23rd May, 2018.
- NHA has been set-up to implement PM-JAY. An attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with full functional autonomy, NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.
- NHA is leading the implementation for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) in coordination with different ministries/departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and private sector/civil society organizations.

PM SHRI SCHOOLS

News: The Centre plans to set up the 'PM Shri Schools' that will aim at preparing students for the future.

Introduction	• PM Shri Schools' will be the state-of-the-art schools that will **serve as the 'laboratory of NEP 2020'.** They will fully equip the students with 21st-century knowledge and skills to prepare them for the future.
Salient Features	• The **steps for preparing global citizens of the 21st century** are: ○ 5+3+3+4 approach of the NEP covering pre-school to secondary school. ○ Emphasis on Early Childhood Care & Education Program (ECCE). ○ Teacher training & adult education. ○ Integration of skill development with school education. ○ Prioritising learning in the mother tongue. • **Best practices in education coming from different states and UTs** will act as a cumulative force in transforming India's youth as **'Vishwa-Manavs' (global citizens).**

5+3+3+4 Schooling System

- As per the new school education system of 5+3+3+4 outlined in NEP 2020, children will spend 5 years in the Foundational stage, 3 years in the Preparatory stage, 3 years in the Middle stage, and 4 years in the Secondary stage.
- The division of stages has been made in line with the kind of cognitive development stages that a child goes through early childhood, school years, and secondary stage.

SPARK PROGRAM

News: Recently, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has taken a unique initiative to support the research efforts of bright young minds of the Country by developing the Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) for Ayurveda students studying in recognised Ayurveda colleges.

Introduction	• An initiative by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).
Aims & Objectives	• To support the **research ideas of young undergraduate students** enrolled in **Ayurveda Colleges** across India.
Salient Features	• **Application process:** ○ The application process for SPARK will be completely online. ○ Interested candidates will be required to submit their research proposals through the SPARK Portal. ○ The proposals will be evaluated by eminent experts and reviewers. ○ The selected fellows will be offered a financial support of Rs.50, 000 under the fellowship. • **Significance**: It will support the innovative ideas of young students and promote the culture of evidence based scientific research in the field of Traditional Medicine.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)

- It is an autonomous body of the Ministry of AYUSH. It is an apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine.
- CCRAS has developed and implemented a wide range of schemes and programs to serve the citizens.
- The Council has quality research activity in the domains of Ayurveda and allied sciences.
- The Council has not only developed popular formulations such as Ayush-64, it has as many as 18 formulations and technologies.
- The Council is currently working on research and development projects in collaboration with leading research institutions in Romania, Germany, Israel, USA, Canada and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

DIGITAL SHAKTI CAMPAIGN

News: The National Commission for Women (NCW) has recently launched the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign.

Introduction	• It was started in June 2018
Aims & Objective	• To **help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front**, to build resilience and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways. Through this campaign, over 3 Lakh women across India have been made aware of cyber safety tips and tricks, reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefit.
Salient Features	**Fourth phase of the Digital Shakti Campaign:** • It was **launched by the National Commission for Women (NCW)** in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta. • **Focus**: To make women digitally skilled and aware to stand up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online

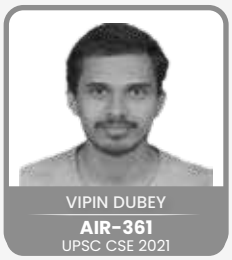
National Commission for Women (NCW)

- Under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**, the NCW was set up as a statutory body in January 1992.
- The First Commission was constituted on **31st January 1992** with **Mrs. Jayanti Patnaik as the Chairperson.**
- The commission consists of a chairperson, a member secretary and five other members.
- The chairperson of the NCW is nominated by the Central Government.
- Mission of NCW is to strive towards enabling women to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life by securing her due rights and entitlements through suitable policy formulation, legislative measures, etc.

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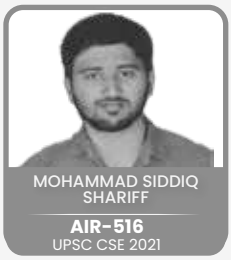
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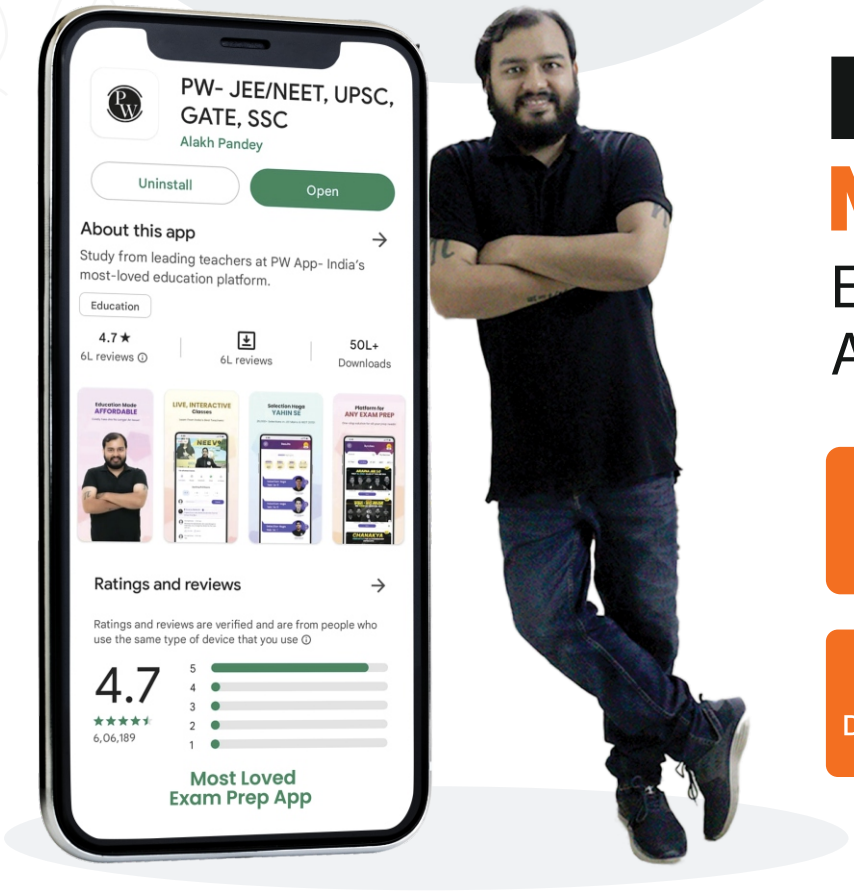
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