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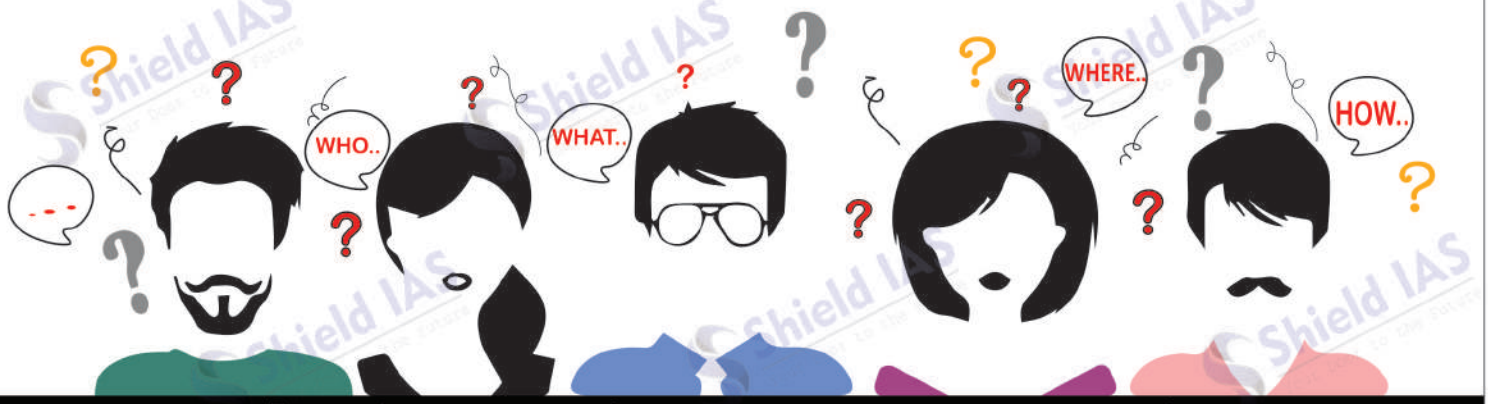
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IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

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7	IMPORTANT GOVT. SCHEMES
8	INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Note: Additional booklet **number 9** on important topics of current affairs will be released in **April, 2023.**



RECOMMENDATION OF OUR SELECTED STUDENTS

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Also, the complete set of study material provided by SHIELD IAS is recommended for comprehensive coverage of General Studies topics for both preliminary and Mains stage of civil services examination.

AMOL SRIVASTAVA
AIR-83 UPSC CSE 2017

I would recommend the study material provided by Shield IAS for the UPSC Civil Services preparation to cover the General Studies syllabus. The Rapid Revision Books would help the aspirants for speedy revision for the Civil Services (Preliminary) examination. The books have been prepared by my mentors who helped me in clearing my Civil Services Exam in 2015-16.

HARSH KUMAR
IFS – 2016

I, Nidhin K Biju, IRS of 2020 batch, want to suggest the aspirants preparing for UPSC civil services Examination to read SHIELD IAS Rapid Revision books for swift coverage of syllabus for the UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) exams. These books will help in targeted revision for confident attempt in the examination. I would also recommend reading the SHIELD IAS UPSC study material as a set of standard books for covering the entire General Studies syllabus (Prelims and Main Examinaton).

- Nidhin

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IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

(SPECIAL EDITION FOR PRELIMS 2023)

SCHEMES, MISSIONS AND PROGRAMS

➡ ATAL PENSION YOJANA

- Atal Pension Yojana is a pension scheme under the Government of India.
- This scheme **replaces the Swavalamban Yojana** and was established **to provide old age income security** to the **workers belonging to the unorganised sector** who are not covered under any of the social security schemes.
- It became operational from **1st June 2015**.

Benefits

- The scheme provides the subscribers with a **fixed pension** ranging between Rs.1000 to Rs. 5000.
- The pension is provided if he/she joins and **contributes between the age of 18 years and 40 years**.
- The contribution level varies as per the conditions which is low if the subscriber joins the scheme early and might increase if he/she joins late.
- After the death of the subscriber, the **spouse is eligible for availing the same benefits** provided by the pension.
- The indicative pension wealth will be returned to the nominees after the death of a spouse.
- Contributions to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is eligible for tax benefits similar to the National Pension System (NPS).

Eligibility

- Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is open to those who are not a member of any statutory social security scheme.
- Any individual aged between 18 years to 40 years and have a bank account are eligible for the scheme.
- He/She will have to **provide proof of possession** along with their Aadhaar number or must undergo Aadhaar authentication.
- The subscriber should get their Aadhaar number recorded in the APY pension account as well as in their savings account.
- Providing of the Aadhar number is important for the debit of the contribution instalments and for the credit of government co-contribution.

➡ ASPIRE

- A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE) **aids to set up a network of technology centres** and to set up **incubation centres to**

accelerate entrepreneurship and also to promote startups for **innovation in agro-industry.**

- ASPIRE provides financial support to set up **Livelihood Business Incubators (LBI)** or **Technology Business Incubator (TBI).**

Objectives

- Create new jobs and reduce unemployment
- Promote entrepreneurship culture in India
- Grassroots economic development at the district level
- Facilitate innovative business solution for unmet social needs
- Promote innovation to further strengthen the competitiveness of MSME sector

Eligibility

- Implement the incubation and commercialisation of business ideas programme through technical/research institutes including those in the field of agro-based industry.
- These would be designated as knowledge partners and would incubate new/existing technologies for their commercialisation.
- It provides funds for the incubator/incubation and creates necessary synergy between this scheme and the livelihood business.
- Incubators/Technology Business Incubators and Incubation Schemes of MSME/NSIC/KVIC/Coir Board/Other Ministries/Departments as well as Private Incubators.

➡ ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

- **Atal New India Challenge** was launched under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to bring in innovations and technologies relevant to the masses.
- Atal Innovation Mission is a flagship initiative launched to p**romote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship** in the country.
- The AIM, in partnership with the **Railway Board, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs,** has launched the Atal New India Challenge.
- The AIM, under the initiative, would invite potential innovators, start-ups and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises to innovate, create and design market-ready products with the help of cutting-edge technologies in 17 pre-identified focus areas.

Initiatives of AIM

- Atal Tinkering Lab
- Atal Incubation Center
- Mentor India
- Atal New India Challenge
- Atal Community Innovation Centre
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE – Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) Program

17 pre-identified focus areas for the AIM

- Waste in public spaces and dissuading public littering
- Mixing blades for composting
- Decentralized composting
- Quality of compost
- Garbage composition devices
- Waste management recycling/reuse
- Affordable desalination/recycling technology
- Instant potable water quality testing
- Safe transport
- Electric mobility
- Smart mobility
- Alternate fuel-based transportation
- Predictive maintenance of rolling stock
- Prevention of rail failure using emerging technologies
- Fog vision system for road and rail
- Climate-smart agriculture

The programme will be driven by the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and four ministries:

- Ministry of Defence;
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries;
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

➡ ATAL TINKERING LABS

- Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) have been **established at schools across India,** with a vision to **"cultivate one million children in India as neoteric innovators"**.
- The **objective of the scheme** is to "foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds" and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, etc.
- ATL is an activity conducted under the umbrella mission named **'Atal Innovation Mission' (AIM).** AIM is the Indian Government's flagship program to foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.
- AIM establishes ATLs in schools across the country.
- The chief objective of establishing ATLs is to promote curiosity, imagination, and creativity in the minds of school-going children.
- Other goals of the scheme include inculcating in children a **design mindset, adaptive learning, computational thinking, physical computing,** etc.
- The philosophy behind ATLs is that prize awards and incentives are a great start to generate an aggressive wave of innovation and entrepreneurship in school-going children.

- ATL's would be set up by schools (having grades VI to X) that are managed by the government, local bodies, private trusts or societies, etc.

➡ AMRUT

- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in **June 2015**.
- The AMRUT scheme is an initiative **to provide basic civic amenities to the urban areas** to improve the quality of life with major focus to the poor and the disadvantaged.
- The AMRUT Scheme **focuses on establishing an infrastructure** for ensuring adequate sewage networks and water supply in the urban areas through the implementation of the urban revival projects.
- The first state to submit State Annual Action Plan under the AMRUT scheme was Rajasthan.
- Various other schemes like **Swachh Bharat Mission, Housing for All 2022** and the local state schemes related to water supply, sewerage and infrastructure can also be linked to the AMRUT scheme.

Objectives

- To ensure a **proper supply of water and a sewage connection** in every household.
- To develop **green and well maintained open spaces and parks** to increase the amenity value of the cities.
- To **reduce pollution by switching to public transport** or through the construction of non-motorized transport facilities such as walking and cycling.
- AMRUT aims in covering around 500 cities that are having a population of over one lakh with notified municipalities.

Major components

- Capacity building
- Reform implementation
- Water supply and management of sewerage and septage
- Drainage of stormwater
- Improvement in urban transport facilities
- Development of green spaces and parks.

➡ AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR SCHEME

- Launched under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) on October 19, 2020.
- Ayushman Sahakar is a unique scheme to assist cooperatives to play an important role in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

Key Features

- Ayushman Sahakar Fund will be made available by the **National Cooperative Development Corporation,** and any cooperative society with suitable provision to undertake healthcare-related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund
- Term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of Rs.10,000 crore shall be provided
- Establishment and renovation of hospitals, modernisation, expansion and repairs of healthcare institutes and development of healthcare and education infrastructure shall be the main focus
- To meet the requirements, working capital and margin money shall also be provided to the cooperatives
- **Interest subvention of 1% to women majority cooperatives** shall also be provided under the Ayushman Sahakar scheme

Objectives

- To assist the provision of affordable and holistic healthcare through hospitals /healthcare/education facilities by cooperative societies
- To assist the promotion of AYUSH facilities by cooperative societies
- To assist cooperative societies to meet the objectives of National Health Policy
- To assist cooperative societies to participate in the National Digital Health Mission
- Assist cooperative societies to provide comprehensive healthcare including education, services, insurance and activities related thereto.

➡ ATUFS

- The Ministry of Textiles has introduced the **Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)** starting from Jan 2016, for a period of seven years.
- Under ATUFS, there is a provision of a one-time capital subsidy for eligible benchmarked machinery at the rate of 15% for garments.
- The ATUFS replaces the existing Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RR-TUFS) to give a boost to the textile sector under the Make in India campaign.
- The new scheme specifically targets:

- Employment generation and export by encouraging the apparel and garment industry, which will provide employment to women in particular and increase India's share in global exports.
- Promotion of Technical Textiles, a sunrise sector, for export and employment
- Promoting conversion of existing looms to better technology looms for improvement in quality and productivity
- Encouraging better quality in the processing industry and checking the need for import of fabrics by the garment sector.

Advantages

- 12,671 crore is for committed liabilities under the ongoing RR-TUFS scheme and Rs. 5,151 crore is for new cases under ATUFS
- The amended scheme would give a boost to 'Make in India' in the textiles sector

- It is expected to attract investment to the tune of one lakh crore rupees, and create over 30 lakh jobs
- All cases pending with the Office of Textile Commissioner which are complete in all respects, shall be provided assistance under the ongoing scheme and the new scheme will be given prospective effect
- **Office of Textile Commissioner (TXC**) is being reorganised & its offices shall be set up in each state
- Officers of the TXC shall be closely associated with entrepreneurs for setting up the industry, including processing proposals under the new scheme, verifying assets created jointly with the bankers and maintaining close liaison with the State Government agencies

➡ ATAL BHUJAL SCHEME

- The objective of the programme was to lay emphasis on the **recharge of groundwater resources and improve the exploitation of the groundwater resources**, with the involvement of people at the local level.
- The scheme will be implemented and looked over by the **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation,** which is now known as the **Jal Shakti** Ministry.
- **Half of the cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government**, while the **other half will be funded by the World Bank** in the form of a loan.
- To encourage community participation, it has been planned by the government to **give 50% of the money to gram panchayats** and states as incentives for achieving the groundwater management targets.
- The scheme is being taken up in 8353 water-stressed Gram Panchayats of Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The scheme has **two components:**
  - Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building component (Rs. 1,400 crore)
  - Incentive Component (Rs. 4,600 crore) for incentivizing the States

Objectives of Atal Bhujal Yojana

- It aims at groundwater management in priority areas in the country through community participation.
- Two major types of groundwater systems found in India include alluvial and hard rock aquifers. These are covered under the scheme.
- Priority areas covered – Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- These States represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of groundwater in India.
- It also aims at bringing about behavioural change at the community level through awareness programs and capacity building for fostering sustainable groundwater management in the participating States
- The scheme envisages addressing four critical issues relating to sustainable groundwater management, that is,

- State-specific institutional frameworks for sustainable groundwater management;
- Enhancement of groundwater recharge;
- Improvement of water use efficiency; and
- Strengthening of community-based institutions to foster groundwater management.

Some potential investment categories which will be **excluded f**rom Atal Bhujal Yojana are:

- Construction of major dams and new large-scale irrigation systems; and
- Industrial wastewater collection, treatment, and using it for recharging groundwater.
- In addition, activities that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the environment that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented and/or affect people are not eligible for financing under the Program.
- Similarly, activities that involve procurement of works, goods, and services of high-value contracts will normally not be eligible for financing.

➡ CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR STARTUPS (CGSS)

- In order to venture into any business, the most important thing is capital, the availability of funds. Lack of adequate funding is normally a hindrance for most aspiring entrepreneurs. Some of them start their businesses but face a fund crunch after a short period of time. Moreover, it is not as easy to obtain loans from banks as it once used to be.
- The start-up sector, most recently, received a much-needed push from the Government of India with the formulation of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups with a contribution of Rs. 2,000 crore.
- The scheme is part of the **Startup India action plan** and will thus allow startups to avail loans for their businesses without any collateral.

Features

- The startup has to be recognised by the **DIPP (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion)** in order to be eligible for the credit guarantee.
- The guarantees will be offered based on portfolios, and these portfolios will consist of at least 10 startup loans for a particular financial year.
- The credit guarantee offered will be inclusive of any other assistance (Venture capital, working capital, debentures, optionally convertible debt, term loans etc.) and will be offered up to the amount of Rs. 5 crore to every eligible startup.
- The coverage offered by the scheme is as follows –

- The scheme will be providing credit to cover up to 75% of the credit facility subject to a ceiling of Rs. 150 lakh.
- Where loans of less than Rs. 5 lakh are granted to micro-enterprises, the scheme covers upto 85% of the credit facility.
- MSMEs operated or owned by women and all loans granted to NER (North-East Region) including Sikkim will have up to 80% of the credit facility covered by this scheme.

- 50% of the amount of credit for MSME retail trade will be covered under this scheme, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh.

➡ CODE ON SOCIAL SECURITY BILL

This bill seeks to provide social security benefits such as Provident Fund, Insurance etc. to the workers. It seeks to replaces nine laws related to social security. These include the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; and the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.

Social Security Entitlements

- **Provision:** The 2020 Bill states that the central government through notification provide that Industries employing workers above a certain threshold level would be required to make contributions towards various social security benefits such as Provident Fund, Insurance etc.
- **Reasons for Opposition:** Presently, the threshold level for the contribution towards Social Security scheme has been provided under the law itself. For example, Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952 is applicable to all Industries employing more 20 people. The EPF is not compulsory for all employees. Only those who earn up to Rs 15,000 a month have to contribute 12% of their basic salary plus dearness allowance to EPF. The employer contributes an equal percentage (12%) to the corpus out of which 3.67% goes to the EPF and the rest 8.33% goes towards employees' pension scheme (EPS).
- However, the 2020 Bill gives the discretionary power to the Government to lay down the criteria for the eligibility for the contribution to Social Security Schemes. This has been criticised on account of following reasons:

1. Excessive Delegated Legislation.
2. Exclusion of Informal Workers in the Small-Scale Industries from Social Security benefits
3. Against the Idea of Universal Social Security put forward by National Commission on Labour.

Expanded Coverage of Workers

- **Provision**: The government can make provisions for registration of various categories of workers- Unorganised, Gig Workers and Platform workers. It can also notify schemes for their social security. **Gig workers** refer to workers outside the traditional employer-employee relationship. **Platform workers** are those who access organisations or individuals through an online platform and provide services or solve specific problems.
- **Reasons for Opposition:** Lack of Clarity in the definition of Unorganised Worker, Gig Worker or Platform Worker. For example, Ola Cab Driver can be considered to be belonging to all the 3 different categories simultaneously.

Mandatory Linking with Aadhaar

- **Provision:** Employee or a worker (including an unorganised worker) must provide his Aadhaar number to receive social security benefits

1. **Reasons for Opposition:** This may violate the Supreme Court's judgement in Puttaswamy Case. In its judgement, the Court had ruled that the Aadhaar card/number may only be made mandatory for expenditure on a subsidy, benefit or service incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India.

➡ CODE ON WAGES BILL, 2019

- It seeks to regulate wage and bonus payments in all employments where any industry, trade, business, or manufacture is carried out. The Code replaces the following four laws: (i) *the Payment of Wages Act, 1936;* (ii) *the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;* (iii) *the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965;* and (iv) the *Equal Remuneration Act, 1976*.

- **Coverage:** The Code will apply to all employees. The central government will make wage-related decisions for employments such as railways, mines, and oil fields, among others. State governments will make decisions for all other employments.
- **Floor wage:** According to the Code, the central government will fix a floor wage, taking into account living standards of workers. Further, it may set different floor wages for different geographical areas.
- The minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage. In case the existing minimum wages fixed by the central or state governments are higher than the floor wage, they cannot reduce the minimum wages.
- **Fixing the minimum wage:** The Code prohibits employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages. Minimum wages will be notified by the central or state governments.
- While fixing minimum wages, the central or state governments may take into account factors such as: (i) skill of workers, and (ii) difficulty of work.

How the Code on Wages would benefit?

- **Expansion in coverage of Employees:** The Code proposes to do away with the concept of bringing specific jobs under the Act by the Centre and states and mandates that minimum wages be paid for all types of employment – irrespective of whether they are in the organized or the unorganized sector.
- **Introduction of National Minimum Wage:** The Code introduces a national minimum wage which will be set by the central government. This will act as a floor for state governments to set their respective minimum wages.
- **Easier compliance of law:** The Code introduces the concept of a 'facilitator' who will carry out inspections and also provide employers and workers with information on how to improve their compliance with the law. Further, there are 12 definitions of wages in the different Labour Laws leading to litigation besides difficulty in its implementation. The definition has been simplified and is expected to reduce litigation and will entail at lesser cost of compliance for an employer.

Concerns

- **Poor Consolidation of Labour Laws:** The Code on Wages, 2019 seeks to consolidate and simplify four laws into a single code. While the previous four pieces of legislation had a total of 119 sections, the new Code has 69 sections. However, the reduction in the number of sections is not on account of synergistic consolidation, but rather on account of Delegated legislation.
- Earlier, the number of provisions were incorporated in the act itself, but now under the Code on wages 2019, these provisions have been converted into rules to be formulated by the Government. Hence, if we combine the Code of wages 2019 along with the rules formulated under it, it would be much bulkier and more complex as compared to previous 4 laws.

- **Violation of Article 50**: Code of Wages 2019 provides that an officer (not below the rank of an under-secretary to the government) will be notified with power to impose a penalty in the place of a judicial magistrate. This is in clear violation of Article 50 of the Indian Constitution, which calls for separation of Executive from the Judiciary.
- **Provisions on Penalty**: The penalties/fines imposed under the Code on wages, 2019 are quite meagre and hence may not be sufficient enough to discourage the firms from violation of the law. Further, the violations under the law are considered to be compoundable offences and not non-compoundable. (Compoundable offences are usually non-serious in nature and hence can be compromised between the two parties. However, non-compoundable offences cannot be compromised). Hence, the law can be considered to be mere paper tiger.
- **Exemptions from Violation of Provisions:** The Code exempts employers from penal provisions if they were able "to prove that they had used due diligence in enforcing the execution of the code and it was the other person who had committed the offence without his knowledge or consent.

➡ DHRUV

- The name of the scheme, DHRUV, is based on the pole star called "Dhruv Tara". **PM Innovative Learning Programme**
- It was launched on October 10, 2019
- The programme shall focus on encouraging young and talented students in the field of their interest be it science, performing arts, creative writing, etc.

Objectives

- Through this programme, the Indian Government shall encourage talented and gifted children to enrich their skills and knowledge
- In centres of excellence across the country, children will be mentored and nurtured by renowned experts in different areas, so that they can reach their full potential
- Two areas will be the main focus: Arts and Science
- Around 60 students will be selected from all over the country, studying between classes 9 to 12.

➡ eSANJEEVANI

- eSanjeevani is a government scheme that **offers online OPD doctor consultations** to citizens.
- eSanjeevani is the first-ever online OPD (outpatient) consultation service offered by the government of India to citizens.
- The scheme was started in November 2019.
- It is run by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- Also called the **National Teleconsultation Service**, it aims to provide healthcare services to patients in their homes.

- It includes a structured and safe teleconsultation between a doctor and a patient through online mode (eSanjeevani OPD).
- The eSanjeevani OPD portal and system has been developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** in Mohali.
- The panel of doctors on the service is drawn by the state governments.
- A few states like Jharkhand, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, etc. have started offering specialised doctor consultation services also.
- The service is also available on mobile application.

➡ DDU-GKY

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a centrally-sponsored scheme announced in **2014** which is focused on rural development in India.
- It is a part of the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).**
- Its **two major objectives** are:

- **Incorporating diversity** to the incomes of rural poor families
- Catering to the **career aspirations** of rural youth

- The focus of the scheme is on **rural poor youth between the ages of 15 and 35.**
- It is a **demand-driven** skills training program that is placement-linked.
- It supports the social and economic programs of the government such as Digital India, Make in India, Smart Cities, Start-up India and Stand-up India, as part of the Skill India campaign.
- The youth from rural India face several hurdles in their pursuit of a better life in the form of lack of formal education and required skills. The DDU-GKY seeks to bridge this gap by funding training projects that are of global standards with a focus on placement, retention, career progression and placement abroad.
- The scheme is under the **Ministry of Rural Development, GOI**.
- The scheme can trace its roots to the 'Special Projects' component of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) of 2004. It was revised and repositioned as DDU-GKY in 2014.

Eligibility

Rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 are eligible for receiving training under the scheme. There is age relaxation up to 45 years for women, SC/ST and physically disabled people. Candidates should have any of the following:

- BPL Card
- BPL PDS Card
- RSBY Card (Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana)
- Family member should be a member in a registered SHG in the village
- Family member is a paid worker under MGNREGA with a minimum of 15 days of work in the last 12 months

Implementation Model

- The scheme **functions in a three-tier model**.
- On top is the **DDU-GKY National Unit** at the Rural Development Ministry which acts as the policy-making, technical support and facilitation agency.
- Below that is the **DDU-GKY State Missions** which provide implementation support.
- At the lowest level are the **Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)** which execute the programme through skilling and placement projects.

Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)

- PIAs are the implementing agencies of the scheme and they should satisfy the following necessary conditions and eligibility criteria:

- **Registered under** Indian Trust Acts or any State Society Registration Act or any State Cooperative Societies or Multi-State Cooperative Acts or the Companies Act 2013 or the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2008 OR Government or a semi-government organization at the State and National Level.
- **Positive Net Worth for at least 2 out of the last 3 financial years** (Not applicable for NSDC Partners).
- Existence as an operational Legal Entity in India for more than 3 financial years (Not applicable for NSDC Partners).
- Turnover exceeding at least 25% of the proposed project.

➡ DIGITAL INDIA

- The motto of the Digital India Mission is **'Power to Empower'.** There are three core components to the Digital India initiative. They are digital infrastructure creation, digital delivery of services, and digital literacy.

  The **major objectives** of this initiative are listed below:
- To provide high-speed internet in all gram panchayats.
- To provide easy access to **Common Service Centre (CSC)** in all the locality.
- Digital India is an initiative that combines a large number of ideas and thoughts into a single, comprehensive vision so that each of them is seen as part of a larger goal.
- The Digital India Programme also focuses on restructuring many existing schemes that can be implemented in a synchronized manner.
- Digital India aims to provide the much-needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas. Each of these areas is a complex programme in itself and cuts across multiple Ministries and Departments. The nine pillars of Digital India are given below:

1. **Broadband Highways**– This covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All – Rural, Broadband for All – Urban and National Information Infrastructure (NII).
2. **Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity**- This initiative focuses on network penetration and filling the gaps in connectivity in the country.
3. **Public Internet Access Programme**- The two sub components of Public Internet Access Programme are Common Services Centres (CSCs) and Post Offices as multi-service centres.
4. **e-Governance**: Reforming Government through Technology- Government Process Re-engineering using IT to simplify and make the government processes more efficient is critical

for transformation to make the delivery of government services more effective across various government domains and therefore needs to be implemented by all Ministries/ Departments.

5. **e-Kranti** – Electronic Delivery of Services- To improve the delivery of public services and simplify the process of accessing them. In this regard, several e-governance initiatives have been undertaken by various State Governments and Central Ministries to usher in an era of e-Government. e-Governance in India has steadily evolved from the computerization of Government Departments to initiatives that encapsulate the finer points of Governance, such as citizen centricity, service orientation and transparency.
6. **Information for All**- This pillar aims to ensure transparency and availability of reliable data generated by the line ministries for use, reuse and redistribution for the people of India.
7. **Electronics Manufacturing**- This pillar focuses on promoting electronics manufacturing in the country.
8. **IT for Jobs**- This pillar focuses on providing training to the youth in the skills required for availing employment opportunities in the IT/ITES sector.
9. **Early Harvest Programmes**- This pillar consists of a group of different short-term projects which have immediate effect on the Indian digital ecosystem like IT platform for mass messaging, crowd Sourcing of eGreetings, biometric attendance in the government offices, WI-FI in all universities etc.

Advantages of Digital India Mission

- Digital India Mission is an initiative that encompasses plans to connect the rural areas of the country with high-speed internet networks. Public Internet Access Programme is one among the nine pillars of digital India. On the platform of digital adoption, India ranks amongst the top 2 countries globally and the digital economy of India is likely to cross $1 trillion by the year 2023.

Some of the advantages of Digital India are:

- There is an **increase in electronic transactions** related to e-governance.
- An optical fiber network of 2, 74,246 km has connected over 1.15 lakh Gram Panchayats under the Bharat Net programme.
- A **Common Service Center (CSC)** is created under the National e-Governance Project of the Indian government which provides access for information and communication technology (ICT). Through computer and Internet access, the CSCs provide multimedia content related to e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment, and other government and private services.
- Establishment of digital villages along with well-equipped facilities such as solar lighting, LED assembly unit, sanitary napkin production unit, and Wi-Fi choupal.
- Internet data is used as a major tool for the delivery of the services and the urban internet penetration has reached 64%.

Digital India Initiatives

The Government has taken up many initiatives under the Digital India campaign. Discussed below are few such important initiatives:

- **DigiLockers** – This flagship initiative aims at 'Digital Empowerment' of the citizen by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet

- **E-Hospitals** – It is a Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) which is a one-stop solution in connecting patients, hospitals and doctors through a single digital platform. Till February 2021, as many as 420 e-Hospitals had been established under the Digital India campaign
- **E-Pathshala** – Developed by NCERT, e-Pathshala showcases and disseminates all educational e-resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals and a variety of other print and non-print materials through the website and mobile app
- **BHIM** – Bharat Interface for Money is an app that makes payment transactions simple, easy and quick using Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

➡ INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (IR) CODE BILL

The Code provides for the recognition of trade unions, notice periods for strikes and lock-outs, standing orders, and resolution of industrial disputes. It subsumes and replaces three labour laws: The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; the Trade Unions Act, 1926; and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

Provision: The 2020 Bill introduces provisions on fixed term employment. Fixed term employment refers to workers employed for a fixed duration based on a contract signed between the worker and the employer.

Benefits of Fixed Term Employment:

- Allow employers the flexibility to hire workers for a fixed duration and for work that may not be permanent in nature.
- Fixed term contracts are negotiated directly between the employer and employee and reduce the role of a middleman such as an agency or contractor.
- Benefit the worker since the Code entitles fixed term employees to the same benefits (such as medical insurance and pension) and conditions of work as are available to permanent employees.
- Improve the conditions of temporary workers in comparison with contract workers who may not be provided with such benefits.

Reasons for Opposition:

- Unequal bargaining powers between the worker and employer could affect the rights of workers.
- Employer has the power to renew contracts and hence lead to job insecurity
- The Bill does not restrict the type of work in which fixed term workers may be hired. Therefore, they may be hired for roles offered to permanent workmen.

Recommended improvements

- The **Second National Commission on Labour (2002)** had recommended that no worker should be kept continuously as a casual or temporary worker against a permanent job for more than two years.
- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has highlighted that several countries restrict the use of fixed term contracts by: (i) limiting renewal of employment contracts (Example- Vietnam, Brazil and China allow two successive fixed term contracts), (ii) limiting

the duration of contract (Example- Philippines limits it up to a year), or (iii) limiting the proportion of fixed term workers in the overall workforce.

- These recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour and ILO need to be incorporated in the 2020 Bill.

Applicability of Standing Orders:

- **Provision:** The 2020 IR Code bill provides that all industrial establishment with 300 workers or more must prepare standing orders on the matters related to: (i) classification of workers, (ii) manner of informing workers about work hours, holidays, paydays, and wage rates, (iii) termination of employment, and (iv) grievance redressal mechanisms for workers.
- **Reasons for Opposition**: The IR Code bill 2019 was applicable to establishments employing more than 100 workers. The threshold for the applicability to Industries has been increased to 300 in the IR Code Bill 2020. This means that Small Scale Industries employing less than 300 workers would no longer be required to lay down standing orders and hence may lead to exploitation of workers.

Closure and Lay-off

- **Provision:** Under the 2019 Bill, an establishment having at least 100 workers was required to seek prior permission of the government before closure, lay-off, or retrenchment. Lay-off refers to an employer's inability to continue giving employment to a worker in the face of adverse business conditions. Retrenchment refers to the termination of service of a worker for any reason other than disciplinary action. The 2020 Bill provides that prior permission will be required for establishments with at least 300 workers.
- **Reason for Opposition**: Increase in threshold from 100 to 300; Enable small scale Industries to hire and fire workers at will.

Strikes and Lockouts

- **Provision:** The 2020 Bill requires all persons to give a prior notice of 14 days before a strike or lock-out. This notice is valid for a maximum of 60 days. The Bill also prohibits strikes and lock-outs: (i) during and up to seven days after a conciliation proceeding, and (ii) during and up to sixty days after proceedings before a tribunal.
- **Reason for Opposition**: Impacts the ability of the workers to carry out Strike or lock-out; Decreases their bargaining power.

Power to Exempt Industries

- **Provision:** Provides the government with the power to exempt any new industrial establishment or class of establishment from any or all of its provisions if it is in "Public Interest".
- **Reason for Opposition:** Factories Act, 1948 permitted exemptions from its provisions only in cases of public emergency and limited such exemption to three months. However, under the IR Code Bill 2020 there is no limit on time duration for which Industries can be exempted. Further, the term "Public Interest" could be interpreted broadly and hence government has wide discretion in providing exemptions.

➡ NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOOD MISSION

- DAY-NULM stands for Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihood Mission.
- It is a scheme under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** that focuses on reducing poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households.
- It was launched on September 24th, 2013.
- NULM replaced the existing **Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)** and is known as **Rashtriya Shahri Aajeevika Mission** in Hindi.
- It focuses on **organising urban poor in their strong grassroots level institutions** by enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities through skill development.
- It **aims at leading poor to market-based employment** and helping them to set up self-employment ventures by ensuring easy access to credit.
- Mission will be implemented in all District Headquarter Towns and all other cities with a population of 1,00,000 or more as per 2011 census.
- The target of DAY-NULM is the urban population identified as below the poverty line population in urban areas by the States and Union Territories. Its intended beneficiaries are urban poor (street vendors, slum dwellers, homeless, rag pickers), unemployed and differently-abled.
- DAY-NULM has been conferred the prestigious **SKOCH Governance Gold Award.**

Mission

- Reducing poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them.
- Providing access to self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities.
- Improving the livelihoods of urban poor on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots level institutions of the poor.
- The mission of NULM scheme also aims at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner.
- Addressing livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security, and skills to the urban street vendors for accessing emerging market opportunities.

NULM comprises the following sub-schemes to uplift urban poor-

- Social Mobilization and Institution Development – SM&ID
- Employment through Skills Training and Placement – EST&P
- Capacity Building and Training – CBT
- Self-Employment Programme – SEP
- Scheme of Shelter for Urban Homeless – SUH
- Support to Urban Street Vendors – SUSV
- Innovative and Special project – ISP

➡ FAME INDIA SCHEME PHASE II

- **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles** (FAME II), is a scheme launched by the Government of India to give a boost to development of Electric Vehicles.
- This is important considering the efforts to combat climate change across the globe.
- The Government of India has allocated a budget of Rs 10,000 crores for the second phase of this scheme.
- This scheme was launched to achieve the goals of **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP).**
- **Phase I lasted from 2015 to 2019** and Phase II of FAME was launched in 2019 and is expected to be completed by 2022.

Latest Context

- The Central government has increased the subsidy under the second phase of the FAME India scheme on electric two-wheelers by 50 percent. The subsidy will now be **Rs 15,000 per kWh for electric two-wheelers** under FAME India phase II. Earlier, it was Rs 10,000 per kWh.
- Additionally, the cap on subsidy for an electric two-wheeler will be 40 per cent of its cost, up from 20 per cent earlier.
- The government's continued support to Electronic Vehicles- EVs will make the electric Two-wheelers more affordable which will greatly benefit electric motorcycle and scooter customers.
- Sustainable mobility solutions are very important for the future and the improved incentives for electric two-wheelers will increase penetration and encourage further indigenous investments in future technology.

key features

- Allocation of Rs 10,000 crores for a period of 3 years from 2019 to 2022.
- Rs 1,000 crores has been set aside for setting up charging stations for electric vehicles. It has given a proposal of providing 1 slow charging unit for every electric bus and 1 fast charging station for 10 electric buses.
- The Central Government will incentivize the purchase of approximately 5 lakh three wheelers, 7000 electric buses and 35,000 four wheelers.
- Department of Heavy Industries, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is the monitoring authority

Steps taken to Make Electric Vehicles more Affordable

- Incentives will be given to manufacturers involved in development of electric vehicles.
- Incentives will be given to manufacturers involved in development of lithium ion batteries and electric motors.
- The Centre has directed states to frame policies and provide incentives to manufacturers and buyers.

➡ GOBARDHAN SCHEME

- The Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme is implemented under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-Phase 2, by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti ministry.
- It was launched in 2018.
- The scheme aims to augment income of farmers by converting biodegradable waste into compressed biogas (CBG).
- The initiative aims at attracting entrepreneurs for establishing community-based CBG plants in rural areas.

Benefits of the scheme

- Helpful for the country as India is home to the highest cattle population in the world, close to 300 million in number, with a daily output of 3 million tonnes of dung.
- Encourage farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as a waste but as a source of income.
- Benefits to the rural people. It will be easier to keep the village clean and sanitized, livestock health will improve and farm yields will increase.
- Increase self-reliance in energy utilized for cooking and lighting.
- Provides a stable fuel supply in the market for oil companies and accessible credit in the market through government schemes and banks for entrepreneurs.

➡ HRIDAY

- HRIDAY scheme called **National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana** was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** on **21st January 2015**.
- This scheme was introduced to **preserve and revitalize the rich cultural heritage** of the country. HRIDAY scheme aims in the conservation of heritage, urban planning and in increasing the economic growth of the heritage cities.
- HRIDAY emphasizes on the accessibility, security, safety, livelihood, cleanliness and faster service delivery in the heritage cities.
- It also encourages the development of an aesthetically appealing, accessible, informative and secured environment in heritage cities.
- It is being implemented with quantifiable goals similar to the implementation of the Smart City Scheme on a mission mode.
- The focus of HRIDAY is the **development of core heritage infrastructure** by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for areas near heritage sites approved after identification by the Ministry of Culture.
- Development of **infrastructure like** approach roads, drainage, footpaths, electrical wiring, landscaping, sanitation, street lights, water supply, waste management and allied citizen services such as tourist conveniences, security etc. are some of the major focus areas of the scheme.

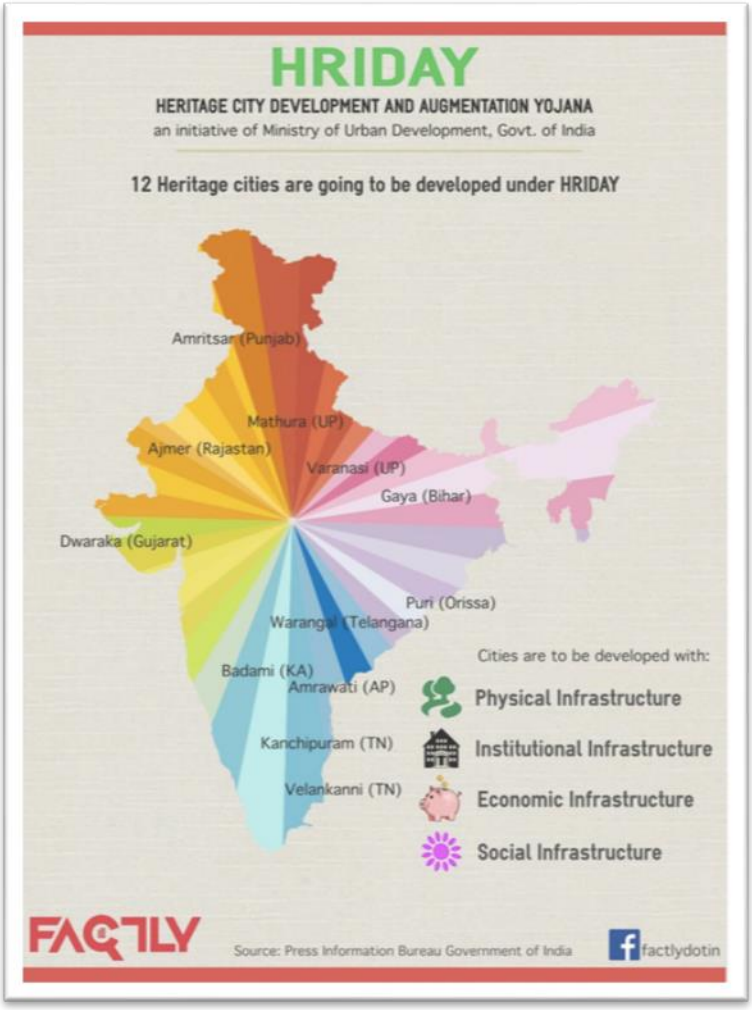
HRIDAY Scheme Cities List

- Ajmer, Amravati, Badami, Gaya, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni, Warangal, Dwarka, Kanchipuram, Amritsar

Statement

- Preserve and revitalize the soul of the heritage city to reflect the city's unique character by encouraging an aesthetically appealing, accessible, informative & secured environment.
- To undertake strategic and planned development of heritage cities aiming at the improvement in overall quality of life with a specific focus on sanitation, security, tourism, heritage revitalization and livelihoods retaining the city's cultural identity.

Objectives



- **Planning, developing and implementing infrastructure** keeping in mind sensitivities of heritage, including service delivery and development of infrastructure in core areas of historic cities.
- **Preserve and renovate heritage** so that tourists can connect with each heritage city's unique nature.
- Develop a **heritage asset inventory** of cities documenting built, cultural, living and natural heritage as a basis for urban planning, growth, planning of services and their delivery.
- **Enhancement of basic services** focussing on sanitation like public toilets, water taps, security like street lights and in improving tourist facilities.
- **Create linkages between cultural facilities and tourism** along with the conservation of heritage and capacity building of local industries based on heritage.
- **Adaptive maintenance** of urban heritage, including rehabilitation using appropriate technology for retrofitting historic buildings with modern conveniences. Establishment of public-private partnership for preserving and maintaining historic buildings is also part of this goal.
- **Promotion of economic activities** to enhance avenues of employment among people living in and around the heritage sites. This includes skill development among them and making public and cultural spaces accessible.

- **Making cities informative using modern ICT tools** and making cities secure using modern security devices like CCTV etc.
- **Increase access** to heritage sites by developing roads, adopting the universal design, GIS mapping of historical locations and building a digital record of the heritage etc.

➡ INTEGRATED PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IPDS)

- IPDS was implemented during the **12th Five Year Plan under the Ministry of Textile**, Government of India.
- It was launched as an initiative to e**stablish four to six brownfield projects and three to five greenfield projects**.
- This scheme **aims at addressing the environmental issues faced by the textile units** in India under the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

Implementation

- IPDS was implemented to solve various challenges faced by the textile units. These challenges include **non-availability of water for processing and environmental pollution** caused by the discharge of untreated effluents.
- IPDS also aimed at **developing processing parks with effluent treatment plants** and water supply systems.
- The implementation of the Integrated Processing of Development Scheme was done during the 12th Five Year Plan through the formation of **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs).**
- SPV is a **corporate body registered under the Companies Act** which functions as per the guidelines of the government. It is also responsible for obtaining bank loans and licenses required for the development of processing units in the park.
- IPDS focuses majorly on the following three areas:

  - Wastewater management
  - Adequate and timely supply of water
  - Safe treatment of effluents before disposal

➡ INTENSIFIED MISSION INDRADHANUSH 3

- The Central Government launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0** in February 2021 with a view to extending the routine immunisation program to all pregnant women and children who had missed it due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) was launched in 2018** by the Central Government with the objective of covering all children under the age of two and pregnant women for immunization who were not covered under the UIP.
- This program was to intensify the Mission Indradhanush that had been launched in 2014.
- The objective of Mission Indradhanush was to have a 90% coverage of the UIP in India by 2020 and sustain the same.

- **IMI 2.0. was launched in December 2019** and continued up to March 2020, to further extend the reach and coverage of the mission, including tribal and hard-to-reach areas.
- Although the scheme comes under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW),** it is supported by many other ministries/departments such as:

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of Women & Child Development
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- The **diseases covered** under the mission are polio, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, hepatitis B, tetanus, meningitis, rubella, Japanese encephalitis and pneumonia.

➡ INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS)

- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is an Indian government welfare programme that provides **food, preschool education, and primary healthcare to children under 6 years of age and their mothers.**
- The scheme was started in **1975** and aims at the holistic development of children and empowerment of mother.
- It is a **Centrally-Sponsored scheme**.
- The scheme primarily runs through the **Anganwadi centre**.
- The scheme is under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

Objectives

- To improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- To lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- To enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

Provisions and Services

Integrated Child Development Services is Centrally-Sponsored and will provide the following six services to the beneficiaries:

- Supplementary Nutrition (SNP)
- Health & Nutrition Check-Up
- Immunization
- Non-Formal Education for Children in Pre-School
- Health and Nutrition Education
- Referral services

- These services are provided from Anganwadi centres established mainly in rural areas and staffed with frontline workers.

➡ DEEP OCEAN MISSION

- The Government of India has decided to launch the **Deep Ocean Mission** – DOM, with an aim to explore the marine diversity in our country, which is still unexplored.
- This ambitious project will be managed by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).**
- Through this mission, the Government aims to conduct the exploration of the underwater world on similar lines as ISRO does for space
- The Deep Ocean Mission plan will enable India to develop capabilities to exploit resources in the **Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB).**
- One of the major objectives of this project is to mine and extract **polymetallic nodules (PMN).**
- The **UN International SeaBed Authority** has allotted India 75000 sq. kilometers in CIOB for the exploration of these polymetallic nodules.

Polymetallic Nodules

- Polymetallic nodules are **Fe-Mn oxide deposits**
- They are potato **shaped and porous**
- Appearance wise, they are of a **black earthy color**
- Size ranges from 2 to 10 cm in diameter
- **PMN is considered as the precipitate of hot fluids from upwelling hot magma** from the deep interior of the oceanic crust, discharged through mineralized paths
- These Rare earth minerals are considered as a great source of valuable minerals such as gold, silver, and zinc
- There are specific locations underwater where the mining of polymetallic nodules can be done.
- Any country which intends to mine PMN needs to get authorization from ISA, which was established under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).**

Status so far

- The underwater 75,000 sq meters of the area which has been assigned to India, is the part where the mining can be done
- In 1987, India gained the status of a **'Pioneer Investor'** and was the first country to be acknowledged with this status. It was then given an area of 1.5 lakh sq. kilometer for the mining of PMN.
- In 2002, ISA conducted a resources analysis and assigned the 75,000 sq. kilometer area to India
- As per the research done by the Ministry of Earth Science, the following conclusion can be drawn:

- Potential polymetallic nodules which can be found – 880 MT (approximately)
- Nickel – 4.7 MT (approximately)

- Magnesium – 92.59 MT (approximately)
- Copper – 4.29 MT (approximately)
- Cobalt – 0.55 MT (approximately)

➡ KAPILA KALAM CAMPAIGN

- KAPILA is an acronym for **Kalam Program for IP (Intellectual Property) Literacy and Awareness**.
- The KAPILA programme was launched virtually on 15th October 2020.
- Through the KAPILA Kalam Program, Government of **India will spread the awareness and importance of patenting and inventions.**
- Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of the application process for patenting their invention and they will be aware of their rights.
- The program will facilitate the colleges and institutions to encourage more and more students to file patents.
- To promote awareness in the field, the Ministry celebrated the week from 15th October to 23rd October as **'Intellectual Property Literacy Week'.**

➡ KUSUM

- The Central Government has announced the **Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan or KUSUM scheme** which aims at furthering the production of solar power in India and also gives the benefits of solar farming to farmers.
- The Union Budget 2018-19 has set aside a sum of Rs.48000 crores for this program for ten years.
- In March 2021, the Central Government introduced modifications to an existing component of the **PM-KUSUM scheme – a farmer income support and a de-dieseling scheme** – so as to channelise its focus on **solarising agricultural feeders instead of pumps**. This move would obviate the need for farmers to replace every existing pump in a village with a solar pump.
- The Ministry responsible for this scheme is the **New and Renewable Energy Ministry**.
- Initially, the government will distribute 1.75 million off-grid agricultural solar pumps.
- **10000 Mega Watts Solar plants** will be put up on lands that are barren.
- The state electricity distribution companies, also called, **DISCOMS will buy the additional solar power produced by the farmers on barren lands**. DISCOMS will get sops to buy this electricity.
- Tube wells and existing pumps of the government will be converted to run on solar power.
- **Farmers will get a subsidy of 60% on solar pumps**. It shall be deposited to their bank accounts directly. This subsidy is going to be shared by the central and state governments. 30% of the cost will be obtained as a bank loan. Hence, only the rest 10% will have to be borne by the farmers themselves.

- The approved scheme comprised of three components:

- **Component-A:** Addition of 10,000 MW of solar capacity through the installation of small solar power plants of capacity up to 2 MW.
- **Component-B:** Installation of 20 lakh standalone solar-powered agricultural pumps
- **Component-C:** Solarisation of 15 lakh existing Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps
- PM-KUSUM scheme is one of the largest initiatives of the world to provide clean energy to more than 35 lakhs farmers by solarising their agriculture pump under components B and C.

Benefits

- It shall enable the decentralisation of the production of solar power.
- Transmission losses of DISCOMS will be under control.
- Subsidy burden on DISCOMS in the sector of agriculture will be decreased to a large extent.
- This will give farmers the **chance to sell to the grid the extra power** that is generated by the solar plants that are stationed on their barren lands.
- It will provide a **fillip to the emerging green economy** in India.
- The scheme also has direct employment generation potential. As per available studies, around 24.50 job-years are created per MW of small capacity solar installation. Therefore, besides increasing self-employment, the scheme is likely to generate employment opportunities equivalent to 7.55 lakh job-years for skilled and unskilled workers.
- The program will also aid in the de-dieseling of the agricultural sector in India. This implies that the existing diesel pumps will be replaced.
- Other benefits that will accrue to the farmers due to the implementation of this program include conservation of water, water security as well as energy efficiency.

➡ MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES – CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MSE-CDP)

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India (GoI) has adopted the cluster development approach as a key strategy for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and their collectives in the country.
- A **cluster is a group of enterprises located within an identifiable and as far as practicable, contiguous area and producing same/similar products/services**.
- The essential characteristics of enterprises in a cluster are:

- Similarity or complementarity in the methods of production, quality control and testing, energy consumption, pollution control, etc
- Similar level of technology and marketing strategies/practices
- Channels for communication among the members of the cluster
- Common challenges and opportunities.

Objectives

1. To support the **sustainability and growth of MSEs** by addressing common issues such as improvement of technology, skills and quality, market access, access to capital, etc.
2. To **build capacity** of MSEs for common supportive action through formation of self help groups, consortia, upgradation of associations, etc.
3. To **create/upgrade infrastructural facilities** in the new/existing industrial areas/ clusters of MSEs.
4. To set up **common facility centres** (for testing, training centre, raw material depot, effluent treatment, complementing production processes, etc).

Strategy and Approach

- Given the diverse nature of the MSEs in terms of both geographical location and sectoral composition, the MSE-CDP scheme aims at addressing the needs of the industries, through well defined clusters and geographical areas.
- This will enable achieving the economies of scale in terms of deployment of resources as well as focusing on the specific needs of similar industries.
- The capacity building of associations, setting up of special purpose vehicles (SPVs), consortia, etc. which are integral part of the scheme would enable the MSEs to leverage their resources and also to have better access to public resources, linkages to credit and enhance their marketing competitiveness.

Financial assistance under the scheme

- The financial assistances for various interventions are:-

- **Preparation of Diagnostic Study Report** with Government of India (GoI) grant of maximum Rs 2.50 lakh. For the field organizations (MSME-DIs) of the Ministry of MSME, this financial support will be Rs 1.00 lakh.
- **Soft Interventions with GoI grant** of 75% of the sanctioned amount of the maximum project cost of Rs 25.00 lakh per cluster. For NE & Hill States, Clusters with more than 50% (a) micro/ village (b) women owned (c) SC/ST units, the GoI grant will be 90%.
- **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** with GoI grant of maximum Rs 5.00 lakh for preparation of a technical feasibility and viability project report.
- **Hard Interventions** in the form of tangible assets like Common Facility Centre having machinery and equipment for critical processes, research and development, testing, etc. with GoI grant upto 70% of the cost of project of maximum Rs 15.00 crore. For NE & Hill States, Clusters with more than 50% (a) micro/ village (b) women owned (c) SC/ST units, the GoI grant will be 90%.
- **Infrastructure Development** with GoI grant upto 60% of the cost of project of Rs 10.00 crore, excluding cost of land. GoI grant will be 80% for projects in NE & Hill States, industrial areas/ estates with more than 50% (a) micro (b) women owned (c) SC/ST units.

➡ MISSION KARMAYOGI

- Mission Karmayogi is the National Programme for **Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).** Union Cabinet launched it on 2nd September 2020.
- The mission intends to lay down the foundations for the Indian civil servants' capacity building and aims to enhance governance.
- It aims to establish the new national architecture for civil services capacity building at individual, institutional and process levels
- It will cover around 46 lakh central employees between 2020-2025.
- A special purpose vehicle (SPV) (non-profit company) is **set up under the Companies Act 2013 to run this mission.**
- This SPV will manage i-GOT Karmayogi which is the online training digital platform.

Salient Features

Mission Karmayogi is a step towards improved human resource management practices in the government. It has the following features:

- The transition from **Rules Based to Roles Based** Human Resource (HR) Management – The focus is to allocate jobs to the civil servants based on their competencies.
- **On-Site Learning to complement Off-Site Learning** – It is a training given to the civil servants on-site.
- **An ecosystem of shared training infrastructure** – Civil servants to adapt to an ecosystem of shared learning materials, institutions and personnel.
- **Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies (FRACs) approach** – All civil services positions to be calibrated under this approach. Also based on this approach, all learning content will be created and delivered to every single government entity.
- **Behavioural, Functional and Domain Competencies** – Civil Servants to build their competencies in their self-driven and mandated learning paths.
- **Co-creation of the common ecosystem** by all the Central Ministries, Departments and their organizations – This is a way to create an ecosystem of learning through an annual financial subscription for every employee.
- **Partnership with learning content creators** – Public training institutions, universities, start-tips and individual experts will be enabled to be a part of this capacity-building measure.

Six Pillars

- Policy Framework
- Institutional Framework
- Competency Framework
- Digital Learning Framework
- Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Apex Body

The Public Human Resource Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India will be the apex body of the Mission Karmayogi. The other members of this council will include:

- Union Ministers
- Chief Ministers
- Eminent public HR practitioners
- Thinkers
- Global thought leaders and
- Public Service functionaries

➡ MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE (MIDH)

- The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture or MIDH is a scheme for the holistic growth and development of the Indian horticulture sector.
- This Centrally Sponsored scheme covers vegetables, fruits, roots and tuber crops, aromatic plants, flowers, spices, bamboo, coconut, cashew and cocoa.
- MIDH **also provides technical support and advice to state horticultural missions**, **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Saffron Mission** and the **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).**
- MIDH is under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, GOI.**
- The strategies to improve the horticulture segment employed by the scheme include technology promotion, research, post-harvest management, extension, processing and marketing.
- The scheme emphasises using differentiated strategies for different states based on the region's agro-climatic features.

Objectives

The scheme envisages the aggregation of farmers into farmers' groups like FPOs and FPCs to:

Achieve economies of scale

- Augment horticulture production
- Enhance farmers' incomes
- Boost nutritional security
- Improve productivity by way of quality germ-plasm, planting material and water use efficiency through micro-irrigation
- Support skill development
- Generate employment for rural youth in horticulture, post-harvest management and also in the cold chain sector.
- The scheme also envisages the capacity building of farmers in adopting improved technology through existing institutions such as Krishi Vigyan Kendras, state agriculture universities and Institutes with the Department of Horticulture in the States.

MIDH Sub-Schemes

- **National Horticulture Mission (NHM):** It is implemented by the State Horticulture Missions and is aimed at increasing production in the horticulture sector.
- **National Horticulture Board (NHB):** It implements the various schemes under the MIDH at the state and UT levels.
- **Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH):** It is implemented by the State Horticulture Missions of the Northeastern and Himalayan states.
- **Coconut Development Board (CDB):** It implements the schemes of the MIDH in all the coconut-growing states in the country.
- **Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland:** The institute was established in Medizipehima, Nagaland in 2006-07 for providing technical backstopping through capacity building and training of farmers and Field functionaries in the North Eastern Region.
- **National Bamboo Mission (NBM)**

Sl. No.	Sub Scheme	Target group / area of operation
1.	NHM	All states & UTs except states in NE and Himalayan Region.
2.	HMNEH	All states in NE and Himalayan Region.
3.	NBM	All states & UTs
4.	NHB	All states & UTs focusing on commercial horticulture
5.	CDB	All States and UTs where coconut is grown.
6.	CIH	NE states, focusing on HRD and capacity building.

Funding

- The scheme is a centrally-sponsored scheme which means it is partially funded by the Central Government.
- The GOI provides 85% of the total outlay for the programmes under the mission in all states except NE and Himalayan states. The rest 15% is from the state governments.
- In NE and Himalayan states, the GOI provides 100% contribution.

➡ MISSION SAGAR

- Mission Sagar was a COVID-19 relief mission launched by the government of India in May 2020 as a part of its efforts to provide essential aid to the Indian Ocean countries. This was followed up by Mission Sagar II, Mission Sagar III and , Mission Sagar IV.

The First Mission Sagar – I

- India sent INS Kesari left port on 10th May 2020 with food items, medicines and medical assistance teams. It made its way to the Indian Ocean nations of Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros and La Reunion. These nations are part of the Indian Ocean Commission of which India became an observer.

- It was the first time that a single relief mission was undertaken to cover all the island nations in the Western Indian Ocean. The only notable exception was Sri Lanka where the Indian Air Force airlifted supplies into the country.

Mission Sagar – II

- It was delivering food to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.
- Along with fulfilling a humanitarian mission, India was also strengthening its strategic position as these countries sat on the major shipping lane between the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Thus they are vital shipping routes and can prove to be a strategic asset in times of conflict.

Mission Sagar – III

- In December 2020, INS Kiltan made its way towards Cambodia and Vietnam.
- Like the previous Sagar missions, this exercise was to show that India is a dependable partner for southeast Asian nations and the first responder in the region.
- It also highlighted the importance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in furthering existing strategic ties.

Mission Sagar – IV

- In March 2021, INS Jalashwa reached Port Anjouan, Comoros to deliver 1000 metric tonnes of rice to the island nation. This is the second time an Indian naval ship arrived at Comoros. Earlier, as part of Mission Sagar I, India had delivered medicines and sent medical assistance teams to Comoros.

➡ MOTHERS ABSOLUTE AFFECTION (MAA)

- Mothers Absolute Affection (MAA) programme was launched as a flagship programme by the government to generate awareness among the masses about the **importance of breastfeeding**.
- It is a nationwide programme aimed at bringing focus on providing counselling for promoting breastfeeding through health systems in order to enhance the child's immunity.
- For effective implementation, MAA secretariat and a steering committee will be created in all states and at the district level.
- It will be monitored by UNICEF and other partners.

Benefits

- One out of three children in India dies because of malnutrition. Out of these deaths, 66% is caused during the first year of the infant's life, mostly due to improper feeding practices. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every child has to be breastfed compulsorily for the first 6 months and this must continue up to two years alongside regular food. But in India, though the institutional deliveries have shot up to 78.9%, early commencement of breastfeeding is only 40%.
- Some of the benefits of the MAA Programme are mentioned below:

- Breastfeeding **benefits both, the mother and the child**. The mother has lower chances of having breast, endometrial and cervical cancers. The **risks of anaemia** are also reduced. Besides, breast milk is a **complete nutritional package** to the infant.
- **Life-threatening diseases like** diarrhoea, respiratory disorders, kidney diseases and pneumonia can be avoided by breastfeeding.
- It is also essential for the enhancement of bone formation, hence is crucial for the development of the child.
- The **protein-rich human breast milk contains vitamin A, sodium chloride, antibodies which develop passive immunity** and provide protection against pathogens. Lakhs of lives can be saved just by the promotion of breastfeeding through awareness. It is the sole effectual nutritional intervention for saving lives.

➡ NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION (NRHM)

- The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched on 12th April 2005, to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups.
- The essence of NRHM is a health delivery system that functions independently, **is community-owned and decentralized.**
- The mission also aims to deliver constant support to those who contribute to the social determinants of health.
- Basic objectives to implement NRHM are:

- Reduction in infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate
- Ensuring population stabilization
- Prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Upgrading AYUSH(Ayurvedic Yoga Unani Siddh and Homoeopath) for promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

Major initiatives under NRHM

ASHA

- The **Accredited Social Health Activists** aka ASHAs are the volunteers that engage in this mission that will establish a link between the **health system and the targeted community**. More than 8.84 lakh of these community health volunteers have contributed to this mission.
- **ASHA is the first port of call** for any health-related demands of deprived sections of the population, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services in rural areas.
- This programme is expanding across States and has particularly been successful in bringing people back to the Public Health System. It has also increased the utilization of outpatient services, diagnostic facilities, institutional deliveries and inpatient care.

Rogi Kalyan Samiti (Patient Welfare Committee)/Hospital Management Society:

- It is a **registered society that acts as a group of trustees** to manage the affairs of the hospitals.
- A united fund looks after the funding and other financial assistance for these communities that are involved in patient welfare activities.

United Grants to Sub-Centres

- It has given new confidence to auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs) in the field who are better equipped now with Blood Pressure measuring equipment, Stethoscope, weighing machine, etc.
- They can actually undertake proper antenatal care and other health care services.
- Another important tool of community empowerment is the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) which works at the grassroots levels.

Health Care Service Delivery

- Health Care Service Delivery requires intensive human resource inputs. As can be seen from various surveys, there is an enormous shortage of human resources in the public health care sector in the country.
- NRHM has attempted to fill the gaps in human resources by providing nearly 1.7 lakh people for health services to States including 8,871 Doctors, 2025 Specialists, 76,643 ANMs, 41,609 Staff Nurses, etc. on contractual basis.
- Many unserved areas have been covered through **Mobile Medical Units (MMU).** So far 2024 MMU are operational in 459 districts across the country.
- The government also provides free ambulance services in every nook and corner of the country connected with a toll-free number and available within 30 minutes of the call. Over 12,000 basic and emergency patient transport vehicles have been provided under NRHM.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram

- In order to promote universal healthcare, the government started the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) initiative which provides free to & fro transport, free drugs, free diagnostics, free blood, free diet to pregnant women who come for delivery in public health institutions and sick new-borns.

➡ NATIONAL AYUSH MISSION (NAM)

- The National Ayush Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2014 by the **Department of Ayush, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- The fundamental objective of the NAM is to promote the **AYUSH systems of medicine** through cost-effective services, boosting its educational systems, quality control of AYUSH drugs and ensuring the sustainable availability of AYUSH raw materials.
- AYUSH stands for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy systems of medicine.

Vision

- Providing cost-effective and equitable AYUSH healthcare all over India by enhancing access to the services.
- Strengthening and revitalising the AYUSH systems enabling them to become prominent medical streams in the country in the healthcare sector.
- Improving educational institutions that can impart knowledge in AYUSH streams.

- Promoting quality control of AYUSH drugs by developing quality standards and ensuring the availability of AYUSH raw materials.

Objectives

- Offering **cost-effective AYUSH services** to the people through AYUSH hospitals, dispensaries, and also providing AYUSH facilities in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs).
- Boosting institutional capacities at the state level for AYUSH systems by upgrading educational institutions, drug testing labs, AS&U pharmacies (Ayurveda, Siddhi and Unani), and also AS&U enforcement mechanism.
- Supporting the **cultivation of medicinal plants by adopting Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)** so as to provide a sustained supply of quality raw materials for AYUSH drugs.
- Aiding the establishing of clusters through the convergence of cultivation, value addition, warehousing, marketing & developing infrastructure for entrepreneurs.

➡ NATIONAL URBAN HEALTH MISSION (NUHM)

- The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as a **sub-mission of National Health Mission (NHM)** will meet the **health needs of the urban population** with a focus on urban poor, by making available to them essential primary health care services and reducing out of pocket expenses for treatment.

Objectives and Components

- Availability of resources for addressing the health problems in urban areas, especially among the urban poor.
- Develop a health care system based on the specific health needs of the city. This system will take care of vulnerable and poor sections of the urban population and meet the diverse medical and health needs.
- Partnership with the community for more proactive involvement in planning, implementation and monitoring of health activities.
- Growth in urban population is directly proportional to their health risks. These challenges need to be fixed by a mechanism involving different institutions and management systems.
- Framework for partnership with NGOs, for profit and not for profit health service providers and other stakeholders.
- NUHM would cover all cities/towns with a population of more than 50000. Towns below 50000 populations will be covered under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Components of NUHM

Population Policy

- The National Population Policy (2000) not only focused on the unmet needs of contraception but also stressed the need for integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

- Accordingly, the long term goals set under this policy envisaged a reduction in

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement levels,
- Infant Mortality Rate of less than 30/1000 live births and
- Maternal Mortality Ratio to less than 100/100,000 live births by 2010

Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK)

- The National Population Stabilisation Fund was constituted under the **National Commission on Population in July 2000.**
- Subsequently, it was transferred to the **Department of Health and Family Welfare** in April 2002.
- It was renamed and reconstituted as **Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) under the Societies Registration Act (1860)** on June 2003.

Geographical Information System (GIS) Mapping

- As part of this initiative, JSK mapped 450 districts in India through a unique amalgamation of GIS maps and Census data.
- The mapping gives a picture of each district, its subdivisions and the population of every village along with the distance to the health facility.
- The maps highlight inequities in coverage down to the village level to enable resources to be targeted where they are needed the most.

Funding Pattern of NUHM

- The Funding necessary for this scheme is split between the Central government and the State government.
- The **centre-state funding is split in 75:25 ratio** for all the States except North-Eastern states including Sikkim and other special category states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and J&K.
- For these states, the centre-state funding will be split in 90:10 ratio.
- The Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) sent by the states are appraised and approved by the Ministry.

➡ NANO MISSION (NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MISSION – NSTM)

- The Government of India launched the Nano Mission in 2007 under the Department of Science and Technology.
- The Ministry of Science and Technology allocated up to Rs 1000 crores to this mission to fulfill its following objectives:

- Basic Promotion of Nanotechnology
- Infrastructure Development
- Establishment of R&D in Nanoscience Applications
- Establishment of Development Centre for Nanosciences
- Human Development in Nanotechnology

- International Collaborations

- India has been able to rank amongst the top 5 countries in the world for Scientific Publications in Nanoscience & Technology due to the efforts led by the Nano Mission.
- The Nano Mission has established national dialogues to promote R&D in the development of standards for nanotechnology and for laying down a National Regulatory Framework Road-Map for Nanotechnology (NRFR-Nanotech).

➡ ICONSAT

- The International Conference on NanoScience and NanoTechnology (ICONSAT) is a series of biennial international conferences held in India under the aegis of the Nano Mission, Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Objectives

- Bringing out Cutting-Edge Nano Technology for the development of Physics, Chemistry, and Material domains.
- Integration of **5Ms – Mechanical, Material, Machines, Manufacturing, and Manpower** with the help of NanoScience and NT.
- Integration of NT with Sustainable Development.
- Emphasizing the need to create a network of experts in nano-science and to collaborate the knowledge across sectors like energy, agriculture, transport, health, and so on.
- Providing a potential platform for young researchers and students from within the country and abroad to keep pace with the latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology.
- The International Conference on NanoScience and NanoTechnology (ICONSAT) 2020 was organized IN Kolkata (West Bengal).

➡ AWSAR

- It is the Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research scheme, launched by the DST.
- It is aimed at tapping the potential of 20,000 Ph.D. scholars to communicate and popularise their research through blogs, newspapers, social media, magazines, etc.
- It gives a monetary incentive to encourage popular science writers. The AWSAR scheme was highlighted at the ICONSAT event.

➡ NATIONAL BEEKEEPING & HONEY MISSION (NBHM)

- The National Beekeeping and Honey Mission was announced by the Union Government as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat package in 2020.
- The scheme is implemented by the **National Bee Board (NBB)** and is approved for three years from 2020 to 2023.

- The scheme is aimed at the overall development and promotion of scientific beekeeping in India to achieve the objectives of the **Sweet Revolution**.
- The scheme is under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, GOI**.
- It is a **central sector scheme** (100% central government funding).
- The scheme will work in tandem with the various other schemes related to beekeeping such as KVIC's Honey Mission, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), and the ministries of rural development, MSME, AYUSH, commerce and industry, tribal affairs, etc.

Objectives

- Foster the **holistic growth of the beekeeping industry** for income & employment generation for farm and non-farm households.
- Augment horticulture/agriculture production.
- Develop **infrastructural facilities** including establishing Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre (IBDC)s/CoE, bee disease diagnostic labs, honey testing labs, custom hiring centres, nucleus stock, Api-therapy centres, bee breeders, etc.
- **Empower women** via beekeeping.
- Develop blockchain/traceability system for traceability of the source of honey & other beehive products; and employing IT tools in beekeeping, including online registration, etc.
- **Create and enable honey corridors** in potential areas.
- Encourage agri-entrepreneurs & agri-startups in beekeeping/honey production.
- **Promote trade agreements** between traders/exporters and beekeepers.
- Foster, develop and diffuse the latest and state-of-the-art technologies and skill development in the beekeeping industry for the production of honey & other high-value beehive products.
- Boost beekeepers through an institutional framework for a **collective approach like SHGs, FPOs, etc.**
- Magnify the economic, social and ecological benefits by diversification through beekeeping by producing a higher quantity & good quality of honey and other high-value beehive products such as beeswax, bee pollen, royal jelly, propolis, comb honey, bee venom, etc. for domestic and global markets.

National Beekeeping & Honey Mission Sub-Missions

The NBHM has three sub-missions or sub-schemes, namely, Mini Mission – I, II and III.

Mini Mission I

- Here, the focus is on the production and productivity enhancement of different crops through pollination aided by adopting scientific beekeeping.
- It aims to create awareness about scientific beekeeping.
- States will be assisted in the setting up of state bee boards/state beekeeping and honey missions.

Mini Mission II

- Here, the focus is on post-harvest management of beekeeping, beehive products, including collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition, etc.

Mini Mission III

- Here, the focus is on the generation of research and technology for different states/regions and agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions.

➡ NIRVIK

- The NIRVIK Scheme (also known as **Niryat Rin Vikas Yojana**) is a scheme implemented under the **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)** with a view to ease lending of loans and enhance credit availability to small-scale exporters.
- Announced by the Finance Minister during the Union Budget on 2020-2021 on February 1st 2020, the NIRVIK Scheme will boost the export segment of the Indian economy.

Features

- Insurance **coverage will be up to 90%** of the principal amount and interest
- The extended coverage will make sure that foreign export credit interest rates are below 4%. The rupee export credit interest rates will be limited to 8%.
- Both **pre and post-shipment credit** will be covered under the new scheme
- Borrowers from the gems, jewellery and diamond with a limit of over Rs 80 crore will have a higher premium rate as compared to those from other sectors as the loss ratio is high.
- Those accounts that have limits below Rs. 80 crore, the premium rates will be moderated to 0.60 per annum. For those whose limits are beyond Rs. 80 Crore, the rates will be 0.72 per annum.
- In the event that there will be losses exceeding Rs. 10 Crores, the exporter will be subjected to inspection by the ECGC Banks shall pay a premium to the ECGC on a monthly basis as the principal and interest are covered for both outstandings.

Benefits

- The NIRVIK Scheme will play a crucial role in improving accessibility and affordability of credit for exporters making Indian exports more competitive
- It will dispense with the usual red-tape and other procedural hurdles in order to become exporter friendly.
- The extended insurance cover is likely to bring down the cost of credit with factors such as capital relief, better liquidity and quick settlement of claims in play.
- MSME's (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) will stand to benefit as well due to improvement in the ease of doing business and making ECG procedures much more simplistic.

➡ NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEXTILES MISSION (NTTM)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the setting up of the National Technical Textiles Mission with an aim to make India a leader of technical textiles globally.
- The Mission would have a four year implementation period from FY 2020-21 to 2023-24

- A total outlay of Rs 1480 Crore has been finalised by the authorities for this mission
- A Mission Directorate will be operational in the Ministry of Textiles
- Mr Nihar Ranjan Dash has been appointed the Mission Coordinator for the National Technical Textiles Mission by the President of India
- The mission has been set up in lines with the Make in India initiative by the Government of the country

Technical Textiles

- Technical textiles are textiles materials and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties rather than aesthetic characteristics.
- India shares nearly 6% of world market size of 250 Billion USD.
- There are 12 broad categories under which the Techincal textiles can be divided, depending upon their application areas:

  - Agrotech, Buildtech, Clothtech, Geotech, Hometech, Indutech, Mobiltech, Meditech, Protech, Sportstech, Oekotech, Packtech

➡ NATIONAL SKILLS QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NSQF)

- The NSQF is a quality assurance framework.
- It is a nationally **integrated education and competency-based skill framework** that will provide for multiple pathways, horizontal as well as vertical, both within vocational education and vocational training, and among vocational education, vocational training, general education and technical education, thus linking one level of learning to another higher level.

Provisions

- The NSQF linkage of different levels **allows the students to acquire desired levels of competency, job market transitions** and allow further acquisitions of added skills to further enhance their competencies with suitable time. The NSQF will also provide the following:

  - **International Equivalency**: This will be achieved by providing national policies for identifying skill proficiency and competencies at different levels.
  - NSQF will also provide facilities for **multiple entry and exit between skill training, vocational education, job markets, general and technical education**.
  - Provisions of progressive pathways which are within the framework of the skill qualifications.
  - Provide opportunities that encourage lifelong training and education as well as skill development.
  - Tie-ups with the industries and markets to understand the job market requirements.
  - Creating a mechanism that is credible, transparent and accountable for the skill development over multiple sectors.
  - Providing better potential that recognises early learning.

Objectives

- **Accommodation of the diversity** found in the Education and Training Systems of the country.
- Allowing the **development of a set of qualifications for every level** which are accepted all over the nation.
- Providing a **structure for the maintenance and development of all the progressive pathways**. These pathways allow access to qualifications and support people to move effortlessly between different sectors of training and education as well as between these sectors and the labour market.
- Giving individuals options to progress through training and education as well as helping them gain recognition for their previous experiences and learnings.
- Enhancing and supporting the international and national mobility of people with qualifications that are compliant with NSQF through enhanced recognition of the value and comparability of Indian qualifications.

➡ NATIONAL HEALTH ASSURANCE MISSION (NHAM)

- National Health Assurance Mission (NHAM) was a Government of India plan in the year 2014, to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare by the common man.
- In India, 6 crore individuals move Below Poverty Line (BPL) every year because of expenses related to unforeseen illnesses placing substantial constraints on the individual welfare and nations economic growth.
- Health is a state subject and the states ownership and thrust on governance determines its success. Health assurance needs to be understood from a much wider perspective; nutrition, clean water, clean air, sanitation, primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare.

Proposals

- **Institutionalise a regulatory authority** with vast powers to oversee enforcement of all-round quality standards
- Consumer protection
- **Universal Health insurance** was supposed to be a major component of this scheme.
- Providing free drugs to patients.
- Providing free diagnostic services.
- Insurance cover for expensive and serious ailments which required heart surgery or organ failure was mooted.

➡ NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION

- National Digital Health Mission on 15th August 2020.
- The mission **aims to create an integrated healthcare system linking practitioners with patients digitally** by giving them access to real-time health records. This will promote prompt and structured healthcare across the country.
- It is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- To create a national digital health ecosystem that supports universal health coverage.

Background

National Health Policy 2017 envisions:

- Highest level of health and wellbeing for all at all ages.
- Preventive and promotive health care orientation in all development policies
- Universal healthcare access
- MoH&FM set up a committee under **J. Satyanarayana** to develop an implementation framework for the National Health Stack
- The **Satyanarayana committee recommended drafting a National Digital Health Blueprint** to lay down the building blocks and action plan for a digital health mission.
- National Digital Mission Blueprint recommended the establishment of an entity called National Digital Health Mission to provide for a digital healthcare ecosystem for healthcare services across the country.
- National Health Authority that is the apex authority to implement the National Digital Health Mission is also the implementing authority of Ayushman Bharat.

Objectives of National Digital Health Mission

- Establishment of **Digital Health Systems**
- Core **digital health data** managed by these systems
- To manage the Infrastructure requirements for seamless exchange of services.
- Creation of Registries
- It will have all credible data of clinical establishments, healthcare professionals, health workers, drugs, and pharmacies
- Enforcement of adoption of open standards by all national digital health stakeholders
- Establishment of Standardized personal health records
- It will take inspiration from international standards
- Based on an individual's informed consent, the records can be easily shared between individuals and healthcare professionals, and services providers.
- Enterprise-class health application systems
- The aim will be to achieve health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Adoption of cooperative federalism while coordinating with states and union territories.
- Promotion of private players' participation along with the public health authorities
- Making healthcare services portable nationally.
- Promotion of Clinical Decision Support (CDS) Systems by healthcare professionals.

- Digitally manage:
- Identifying people, doctors, and health facilities,
- Facilitating electronic signatures
- Ensuring non-repudiable contracts
- Making paperless payments
- Securely storing digital records, and
- Contacting people

Components of National Digital Health Mission

There are four components:

- **National Health Electronic Registries**
- **A Federated Personal Health Records (PHR) Framework** – It will fight twin challenges of:
  Access to healthcare reports/data by the patients and the healthcare provider for treatment
  Making the data available for medical research
- **A National Health Analytics Platform**
- **Other Horizontal Components like**:

- Unique Digital Health ID,
- Health Data Dictionaries
- Supply Chain Management for Drugs,
- Payment gateways

Salient Features

- The institutional framework of the **mission runs at different levels** starting from the apex level, followed by the board of directors, CEO, and operations.
- It is an **IT-enabled healthcare infrastructure system**
- **Health ID** – It will be a repository of all health-related information. Every participating stakeholder including healthcare providers and Indian citizens will be part of this health ID system on a voluntary basis. A unique health ID will be created by every citizen interested to access the benefits of this mission.
- **Health data consent managers** will be linked with unique health IDs of the patients; who will aid the seamless exchange of the health records between the patient and the doctors.
- The **healthcare services** will be provided through a mobile app or through an official website.
- **Digi Doctor** – He/she will be the one who will be responsible for providing healthcare services across the country. An interested healthcare professional can act as a digital doctor to provide prescriptions to patients sitting in a different location altogether. He/she will be assigned free digital signatures which can be used to prescribe medicines.

➡ NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR PROJECT

- It is a Central Government Scheme which has been devised to tackle the issue of child labor is a more effective manner by focussing on specific target ideas, identifying the victims, withdrawing them from hazardous situations, focussing on their rehabilitation and meanwhile spreading awareness on the functionalities of NCLP and the other agencies on child labour to the families of the child labourers.

Objectives

It aims at the expulsion of child labour in all forms possible through a sequential basis of:

- Identification of children in child labour in the project area.
- Withdrawing the identified children.
- Preparation of the withdrawn children for introduction to mainstream education by providing necessary vocational training.
- Ensuring that they're benefitted by the multitude of services provided by the different governments and agencies.
- It aims at the withdrawal of adolescent children from hazardous situations or occupations by
- Identifying all adolescents and withdrawing them from the project area.
- Facilitating training programmes for such adolescents through the skill development schemes which are currently existing.
- It aims at raising awareness amongst the target communities and the other stakeholders regarding child labour about the functionality of NCLP.
- To create a Child Labour Monitoring, Tracking and Reporting System to stay updated with the situation.

Target Group

- The scheme focuses on all the child workers **below the age of 14** in the target areas, **adolescent workers below 18 years of age** engaged in hazardous occupations and also on the families of the child workers in that specific target areas.
- The children would be eased into local schools after providing necessary bridging programmes.
- The adolescent children in hazardous work would be given skill enhancement training and shifted to non-hazardous work.
- The delivery of income/stipend, employment or social security to the families of child workers will be ensured by the government. The tracking of the rescued child workers will be done to follow up for evaluation of impact.
- The child labour laws will be stepped up according to the requirement in the required area.

NCLP Highlights/Features:

- The Government contributes to the identification, classification, eradication, and withdrawal of children and adolescents from hazardous occupations.
- Successfully mainstreaming the rescued children into proper local schools and affiliating them with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

- The adolescents will be provided with other skill enhancement training and transferred to permitted occupations.
- Better awareness programs for the education of communities and the Indian public as a whole with the help of enhanced abilities.
- Compensatory measures for the families who are releasing their children from working and allowing them to attend training or schools.
- Mothers of such victimized children are often organized into self-help groups (SHG's).

➡ NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION

- The Union Cabinet on **4th January 2023** approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- The initial outlay for the mission is Rs.19,744 crore, comprising an outlay of Rs.17,490 crore for the **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT)** programme,

Aim and significance

- The mission intends to facilitate the production of hydrogen from renewable energy.
- Hydrogen is an important industrial fuel that has multiple uses ranging from producing ammonia, making steel and cement, to powering fuel cells. However, the least expensive way to manufacture Hydrogen is through fossil fuels like coal and natural gas.
- Global warming and climate change concerns have gradually highlighted the use of alternative fuels like solar and wind energy for producing hydrogen.
- The **mission aims to create an enabling environment for developing the infrastructure** to produce and transport green hydrogen for various industrial applications.
- Under the ambit of the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT) programme, two distinct financial incentive mechanisms will be facilitated:
  - Targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers
  - Production of Green Hydrogen
- Areas capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilization of Green Hydrogen will be identified and developed as Green Hydrogen Hubs.
- A robust green hydrogen policy framework would be established to sustain and promote Green Hydrogen Ecosystem.
- Moreover, a public-private partnership framework for R&D (Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership – SHIP) will be supported.
- A coordinated skill development programme will also be established under the proposed mission.
- iT aims to achieve the following targets by 2030:
  - Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum with related renewable energy capacity addition of nearly 125 GW in India.
  - Total investments of more than Eight lakh crores
  - Employment generation for around Six lakhs people
  - Overall fossil fuel import reduction by approximately Rs. One lakh crore

- Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions

➡ NAMASTE SCHEME

- It was launched in **2022 as a Central Sector Scheme**.
- The scheme is being undertaken jointly by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)** and aims to eradicate unsafe sewer and septic tank cleaning practices.

Objectives

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
- All sanitation work is performed by skilled workers.
- No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter.
- Sanitation workers are collectivised into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises.
- Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at National, State and Urban Local Body (ULB) levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe sanitation work.
- Increased awareness among sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered and skilled sanitation workers.

Key Features of the Scheme to be Implemented in all ULBs

- **Identification:** NAMASTE envisages identifying the Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).
- Occupational Training and distribution of PPE Kits to SSWs.
- Assistance for Safety Devices to Sanitation Response Units (SRUs).
- Extending Health Insurance Scheme Benefits to identified SSWs and their families under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- **Livelihood Assistance:** The Action Plan will promote mechanization and enterprise development by providing funding support and subsidy (capital +interest) to the sanitation workers, to procure sanitation related equipments.
- IEC (Information Education and Communication) Campaign: Massive campaigns would be undertaken jointly by the ULBs & NSKFDC (National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation) to spread awareness about the interventions of NAMASTE.

➡ PENCIL PORTAL

- A unique online portal was launched in 2017, by the government, called PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour).
- It had been created under the NCLP scheme:

- To ensure effective and easy implementation of the scheme.
- It consists of a **Child Tracking System** and a Complaint corner.
- The portal can connect the Central Government to respective State Governments, districts, to all project societies and finally to the general public.
- The portal allows anyone to file a complaint **regarding child labour**.

- The received complaints are automatically assigned to the concerned Nodal officer by the system immediately upon receiving the complaint to take further actions which might be necessary.

➡ LAWS AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

- The government has laid down multiple rules governing the enforcement of child labour and is taking active measures to eradicate this practice.

Gurupadswamy Committee

- It was a statutory committee formed by the Government of India in 1979, which found that the inextricable reason behind child labor in India was linked directly to Poverty.
- The committee's findings and analysis were then utilized to enact the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 by the union government.

Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, of 2016

- It is an amendment of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which has placed a complete prohibition on the employment of underage children, especially in hazardous situations or occupations.
- It has also interconnected the prohibition of employment with access to free education as per the Right to Education Act of 2009.
- India was the 170th member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to agree with **Convention No. 138**. This convention requires member parties to set a minimum age under which no person should be employed.
- India also agreed with **Convention No. 182** which requires state parties to eliminate and prohibit any forms of extreme child labour activities such as trafficking, use of children in armed conflict, prostitution and in illicit activities.

INDUS Project

- Government of India and the US Department of Labour had jointly collaborated to form the INDUS Project which aimed at preventing and eliminating child labourers, especially from hazardous occupations.
- It was developed under **ILO-IPEC(International Labour Organization-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour).**

National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme

- This is a scheme by the central government of India to facilitate rehabilitation of child labourers and to aid their introduction to formal education with vocational training at NCLP Centres.

➡ NATIONAL BIOPHARMA MISSION

- National Biopharma Mission was launched in 2017.
- World Bank would provide 50% of the funds.

- This program was launched with an objective of promoting entrepreneurship and developing indigenous manufacturing capability in the sector.
- This mission has been designed to give a boost to the 'Make in India' and 'Start-Up India' missions launched by the Government of India.
- The aim of this mission is to capture 5% of the global biopharmaceutical industry.
- It will build sustainable networks for collaboration between the industry, academia and in turn support the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Objectives and Nodal Agency for Implementation

- The pharmaceutical industry holds a promising future for India, and the National Biopharma Mission is anticipated to be the game-changer for Indian Pharmaceutical Industries.
- The mission aspires to create a conducive ecosystem to encourage entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector by strengthening technology transfer capabilities in the private and the public sector.
- It aims to make India a hub for design and development of affordable, novel and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions.
- The mission strives to encourage entrepreneurship to transform the health standards of the people of India through affordable medicines.
- A Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology – **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** is involved in the implementation of the mission.
- It is expected to integrate expertise from national and international corridors to provide strategic guidance and direction to yield promising results through the product development value chain.

➡ NATIONAL NUTRITION MISSION

- **Poshan Abhiyaan**, also known as the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), was launched in 2018 (although the programme was being implemented in 2017) by the Government of India with the aim of tackling the malnutrition problem prevalent in India.
- The **chief objective of the mission** is to reduce the level of under-nutrition and also enhance the nutritional status of children in the country.
- The mission is a multi-ministerial initiative and aims at removing malnutrition from the country by 2022.
- Poshan Abhiyaan is India's flagship scheme to improve the nutritional outcomes of adolescents, children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The mission leverages technology and convergence between various modules and departments.
- The term 'Poshan' in the name of the programme stands for **'Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition.**
- The programme has specific targets for reducing stunting, anaemia, under-nutrition and low birth weight.
- According to **'Mission 25 by 2020'**, the National Nutrition Mission aims to achieve a reduction in stunting from **38.4% to 25% by 2022.**

- The mission also encompasses mapping of various other schemes related to malnutrition and enabling synergies through ICT-based real-time monitoring system, robust convergence between the schemes, incentivising states and UTs for meeting the set targets, and optimising Anganwadi centres' functioning, apart from conducting social audits.
- These other schemes include the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Janani Suraksha Yojana, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, PDS, National Health Mission, etc.**
- For Anganwadi centres, the mission envisages the following:

- Giving incentives to Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) for using IT-based tools.
- Elimination of registers used by AWWs.
- Measuring the height of children at Anganwadi centres.

- Another component of the mission is the gradual scaling up of the interventions under the World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Systems.
- The implementing agency is the **Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI.**
- The NITI Aayog also plays a pivotal role in the mission.
- The **National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges**, which has been set up under the Poshan Abhiyaan, has the **Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog as its Chairperson**.
- The council is also called the **National Council on Nutrition or NCN**.
- The NCN offers policy directions to address nutritional challenges and review programmes for the same.
- It is a national-level coordination and convergence body on nutrition.

Specific Targets of NNM

The National Nutrition Mission aims at achieving the following:

- Reduce stunting by 2% annually.
- Reduce under-nutrition by 2% annually.
- Reduce anaemia by 3% annually.
- Reduce low birth weight by 2% annually.

➡ NATIONAL WATER MISSION - JAL JEEVAN MISSION

- The **National Water Mission was launched in 2011**.
- With the per capita availability of water-reducing every year, reducing groundwater tables, prolonged droughts, floods due to excess rains; water conservation and storage is a cause of very significant concerns for every nation.

Objective

- Increase water use efficiency by 20% through regulations, differential entitlements and pricing.

- A considerable share of water needs of urban areas is to be met through recycling of wastewater.
- Water requirements of coastal cities are to be met through the adoption of low-temperature desalination technologies.
- Consult with states to ensure that basin-level management strategies are made to deal with variability in rainfall and river flows due to climate change.
- Enhance storage above and below ground, implement rainwater harvesting.
- Adopt large scale irrigation programmes which rely on sprinklers, drip irrigation and ridge and furrow irrigation.
- National Water Mission document consists of 2 volumes.
- **One volume deals with funds** required for the mission, Research and Development that would be required for this mission, monitoring of the mission and the composition of the various committees to run this mission.
- **Volume 2 of the mission document** deals with the reports generated by 6 different sub-committees. The sub-committees are:-

- Sub-Committee on "Surface Water Management committee"
- Sub-Committee on "Efficient use of water for various purposes committee"
- Sub-Committee on "Domestic and Industrial Water management committee
- Sub-Committee on "Policy and Institutional framework committee"
- Sub-Committee on "Groundwater management committee"
- Sub-Committee on "Basin level planning and management"

WRIS

- An important milestone of this mission was the establishment of a Water Resources Information System (WRIS).
- This fulfils the mission's goal to have an extensive database on water resources in the public domain.

➡ NAI ROSHNI

- Nai Roshni – The **Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women** was implemented in 2012-13.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**.
- It is a welfare scheme for the development of minority women in order to inculcate confidence and empower them by providing knowledge and techniques.

Objectives

- Nai Roshni Scheme is a Government welfare scheme launched to empower minority women with knowledge, basic techniques and tools which would help them interact with government banks and other institutions on all levels.
- The scheme has been implemented through NGOs, civil societies and government institutions.
- Minority women can apply for the scheme online as well.

- The scheme helps in fighting different social stigmas such as poverty, as women and children are the worst sufferers of poverty.
- It empowers the minority women to stand up for their rights and help them grow economically thus strengthening civil society.

Target Group

- Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist, Zoroastrian (Parsi) and Jain women notified under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 come under the target group.
- However, to further increase the strength of the mosaic of plurality in society and bring about solidarity and unity through their own efforts to improve their lot, the scheme permits a mix of women from non-minority communities not exceeding 25% of a project proposal.
- Efforts should be made by the organization so that a representative mix of women comes up from SCs/STs/OBCs.
- Also, women with disabilities and other communities are included within this 25% group.

➡ NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY SCHEME

- Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Programme for Fertilizers was initiated in the year **2010.**
- Under the scheme, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on an annual basis is provided on each grade of **subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers**, except for Urea, based on the nutrient content present in them.
- The scheme is administered by the **Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.**
- The continuation of the Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme will ensure that an adequate quantity of P&K is made available to the farmers at a statutory controlled price.

Provisions

- In India, urea is the only controlled fertilizer and is sold at a statutory notified uniform sale price.
- Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme (NBS) allows the manufacturers, marketers, and importers to fix the MRP of the Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers at reasonable levels.
- The domestic and international cost of P&K fertilisers is considered along with the country's inventory levels and the currency exchange rate in order to decide the MRP.

Aims

- The scheme aims at ensuring that a sufficient quantity of P&K is at the farmer's disposal at statutory controlled prices so that agricultural growth can be sustained and balanced nutrient application to the soil can be ensured.
- It aims at ensuring the balanced use of fertilizers, improving agricultural productivity, promoting the growth of the indigenous fertilizer industry, and also reducing the burden of subsidy.
- Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme has been implemented with the expectation that it will promote balanced fertilization of the soil, which will lead to increased agricultural productivity and consequently better returns to the farmers.

➡ NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga also known as the National Ganga Council.
- This mission was established in 12th August 2011 under the **Societies Registration Act,1860** as a registered society.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under National Ganga Council is supported by the State level Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. It is an initiative taken by the Government of India to address the pollution of the river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.
- Some of the **major objectives** of the Nation Mission for Clean Ganga are:
  - The mission incorporates rehabilitating and boosting the existing STPs and instant short-term steps to curb pollution at exit points on the riverfront in order to check the inflow of sewage.
  - To maintain the continuity of the water flow without changing the natural season variations.
  - To restore and maintain the surface flow and groundwater.
  - To regenerate and maintain the natural vegetation of the area.
  - To conserve and regenerate the aquatic biodiversity as well as the riparian biodiversity of the river Ganga basin.
  - To allow participation of the public in the process of protection, rejuvenation and management of the river.

Initiatives towards Clean Ganga

- **Ganga Action Plan:** It was announced in 1985 by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This was the first River Action Plan that was introduced for the improvement of water quality through interception, diversion and treatment of domestic sewage. The plan aimed in preventing the entry of toxic and industrial chemical wastes to the river.
- **National River Conservation Plan**: This conservation plan was developed as an extension for the Ganga Action Plan with an aim to cover all the major rivers of India.
- **National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA):** Controlled by the Prime Minister of India, the National River Ganga Basin Authority was formed under Section-3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 by the Central Government in 2009. It declared the Ganga as 'the National River' of India.
- A Government clean-up campaign was started in 2010 to prevent the entry of untreated municipal sewage or industrial runoff into the river.

➡ NATIONAL SPORTS TALENT SEARCH SCHEME

- The National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) has been formulated for talent identification in the age group of 8-12 years and nurturing of identified talented sports

persons. The scheme is being implemented by **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India**.

- Identification of sporting talent among students in the age group of **8–12 years** (for admission in Class IV to Class VI) who possess inborn qualities such as anthropometric, physical and physiological capabilities without any anatomical infirmities.
- Nurturing of the Sporting Potential / talent in District level Sports schools / Central Sports Schools / National Sports Academies etc., to make them excel at the National and international sports competitions. This will help broaden the pool of Sportspersons in the Country.

Benefits that have accrued or will accrue

- Identification of talented sportspersons in the age group of 8 – 12 years in schools all over the country through a battery of tests and nurturing of identified talented sportspersons in sports schools will help broaden the pool of sportspersons in the country.
- The Scheme will facilitate development of Indian sports, particularly rural sports. Any success in National/International sports events will bring honour to the country as well as to the respective States which the sportspersons represents.
- The scheme envisages to cover all schools in different States / UTs throughout the country (both rural and urban) for a period of five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

➡ NATIONAL MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (NMSA)

- It is one of the major missions of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Change in agricultural practices also plays a crucial role in the mitigation of climate change effects.
- This mission tries to comprehensively revamp the agricultural practices so that the desired objectives of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) can be achieved.

4 Major Programmes of NMSA

- **Rainfed Area Development (RAD)**
  - Develops an area-based approach for the development and conservation of natural resources along with farming systems. It is a combination of various aspects of agriculture such as crops, fishery, livestock, horticulture, forestry and other agro-based activities which will act as a source of generating revenue.
  - Implement practices that will regulate soil nutrient based on soil health card, development of farming lands.
  - Using an approach that is cluster-based, with an area of 100 hectares or more
  - Develop new property resources which would be common, like a bank for grains, fodder, shredders for biomass, combined marketing initiative.
- **On-Farm Water Management (OFWM)**
  - The primary focus is optimum utilisation of water by promoting advanced on-farm water conservation equipment and technologies.
  - Emphasis on efficient harvesting and management of rainwater.

- Water conservation on the farm itself by digging farm ponds utilising funds from MGNREGA mission.

- **Soil Health Management**

- Promote sustainable practices which preserve the health of soil based on a specific location and the type of crops that could be grown in those locations by taking the help of various techniques like management of residue, organic farming by making new maps with details on soil fertility and linking them with macro-management and micromanagement of nutrients, optimum land use, right utilisation of fertilisers and reducing degradation & erosion of soil.
- Use of thematic maps generated with the help of Geographical Information System (GIS) technology and the databases created on soil and land with the help of scientific surveys.
- State Government, Soil and land Use Survey of India (SLUSI), National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC&TI).

- **Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN)**

- Create and disseminate knowledge and updated information on climate change.
- Support pilot blocks for spreading rainfed technologies and co-ordinate with other schemes or missions like MGNREGS, NFSM, RKVY, IWMP, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program (AIBP), NMAET.

➡ SUB-MISSION ON AGRO-FORESTRY SCHEME

- SMAF stands for Sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry which is a scheme being run under National Mission for Sustained Agriculture since 2016-17.
- It was recommended under National Agroforestry Policy 2014 to promote plantations on farmlands.
- Aim of the SMAF – The Sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry aims to expand the tree coverage on farmland in complementary with agricultural crops. The focus of the SMAF lies on:

- To achieve the quantifiable benefits such as increase tree cover to enhance carbon sequestration
- Enrichment of soil organic matter
- Availability of quality planting material
- Improvement in livelihood
- Productivity enhancement of crop and cropping systems
- Development of an information system

Objectives of SMAF

- **Productivity, Employment, Income of Rural Household** – The mission aims to promote tree plantations integrating them with crops and livestock so as to help the rural household with better income and employment opportunities.
- **Availability of Quality Materials** – Planting materials like seeds, seedlings, clones, hybrids, improved varieties are made accessible to rural households especially small farmers.

- Bring awareness to types of agroforestry practises depending upon different agro-ecological regions and land use conditions.
- To provide capacity-building support to the agroforestry sector.

Important Facts about SMAF

- The scheme is implemented only in the states having liberalized transit regulations for the transport of timber and will be extended to other states as and when such relaxations are notified by them.
- The scheme promotes endemic species or tree species that come with medicinal value. Exotic species are not promoted by the scheme.
- Farmers must have a soil health card to get the benefit under the programme.
- The convergence of SMAF with the following schemes:
  - National Food Security Mission
  - Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
  - National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm
  - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture
  - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana (PMKSY)

➡ AGRI UDAAN

- Agri Udaan is a flagship program for Food and Agribusiness Accelerator launched by a-IDEA, NAARM in 2015. This programme was launched along with CIIE and IIM-A

Agri Udaan 2.0

- 'AGRI UDAAN'- Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 2.0 was announced by the ICAR-NAARM Technology Business Incubator (TBI), a-IDEA and the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) incubator Center for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE).
- The objective of this programme was to help the selected innovative startups to scale up their operations in the agricultural value chain for any effective improvement in the field of agriculture. Agri Udaan 2.0 was a six-month program for mentoring the shortlisted agricultural startups to scale up their operations.

Agri Udaan 3.0

- Agri Udaan 3.0 launched in Hyderabad in August 2019 to receive applications from startups that are trying to scale up in the agri-tech field and thus providing them support by bringing out innovations from across the country.
- The major focus areas of Agri Udaan 3.0 are as follows:
  - sustainable inputs
  - Animal Husbandry
  - Innovative Food & Supply Chain Technology
  - Smart Agriculture, Agri Fintech & Agri Biotech
  - Soil, Water & Weather technology
  - Farm Mechanization & Post Harvest Technology

- Fisheries & Farm Fresh Retail
- Urban/Vertical Farming
- ICT & IoT in Agriculture

Agri Udaan 4.0

- Agri Udaan Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 4.0 is the 4th edition of the flagship accelerator program of a-IDEA (Association for Innovation Development of Entrepreneurship in Agriculture)
- It is supported by **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** of GoI.
- The Program focuses on catalyzing scale-up stage Food and Agribusiness startups through rigorous mentoring, industry networking and investor pitching.
- Agri Udaan 4.0 brings on board a range of diverse partners to create an inclusive and collaborative ecosystem focusing on catalyzing scale-up stage Food and Agribusiness startups through rigorous mentoring, industry networking and investor pitching
- **Focus Areas**
  - Sustainable inputs
  - Animal Husbandry
  - Innovative Food Technology
  - Supply Chain Technology
  - Precision/Smart Agriculture
  - Agri Fintech
  - Agri Biotech
  - Soil, Water & Weather tech.
  - Farm Mechanization
  - Post Harvest Technology
  - Fisheries
  - Farm Fresh Retail
  - Urban/Vertical Farming
  - ICT & IoT in Agriculture

➡ OPERATION GREENS

- Operation Greens was announced by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2018-2019.
- Currently, Operation Green is currently housed in the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries or MoFPI.**
- **NAFED is the Nodal Agency** to implement price stabilisation measures.
- The scheme Operation Greens is on the **line of Operation Flood** and aims to promote FPO – Farmer Producers Organizations, processing facilities, agri-logistics, and professional management of agricultural produce.
- Operation Greens is a **scheme to fix the right prices for farmers' produce**.

- It **aims to ensure that farmers are given the right price for the resource created by them**.
- The program focuses on organized **marketing of TOP vegetables** i.e. Tomatoes, Onions, and Potatoes by connecting the farmers with consumers.
- Through Operation Greens government plans to provide financial assistance to Farmer Producer Organizations, State Agriculture and other Marketing Federations, cooperatives, companies, food processors, Self-help groups, etc.
- The **E-NAM platforms** will be connected to the Agriculture Produce Market Committee so as to help in the structural and infrastructure part of Operation Greens scheme. The government has also decoded help in the development of 22,000 agricultural markets under this scheme.
- The **e-National Agriculture Market (E-NAM)** is an important initiative of the Government of India **to use electronic trading portal pan-India for bidding and network the existing APMC mandis** to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

Objectives

- Stabilisation of prices for consumers and producers by proper planning in the production of TOP clusters and introduction of dual use varieties.
- Improving value realisation of TOP farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen FPOs and TOP production clusters and linking them with the market.
- Reducing after harvest losses by creating farm gate infrastructure, appropriate storage capacity, developing suitable agro-logistics and linking consumption centres.
- Increase in food processing capacities and value addition in the TOP value chain with firm linkages with production clusters.
- Setting up a market intelligence network to collect real-time data on price and demand and supply of TOP crops.

➡ PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE (PLI)

- Production Linked Incentive or PLI scheme is a scheme that **aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units**.
- The scheme **invites foreign companies to set up units** in India, however, it also **aims to encourage local companies** to set up or expand existing manufacturing units and also to generate more employment and cut down the country's reliance on imports from other countries.
- It was launched in April 2020, for the Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing sector, but later towards the end of 2020 was introduced for 10 other sectors.
- This scheme was introduced in line with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign.
- Based on the ten sectors to which the Production Linked Incentive scheme was expanded to, the government aims at achieving the following targets:

▪ The government aims to make **India an integral part of the global supply chain** and enhance exports

- India is expected to have a USD 1 trillion digital economy by 2025 as it expects the demand for electronics to increase under its projects like Smart City and Digital India
- The **PLI scheme will make the Indian automotive Industry more competitive** and will enhance the globalisation of the Indian automotive sector
- The Indian Textile Industry is one of the largest in the world and with this scheme, it shall attract large investment in the sector to further boost domestic manufacturing, especially in the manmade fibre (MMF) segment and technical textiles
- India, being the second-largest producer of steel in the world, introducing it under the PLI scheme will benefit the country as it may expand export opportunities
- Similarly, telecom, solar panels, pharmaceuticals, white goods, and all the other sectors introduced can contribute to the economic growth of the country and make India a manufacturing hub globally.

➡ ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution rolled out a pilot scheme titled, One Nation One Ration Card Scheme in four states on a pilot basis in 2019.
- It is 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.
- The characteristics of the ONORC are:
- Existing ration cards will be turned as one nation one ration card.
- It will be a universal ration card allotted to each beneficiary registered under NFSA.
- Using the ONORC, a beneficiary who migrates from one place to another can buy subsidized food grains from the fair price shop located in the destination city regardless of the origin of the beneficiaries.
- The beneficiaries will be identified through biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices. These devices will be installed at each fair price shop.

The national portability will work using the:

- **Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) portal** – It will provide the technological platform for the ration cards portability.
- **Annavitran port**al – It will host the data of the food grains distribution through ePoS devices within a state. This will help a beneficiary to access subsidized food grains within a state (inter-district.)
- Aadhar Cards will be seeded with ration cards which will help beneficiaries get the ration using the same ration card.

➡ PRASAD

- Under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India launched the PRASAD Scheme in the year **2014-2015.**
- The full form of PRASAD Scheme is **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spirituality Augmentation Drive**.

- It aims at **integrated development of pilgrimage destinations** in a prioritised, planned, and sustainable manner in order to provide a complete religious tourism experience.
- The 12 cities identified under the scheme at first are as mentioned below:

- Kamakhya (Assam), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Gaya (Bihar), Amritsar (Punjab), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Puri (Odisha), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Kanchipuram(Tamil Nadu), Velankanni (Tamil Nadu), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)

Objectives

- To enhance **tourism attractiveness** in a sustainable manner
- To harness pilgrimage tourism so that it directly affects and multiplies the employment generation and economic development.
- To promote local art and culture, handicraft and cuisines etc.
- To develop world-class infrastructure in religious destinations
- The development of **infrastructure under PRASAD Scheme includes** the development of lighting and illumination with renewable energy sources, eco-friendly modes of transport, first aid centres, drinking water, waiting rooms, toilets, parking, craft bazaars/souvenir shops / haats / cafeteria, rain shelters, telecom facilities, internet connectivity etc.
- Development of basic tourism facilities like road, rail and water transport, last-mile connectivity, like Information and interpretation centers, Money exchanges and ATMs.
- To implement the PRASAD scheme a **Mission Directorate is set up** in the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments for the promotion of tourism at identified destinations.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI ROJGAR PROTSAHAN YOJANA (PMRPY)

- In order to incentivise the employers for new employment generation, the Government of India designed the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) Scheme.
- Under the scheme, the employers would be paid the **EPS contribution of 8.33%** for every new employment created, by the government.
- The scheme has been operational since **August 2016.**
- The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.

Eligibility Criteria

- All establishments registered with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) under EPF Act 1952 can apply for availing benefits under the scheme.
- They need to have a valid Labour identification Number (LN) allotted to them under the Shram Suvidha Portal.

Benefits

- This scheme offers social security benefits of the organised sector to workers. Apart from this, there are the following twin benefits of implementing this scheme:

- The employer is incentivised for increasing the employment base of workers in the establishment.
- A huge number of workers would find jobs in such establishments.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in **2015** administered by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The Government of India aims to provide the country's youth with training that will help them achieve meaningful, industry-relevant skills.
- PMKVY is a **Skill Certification Scheme** that aims to encourage the youth population of the country to take up training which is Industry- Relevant and builds them in Skill Development.
- The scheme was launched with an intention to provide secure livelihoods for the individuals participating in the training.
- PMKVY will also certify the previous learning experiences or skills of the individuals under the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).**

Component	Description
Short Term Training	○ The National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and different training centres will provide skill development training to the unemployed and school/college dropouts. ○ They'll also grant Soft Skill training, Digital & Financial Literacy sessions, Entrepreneurship, etc. depending upon the requirements of the industry. ○ The training provided will be NSQF Level 5 and below.
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	○ Individuals having prior learning experiences/skills are certified and assessed under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). ○ RPL is a process of assessment of an individual's prior learning, skills, and experience.
Special Projects	○ This component of PMKVY aims to encourage training in the groups of society that are marginalized and vulnerable. ○ These Special projects can be defined as projects that have some deviation in the Terms and Conditions from the Short Term Training projects.

Kaushal and Rozgar Mela	○ They are events organized every six months in order to provide assistance for individuals who have taken PMKVY training and have been certified.
Placement and Monitoring Guidelines	○ Creating and Providing placement opportunities to trained and certified individuals. ○ Maintaining high-quality training standards through the Skills Development Management System (**SDMS**).
Training Partners (TPs)	○ Placement assistance ○ Training to NSQF level 5 and below ○ Providing support to entrepreneurship development.

Implementation

- PMKVY is administered and implemented by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Along with this, the training providers affiliated with the State or Central government will also provide training under the PMKVY scheme.
- The training providers have to register themselves on the Skill Management & Accreditation of Training Centre (SMART) portal to participate and provide training under the scheme.
- PMKVY training is scrutinized by the **Sector Skills Councils and State Governments**.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- Recognition of Prior Learning commonly known as RPL largely refers to an assessment process used to evaluate a person's existing skill sets, knowledge and experience gained either by formal, non-formal or informal learning. RPL under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-20 primarily has threefold objectives.

RPL – 5 step process

- Mobilization
- Counselling and Pre-Screening
- Orientation
- Final Assessment
- Certification, mark sheet and pay-out distribution to candidates

PMKVY 1.0

- **Launch:** India's largest Skill Certification Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) - was launched on 15th July, 2015 (World Youth Skills Day).
- **Aim:** To encourage and promote skill development in the country by providing free short duration skill training and incentivizing this by providing monetary rewards to youth for skill certification.
- **Key Components:** Short Term Training, Special Projects, Recognition of Prior Learning, Kaushal & Rozgar Mela, etc.

PMKVY 2.0

- **Coverage:** PMKVY 2016-20 (PMKVY 2.0) was launched by scaling up both in terms of Sector and Geography and by greater alignment with other missions of the Government of India like Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat, etc.
- Implementation Through Two Components:
- **Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed (CSCM)**: This component was implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. 75% of the PMKVY 2016-20 funds and corresponding physical targets have been allocated under CSCM.
- **Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM):** This component was implemented by State Governments through State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs). 25% of the PMKVY 2016-20 funds and corresponding physical targets have been allocated under CSSM.

PMKVY 3.0

- Coverage: Launched in 717 districts, 28 States/eight UTs, PMKVY 3.0 is a step towards 'Atmnanirbhar Bharat'.
- **Implementation:** It will be implemented in a more decentralized structure with greater responsibilities and support from States/UTs and Districts.
- District Skill Committees (DSCs), under the guidance of State Skill Development Missions (SSDM), shall play a key role in addressing the skill gap and assessing demand at the district level.

Features

- It will be more trainee- and learner-centric. The focus is on bridging the demand-supply gap by promoting skill development in areas of new-age and Industry 4.0 job roles.
- It will be a propagator of vocational education at an early level for youth to capitalize on industry-linked opportunities.
- The National Educational Policy 2020 also puts focus on vocational training for holistic growth and increased employability.
- By taking the bottom-up approach to training, it will identify job roles that have demand at the local level and skill the youth, linking them to these opportunities (Vocal for Local).
- It will encourage healthy competition between states by making available increased allocation to those states that perform better.

➡ PM FME

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has launched the **PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Scheme** in 2020.
- The PM FME scheme intends to provide financial, technical and business support to upgrade existing micro food processing enterprises.
- The idea behind PM FME scheme is to bring unorganized micro food enterprises into an organized framework.
- There are approximately 25 lakhs unorganized food processing units.
- These units contribute to 74 percent of employment in the food processing sector.
- 66 percent of such units are located in rural areas.

- The government has earmarked Rs. 10000 crores to benefit two lakh micro food processing enterprises. The scheme aims to support:

- Micro Food Entrepreneurs
- FPOs
- SHGs
- Co-operatives

Salient facts

- It is a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme**. The share of expenditure under the PM FME scheme is as follows:

- 60:40 between the central government and state governments
- 90:10 between central and North Eastern and Himalayan states
- 100 percent central assistance for UTs without legislatures.

- It will run for **five years – 2020-21 to 2024-25**. The central government will bear the expenditure for the first year irrespective of who incurs it; later will be adjusted in the ratio mentioned above; in the next four years.
- The central government will provide funds to the state based on the approved Project Implementation Plan (PIP).
- **One-District One-Product Approach (ODOP) plan** to be implemented to encompass input procurement, common services availability, and product marketing.
- The Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee (IMEC) is established at the national level. The structure of IMEC under PM FME is:

- Chairman – Minister of Food Processing Industries
- Vice-Chairman – Minister of State of Food Processing Industries
- Member-Secretary
- Members

Objectives

- Capacity Building of Micro Food entrepreneurs
- They will be provided with **technical knowledge**
- **Skill training** is another component
- Hand holding support services to be given
- Technology up-gradation of the existing Micro Food Processing Enterprises by increasing access to credit to the entrepreneurs.
- Enable microenterprises to avail common services through supporting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Producers Cooperatives & Cooperative Societies along their entire value chain
- A regulatory framework to encompass existing unorganized micro food processing enterprises to bring them into a formally compliant framework.
- Branding and marketing to be strengthened in order to support the integration of existing enterprises with organized supply chains.

Four Main Components of PM FME

- Support to individual and groups of micro-enterprises
- Branding and Marketing support
- Support for strengthening of institutions
- Setting up a robust project management framework

➡ PM GARIB KALYAN YOJANA (PMGKY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) was launched in the year 2016 along with the other provisions of the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016.
- It came into effect from 17th December 2016 under the Ministry of Finance.

Announcements made by the Finance Minister, on 26th March 2020 are mentioned below:

- To provide an insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs per health worker affected by COVID-19.
- To provide free resources of 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for 80 crore poor people for the next three months under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
- 20 crore Women Jan Dhan account holders will be provided Rs 500 per month for the next three months.
- There will be an increase in MNREGA wage to Rs 202 per day to benefit 13.62 crore families.
- The Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers.

Benefits of PM Garib Kalyan Package

An Insurance Cover of Rs. 50 Lakh

- Under this PM Garib Kalyan Scheme, any health worker in government hospitals and healthcare centres who are treating the Covid-19 patients would be provided with an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh if met with some accident.
- These health workers include Safai karamcharis, ward-boys, nurses, ASHA workers, paramedics, technicians, doctors, and specialists. All government health centres, wellness centres, and hospitals of Centres as well as States would be covered under this scheme.

Free Pulses

- The Government of India declared to provide free resources of 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for 80 crore poor people three months under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
- Each one of them was provided double of their current entitlement over the next three months to ensure adequate availability of protein to all Covid-19 affected BPL families.
- Benefit to farmers
- Free LPG cylinders to the BPL families
- To help the low wage earners in organized sectors

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI MATRITVA VANDANA YOJANA (PMMVY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) was launched in 2017 as a flagship maternity benefits programme of the Government of India.
- Earlier it was known as the **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana** and is run under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The scheme is **aimed at pregnant or lactating women aged 19 years or above for the first live birth**. The programme provides partial compensation for wage loss during childbirth and afterwards during childcare.
- It also **aims to provide information on good feeding and nutrition** for mother and child pursuant to the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- PMMVY is implemented through a centrally deployed Web Based MIS Software application and the main point of implementation would be the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) and ASHA/ ANM workers.

Objectives

- Providing cash compensation against wage loss so that the mother can take adequate rest before and after the birth of the first living child.
- Promoting good nutrition and feeding practices to reduce infant mortality and malnutrition. It would also promote healthier behaviour among pregnant/lactating mothers.
- Promoting the use of health services and institutional care to reduce the risk of disease.

Beneficiary List

- Pregnant/Lactating Mothers except those who are employed with the Central Government, Public Sector Units or State Governments or those who receive similar benefits from similar laws for the time being.
- Women whose pregnancies commenced after 01.01.2017 and this would be the first child in the family.

Provisions

- Rs 5000 in three instalments on fulfilling the respective conditionality, viz. early registration of pregnancy, ante-natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of the first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- The PM Matritva Vandana scheme also asks mothers to:
  - Breastfeed for the first six months and give the child complementary food after that
  - Vaccinate the child with DPT and Polio vaccine
  - Attend two counselling sessions when the child is between 3-6 months old.
- The mechanism through which the Government of India finances this scheme is as grant in aid funding to state governments, which in turn handle the actual implementation of the scheme. It was relaunched in 2014 as Matritva Sahyog Yojana in 2014 and took its present form in late 2016.

Other Schemes Focussing on Nutritional and Health Aspects of Women:

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme

- The scheme provides specific interventions targeted towards the vulnerable groups including children below 6 years and women.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Poshan Abhiyaan

- Launched in March 2018, the goal of Poshan Abhiyaan is to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of Children (0-6 years) and Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time-bound manner.

Kudumbashree in Kerala

- It was launched in Kerala in 1998 to wipeout absolute poverty through community action.
- It is the largest women empowering project in the country.
- It has three components i.e., microcredit, entrepreneurship and empowerment.

Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY)

- The scheme aims to contribute to a better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

➡ PM SVANidhi

Salient Features

- It is a central sector scheme
- It will provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors who are left affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic.
- Vendors will be provided with an initial working capital of up to Rs. 10000
- A vendor will get an interest subsidy at 7 per cent at early or timely repayment of loans.
- There is a provision of monthly cash-back incentive on digital payments.
- Monthly cashback in the range of Rs. 50-100.
- A vendor has the high probability to be eligible for a higher loan if he/she repays the first loan on time.
- A vendor does not have to provide any collateral security to access the loan.

Objectives

- To give vendors access to affordable working capital loans which can help them to resume their livelihood activities post-countrywide lockdown (due to the pandemic.)
- To incentivize regular repayment of loans by provisions like cash-back, higher loans on subsequent demands etc.
- To promote digitalization by rewarding vendors who opt for digital repayments of loans.

Background of the Scheme

- The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdowns have adversely impacted the livelihoods of street vendors.
- They usually work with a small capital base, which they might have consumed during the lockdown.

- Therefore, credit for working capital to street vendors will be helpful to resume their livelihoods.

Lending Institutions under PM SVANidhi

- Scheduled Commercial Banks
- Regional Rural Banks
- Cooperative Banks
- Non-Banking Financial Companies
- Micro-Finance Institutions
- Self Help Groups (SHG) Banks

Eligibility of States/UTs

- The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
- Beneficiaries from Meghalaya, which has its own State Street Vendors Act, may, however, participate.

Implementation Partner

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will be the implementation partner of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for scheme administration.
- SIDBI will leverage the network of lending Institutions including the SCBs, RRBs, SFBs, Cooperative Banks, NBFCs & MFIs for scheme implementation.

➡ PM-KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI YOJANA

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is a central sector scheme under the government of India which provides income support to the farmers and their families.
- PM-KISAN scheme was first implemented as the Rythu Bandhu scheme by the Government of Telangana where a certain amount was handed directly to the eligible farmers.
- Later, on 1 February 2019, during the 2019 Interim Union Budget of India, announced the implementation of this scheme as a nationwide project.

Objectives

- To **provide income support to all eligible land-holding farmers** and their families.
- PM-KISAN scheme also **aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers** in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.
- The scheme is expected to increase the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries. It aims to cover around 2 crores more farmers.

Eligibility

- Any small or marginal farmer should not fall under the following criteria to be eligible under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
- Below are some of the categories of beneficiaries who are not eligible for benefit under this scheme:

- Any institutional land-holders.
- The farmer as well as any member of the family belonging to the following categories:
- Former and present holders of constitutional posts
- Former and present Ministers/ State Ministers
- Former or present members of LokSabha/ RajyaSabha/ State Legislative Assemblies/ State Legislative Councils
- Former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporations
- Former and present Chairpersons of District Panchayats.
- Any serving or retired officers as well as employees under the Central/ State Government Ministries /Offices/Departments.
- All retired pensioners who get a monthly pension of Rs.10,000/-or more and belonging to the above category.
- Any individual who paid their income tax in the last assessment year is not eligible under this scheme.
- Professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, and Architects registered with Professional bodies and carrying out profession by undertaking practices.

The farmers eligible under the scheme are required to produce the below-mentioned documents for their verification:

- Citizenship certificate
- Landholding papers
- Aadhaar card
- Bank account details

Advantages of PM-KISAN Scheme

- The direct transfer of funds is one of the biggest advantages of this scheme.
- All the records related to farmers is registered officially on a digital platform which has made the registration and fund transfer easy. The digitalised records have brought about a new start to this welfare scheme
- This scheme eases liquidity constraints of farmers
- PM-KISAN yojana is a big step towards the Government's initiatives of modernisation of agriculture
- There is no discrimination in choosing the PM-KISAN beneficiaries.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

- **PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is a central sector scheme introduced by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).**
- The PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana is a revised name of **"Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters.**
- It has an **outlay of 6000 crores**.

- The scheme was implemented in the year 2019-20.
- The scheme **aims at integrating existing and new schemes** targeted at reducing food wastage, provide quality food to consumers at reasonable prices, and at the same time doubling farmer's income.
- SAMPADA is an umbrella scheme with its period coterminous with the cycle of the 14th finance commission. It has various schemes within its gamut.
- **Ministry of Food Processing Industries in February 2020 sanctioned 32 projects** under PM Kisan Sampada Yojana. The projects are stated to be spread across 17 states in India and are to leverage an investment worth Rs. 406 crores. Other details are:

- **Employment Generation** – The 32 projects under PMKSY will create direct/indirect employment with a special focus on employment opportunities in rural areas.
- **Modern Processing Techniques** – The ministry has introduced modern food processing techniques improving the shelf-life of agricultural produce and ensuring stable revenue for the farmers.
- **Value of Food Processing Market in India** – The food processing market in India was valued at approximately Rs. 26 billion in FY 2018 and is expected to reach approximately Rs. 53 billion by FY 2024, expanding at a CAGR of ~12.09% during the FY 2020 FY 2024 period.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched on 10th September 2020.
- The **aim of the scheme is to bring about Blue Revolution** through the sustainable development of the fisheries sector over a period of five years (2020-2025.)
- PMMSY was announced in the union budget 2019-20.
- It is an umbrella scheme to develop the fisheries sector with a total outlay of Rs. 20050 crores.
- PMMSY will cover three broad sub-components:

- Enhancement of Production and Productivity
- Infrastructure and Post-harvest Management
- Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework

It intends to work on:

- Fish production
- Fisheries productivity
- Quality of fisheries and aquaculture sectors
- Post-harvest infrastructure and management
- Modernization of value chain
- Welfare of the fishers and fish farmers
- Fisheries management framework

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is the flagship scheme of the government for agricultural insurance in India in line with the One Nation-One Scheme theme.
- **Annual Commercial / Annual Horticultural crops, oilseeds, and food crops** (Cereals, Millets, and Pulses) are covered under the scheme.
- PMFBY is optional for the farmers who have not availed institutional credit, while all the farmers who have borrowed institutional loans from banks are covered under the scheme mandatorily. This was **modified and enrolment was made voluntary post-Kharif season 2020.**
- The scheme is administered by the **Ministry of Agriculture**.

Revamping the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- To address the challenges in the implementation of the crop insurance scheme, the Union Cabinet has approved to revamp the PMFBY and to bring modifications to its existing provisions.
- Therefore, the revamped PMFBY 2.0 aims to ensure quick computation and payment of claims to the farmers, proportionate to the crop loss through a series of technological interventions and implement more modifications to the scheme by the government.
- For north-eastern states, the centre's share in premium subsidy to be increased to 90% from 50% earlier.
- Information, Communication and Education (ICE) Activities – 0.5% of the total premium collected by the insurance companies to be spent on ICE activities.

Flexibility to states:

- States/UTS to be given an option to choose their scale of finance for any district crop combination.
- States/UTs given option to run the scheme with the selection of additional risk covers.

Cap on Centre's Premium Subsidy:

- For unirrigated areas/crops, the central subsidy to be limited for premium rates up to 30%
- For irrigated area/crops, the central subsidy to be limited for premium rates up to 25%.
- Those districts that will have an area under irrigation for more than 50% will be considered as an irrigated district.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana being revamped

- To make farmers' self-sufficient to manage risk in agriculture production.
- To stabilise the farm income.
- To enable farmers of North-Eastern states to manage agriculture risks.
- Enable faster claims settlements through quick and accurate yield estimation.

What is covered under PMFBY?

- Local natural calamities like landslides, hailstorms, etc.
- Calamities leading to loss of yield like floods, dry spells, droughts, etc. Pest infestation that causes yield loss is also covered by PMFBY.

- Losses that occurred after harvesting crops can also be covered under this scheme. These circumstances may befall due to cyclones, unseasonal rains, cyclonic rains, etc.

Nevertheless, PMFBY does not provide any safety against the following circumstances:

- Losses occurred due to war or similar hazardous activities.
- Loss of yield due to the act of enmity or riots.
- Yield destruction caused by domestic and/or wild animals
- Contamination due to nuclear risks.
- Malicious damage leading to yield carnage.
- It is proposed by the scheme to use remote sensing technology, smartphones, or drones to expedite crop loss estimation.

Features

- **Complete Insurance** coverage provision against crop loss due to unpreventable reasons. The purpose of this is to stabilize the farmer's income and promote innovative agricultural practices.
- **Improved and increased risk coverage** for the insurance of crop cycle for losses occurred during pre-sowing and post-harvesting.
- To settle claims for widespread damage, PMFBY uses an Area Approach wherein an Insurance Unit is reduced to Village or panchayat level for major crops.
- PMFBY facilitates the farmers to get their claim of the full sum insured without any reduction by taking off capping on premium provisions as well as other reductions on the sum insured.
- Along with landslide and hailstorm, even inundation (flooding) has been incorporated as a localized calamity for the assessment at the individual farm level.
- Assessment at the individual farm level is now provided for post-harvest losses by the PMFBY. This involves losses caused due to unseasonal and cyclonic rains throughout the country which destroy the crops kept for drying up to two weeks.
- Prevented Sowing is now provided with claims up to 25% of the sum insured.
- A group of districts will be allotted an insurance company. This kind of Cluster approach will result in effective implementation of the policy. The insurance company allocation will be through a bidding process for a longer duration of up to 3 years.
- Innovative technologies for faster and efficient estimation of crop losses are used. Usage of Drones, Smartphones, and Remote Sensing Technologies will ensure early settlement of insurance claims.
- An online portal for Crop insurance has been launched to ensure improved administration, better transparency and coordination, and dissemination of information.
- The insurance sum is directly credited electronically in the farmer's bank account.
- Also, a **Unified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS)** has also been approved for implementation on a pilot basis in 45 districts of the country from Kharif 2016 season to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house and student safety for farmers along with their notified crops (under PMFBY/ Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme – WBCIS)

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN MAAN-DHAN YOJANA (PM-KMY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana was launched at Ranchi.
- This a Central Sector Scheme which is administered by the **Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**, and the Government of India in partnership with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- **LIC is the Pension Fund Manager for PM Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana** that provides an assured monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- to all the small and marginal farmers (who own cultivable land up to 2 hectares) after the age of 60 years.
- This scheme was introduced with an aim to secure the lives of small and marginal farmers in India.
- PM-KMY Scheme in India is a central sector scheme for farmers aged between 18 to 40 years.
- The members are thus required to make a monthly contribution to the Pension Fund between Rs.55/- to Rs.200/-, depending on their age with the provision of equal contribution by the Central Government.
- This scheme is applicable to all the small and marginal farmers. The ratio of the contribution that must be made by them and the Union Government under this Yojana is 1:1.
- Government contribution under the PM-KMY Scheme is equal to the monthly contribution made by the farmer.
- However, farmers falling under the below-mentioned criteria are not eligible for the scheme:

  - Small and marginal farmers who are already registered under other schemes such as the National Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme, Employees' Fund Organization Scheme, etc. will not be eligible for the PM-KMY Scheme.
  - Farmers who have opted for Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Yojana (PMSYM) administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment as well as for Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-LVM) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment are also not eligible for this scheme.

Benefits

- Along with the beneficiary, the spouse is also eligible for the scheme and can get a separate pension of Rs.3000/- by making separate contributions to the Fund.
- If the beneficiary dies before the retirement date, the spouse may continue this scheme by paying the remaining contributions. But if the spouse does not wish to continue, then, the total contribution made by the farmer along with interest will be paid to the spouse.
- If there is no spouse, then the total contribution along with interest will be paid to the nominee.
- If the farmer dies after the retirement date, the spouse will receive 50% of the pension as Family Pension. After the death of both the farmer and the spouse, the accumulated corpus shall be credited back to the Pension Fund.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI SWASTHYA SURAKSHA YOJANA

- The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was initiated in **2003** by the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- The **chief objective of the scheme** is to correct the regional imbalances in the availability of affordable and reliable tertiary healthcare services in the country.
- It also aims at boosting the facilities for quality medical education in India.

There are two components under PMSSY. They are:

- Setting up institutions like the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS).
- Under the scheme, totally 22 AIIMS have been announced (six are functional).
- Each of the new AIIMS would have state-of-the-art modular operation theatres and diagnostics facilities; 750 beds at least; 15 – 20 speciality departments; 100 MBBS seats; 60 B.Sc. Nursing seats.
- The new institutes would have a focus on PG education and research.
- Upgrade of government medical colleges or institutes
- Addition of 8 – 10 speciality departments; 150 – 250 beds and around 15 new seats for PG.
- The government passed the AIIMS Act in order to create AIIMS institutions.
- According to the Act, all AIIMS institutions are institutions of national importance and they would function as autonomous bodies under the Health Ministry.

As per the Act, the objectives of establishing the new AIIMS are mentioned below.

- Developing teaching patterns in UG and PG medical education so as to demonstrate high standards of medical education in all institutes in India.
- Bringing together in one place educational facilities of the highest order for training personnel in all important branches of health activity.
- Attaining self-sufficiency in PG medical education.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI VAYA VANDANA YOJANA

- The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana was launched by the Government on 4th May 2017. This is a government pension scheme with an aim to provide social security to senior citizens and for the protection of the elderly against a fall in the interest income due to unfavourable market conditions in the future.
- The scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly and is exempted from service tax/GST.
- The scheme offers loan up to 75% of the purchase price after 3 policy years
- The scheme also allows for premature exit for the treatment of any critical/ terminal illness of self or spouse. On such a premature exit, 98% of the Purchase Price shall be refunded.
- If the pensioner dies during the policy term of 10 years, the benefits of the scheme can be availed by the nominee or the beneficiary.

- The benefits of the scheme are overall applicable to the pensioner, his/her spouse and dependents.
- Any individual must fulfil the following criteria for being eligible under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana:
  - He/she should be 60 years or above to be eligible for the scheme.
  - The policy term should be of 10 years.
  - Investment limit should be Rs. 15 lakh per senior citizen.
  - The minimum pension should be Rs. 1,000/- per month and should not be more than Rs. 10,000/- per month.

➡ PVTG DEVELOPMENT MISSION

- The Union Budget 2023-24 saw the announcement of a scheme for the betterment of the tribal population in India called the PVTG Development Mission.
- The PM PVTG Development Mission will be launched as part of 'Reaching The Last Mile', one of the seven Saptarishi priorities enlisted in the Union Budget 2023-24.
- The mission will focus on improving the overall socio-economic conditions of 75 PVTGs across the country who live in around 31,000 villages of India's 18 states and one UT.
- The mission aims to deliver basic facilities to PVTGs such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation; improved access to health, education and nutrition; road and telecom connectivity and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- A Budget of Rs 15,000 crore will be dedicated to this mission in the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
- The PVTG Development Mission is expected to benefit around 3.5 lakh tribal people in the country.

➡ RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA

- The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana was introduced with an **aim to provide support** to the agricultural sector in achieving 4% annual agriculture growth.
- RKVY scheme was launched in the year **2007 which was later rebranded as Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RAFTAAR) t**o be implemented for three years till 2019-20 with a budget allocation of Rs 15,722 crore.
- In a meeting held on 29th May 2007, the National Development Council (NDC), resolved the idea of launching a Central Assistance Scheme (RKVY) concerned by the slow growth in the Agriculture and allied sectors.
- The NDC **also aimed at the reorientation of the agricultural development strategies** in order to meet the needs of farmers. The scheme provided considerable flexibility and autonomy to States in planning and executing programmes for incentivising investment in agriculture and allied sectors.
- The scheme facilitated decentralized planning in the agricultural sector through the initiation of the State Agriculture Plan (SAP) and District Agriculture Plans (DAPs).

- The scheme was based on the agro-climatic conditions ensuring the availability of appropriate technology and natural resources thus providing accommodation for the local needs.

Objectives

- Risk mitigation, strengthening the efforts of the farmers along with promoting agri-business entrepreneurship through the creation of agri-infrastructure.
- Providing all the states with autonomy and flexibility in making plans as per their local needs.
- Helping farmers in increasing their income by encouraging productivity and promoting value chain addition linked production models.
- To reduce the risk of farmers by focusing on increasing the income generation through mushroom cultivation, integrated farming, floriculture, etc.
- Empowering the youth through various skill development, innovation, and agri-business models.
- A component, the **Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development programme** has been launched under **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana** in order to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem.
- These start-ups are in various categories such as agro-processing, artificial intelligence, digital agriculture, farm mechanisation, waste to wealth, dairy, fisheries etc.

The following are the components of this scheme:

- **Agripreneurship Orientation** – 2 months duration with a monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000/- per month. Mentorship is provided on financial, technical, IP issues etc.
- **Seed Stage Funding of R-ABI Incubatees** – Funding upto Rs. 25 lakhs (85% grant & 15% contribution from the incubatee).
- **Idea/Pre-Seed Stage Funding of Agripreneurs** – Funding up to Rs. 5 lakhs (90% grant and 10% contribution from the incubatee).

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA

- The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is an important government scheme related to **water conservation and management**.
- The Indian Government encourages water conservation and its management to be at a high priority. In order to get this in motion, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was introduced with a vision of expanding irrigation coverage **(Har Khet ko Pani)** and using the water more efficiently (More Crop Per Drop).
- This scheme will provide an end-to-end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application, and other extension activities.

Objectives

- The real goal of the PMKSY is to accomplish the merging of investments in the irrigation sector at the field level.

- Increasing accessibility of irrigation facilities and expansion of cultivable range under guaranteed irrigation areas (Har Khet ko Pani)
- Enhancing On-Farm water use efficiency to lessen wastage of water
- Integrating the source, distribution, and efficiency of water through appropriate technologies
- **Enhancing and promoting the implementation of precision**- irrigation and other water-saving technologies (More crop per drop)
- Enhancing **refilling of aquifers and present supportable water** protection rehearses by investigating the attainability of reusing treated city-based water for peri-urban farming
- Peri-urban farming refers to farm units close to town which operate intensive semi- or fully commercial farms to grow vegetables and other horticulture, raise chickens and other livestock, and produce milk and eggs.
- Ensuring integrated development of rainfed areas by different methods like:
- **Regeneration of Groundwater**
- Watershed approach for conserving water and soil
- Arresting runoff
- Providing livelihood and other NRM Activities (natural resource management)

Promoting extension activities for farmers and field workers like:

- Water Harvesting
- Water Management
- Crop alignment
- Drawing in more noteworthy private investment in precision irrigation system framework. This will result in increased production and productivity which will further enhance farm income.

Functions of PMKSY

- The plan goes for bringing concerned Ministries/Departments/Agencies/Research and Financial Institutions occupied with creation/utilize/reusing/potential reusing of water, brought under a typical stage, so a thorough and all-encompassing perspective of the whole "water cycle" is considered and water budgeting is accomplished for all areas to be specific, family, horticulture, and businesses.
- The program design of PMKSY goes for a '**decentralized State level arranging and execution' structure**, with a specific end goal to enable States to draw up a District Irrigation Plan (DIP) and a State Irrigation Plan (SIP).
- All structures made under the plans will be geotagged.

Components of PMKSY

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program (AIBP)

- To concentrate on speedier fulfilment of continuous Major and Medium Irrigation including National Projects.

Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP)

- Creation of new water sources through minor water system (both surface and groundwater)
- Repair, reclamation, and redesign of conventional water bodies
- Charge range advancement

- Fortifying and production of dispersion organized from sources to the ranch and
- Creating and rejuvenating traditional water storage systems like Jal Mandir (Gujarat); Khatri, Kuhl (H.P.); Zabo (Nagaland); Eri, Ooranis (T.N.); Dongs (Assam); Katas, Bandhas (Odisha and M.P.), etc. at feasible locations.

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)

- Improving the efficiency of water usage by various initiatives like precision water application devices, construction of micro-irrigation structures to supplement source creation activities including tube wells and dug wells, etc.

Watershed Development (WD)

- Ridge territory treatment, seepage line treatment, soil and dampness protection, water reaping and other watershed intercessions.

Ministries Involved in PMKSY

- **Ministry of Agriculture**- Promote efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like drips, sprinklers, pivots, rain-guns in the farm "(Jal Sinchan)", construction of micro-irrigation structures to supplement source creation activities, extension activities for the promotion of scientific moisture conservation and agronomic measures
- **MoWR RD & GR**- Undertake various measures for creation of assured irrigation source, construction of diversion canals, field channels, water diversion/lift irrigation, including the development of water distribution systems
- **Ministry of Rural Development**- Mainly undertakes rainwater conservation, construction of farm pond, water harvesting structures, small check dams, and contour bunding, etc.

➡ PM AASHA

- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM AASHA) is a scheme that aims at ensuring fair price for farmers and their produce.
- By strengthening the procurement process, the PM-AASHA scheme will improve the income of the farmers to a greater extent.

Components

- **Price Support Scheme (PSS):** Through the Price Support Scheme procurement of pulses, oilseeds will be carried out by the Central Nodal Agencies with support from state governments. The PSS will be set up by the Food Corporation of India along with NAFED and any expenses incurred will be borne by the Central Government.
- **Price Deficiency payment Scheme (PDPS):** In this scheme, all oilseed notified for SP will be covered. Direct payment of the difference between Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the selling price will be made to the registered farmers. All payments will be made to the registered bank account of the farmer. In other words, no procurement will take place but rather the difference between MSP and selling price will be paid to the farmers.
- **Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS):** As per the Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS) the private sector will take part in the procurement

operations. The states will have an option to carry out the scheme on pilot basis in selected APMCs with involvement from the private sector.

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

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) was launched under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** in February 2019.
- It was launched at Vastral in Gujarat.
- PM-SYM is the **world's largest pension scheme**.
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan is a central sector scheme that is introduced for **old age protection and social security of Unorganised Workers (UW).**

Benefits

- The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme that aims to provide security and protection to unorganized workers as well as to the old age group.
- This scheme **seeks to benefit around 42 crore workers** from the unorganized sector of the country.
- The scheme is **meant to benefit workers** in the unorganized sector and this includes street vendors, rickshaw pullers, agricultural workers, mid-day meal workers, construction workers, or workers in similar other occupations.
- There are an estimated 42 crore, such unorganized workers, in the country.
- Under this scheme, the beneficiary after **attaining the age of 60 years** would receive an assured monthly pension of Rs 3000/- per month and 50% of the pension shall be entitled to the spouse of the beneficiary as family pension after the death of the beneficiary.
- If the beneficiary dies during the receipt of the pension, 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary will be entitled to the spouse as a family pension.
- If a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before the age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal.

Eligibility

- He/she should be an unorganized worker (UW) aged between 18 years to 40 years.
- He/she should have a monthly income of Rs. 15,000 or below.
- He/she should possess an Aadhar card along with a Savings Bank Account/Jan Dhan account number with IFSC.
- Any individual who is engaged in the Organised Sector (membership of EPF/NPS/ESIC) and is an income taxpayer will not be eligible to apply for the PM-SYM Scheme.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA (PMMY)

- To enable every last mile financer to lend credit to all types of businesses in the country, the MUDRA- Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency bank was established as a public sector financial institution. Low rate loans are provided by micro financers under this scheme.
- **Launched in 2015**, the Mudra Yojana aims to enable Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), Non-Banking financial institutions/Companies (NBFCs), Small Finance Banks, RBRs, Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks, etc. to provide Low Rate Loans to eligible entities.

Eligibility

To avail of the benefits of the PMMY Scheme, the person should be a citizen of India. The loans are basically for people having a business plan in a Non-Farming Sector with Income generating activities like the following:

- Manufacturing
- Processing
- Trade
- Service Sector
- Or any other fields whose credit demand is less than ₹10 lakhs.
- The Indian Citizen seeking MUDRA Loans under the PMMY Scheme will have to approach either an MFI, Bank or NBFC to avail it.

Objectives

- **Funding the unfunded** – To sanction loans up to rupees 10 Lakhs to those who have a business plan to generate income from a non-farm activity like manufacturing, processing, trading, or service sector but don't have enough capital to invest
- **Reducing jobless economic growth** – To help generate sources of employment and increase the overall GDP by providing micro-enterprises with credit facilities.
- **Monitoring and regulating the Microfinance institutions (MFI)** – With the help of MUDRA bank, the network of microfinance institutions will be monitored and new registration will also be done.
- **Integration of Informal economy into Formal sector** – It will help India also grow its tax base as incomes from the informal sector are non-taxed.
- **Promoting financial inclusion** – PMMY further adds to the vision of financial inclusion with the aim to reach the last mile credit delivery to micro-businesses and taking the help of technology solutions.

Types of PMMY Loans

- The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has three products as per the funding requirements of the Beneficiary or the Entrepreneur.

Name of the Type of Loan	Coverage of the Loan
Shishu	< ₹50,000
Kishor	Above ₹50,000 up to ₹5,00,000

Tarun	Above ₹5,00,000 up to ₹10,00,000

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA

- PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana was established to **provide life insurance security to the poor and low-income section** of the society.
- This scheme can be availed by **people aged between 18 years to 50 years**.
- They must have a bank account to be eligible for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.
- Anyone who joins the scheme before completing of 50 years, will have the risk of life cover up to the age of 55 years subject to payment of premium.
- It is also mandatory for the beneficiary to link their adhaar card to their bank accounts while availing this scheme.

Benefits

- In case of the death of the insured person, the next eligible beneficiary is provided with a death benefit including a death coverage of Rs. 2,00,000.
- Being a pure term insurance scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana does not offer any maturity.
- The scheme also provides risk coverage for 1 year which can be renewed yearly. The insurance holders can also opt for a long duration through the option of auto-debit which is linked to their account.
- The scheme also provides tax deduction under section 80C through its monthly premium payment.
- The life cover of Rs. 2 lakhs will be provided for one year period stretching from 1st June to 31st May and will be renewable.
- The premium for this scheme is Rs. 330 per annum which is to be auto-debited in one instalment before 31st May of each annual coverage period under the scheme.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA (PMSBY)

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is a government scheme launched in 2015.
- It intends to **provide an affordable insurance scheme for the poor and underprivileged people** in the age group of 18 to 70 years with a bank account at a premium of Rs.12 per annum; risk coverage of Rs.2 lakh for accidental death and full disability and Rs.1 lakh for partial disability.

Benefits

- The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana offers a life cover of Rs. 2 lakhs for one year to all its account holders. This life cover is provided in case of accidental death or permanent disability.

- A life cover of Rs. 1 lakh is provided to the beneficiary in case of partial disability.
- This scheme can be availed by any individual aged between 18 years to 70 years.
- In case of the death of the account holder, the benefits of the scheme can be availed by his/her nominee.
- The scheme provides an annual premium of Rs. 12 per annum per member. This premium is auto-debited in one instalment on or before 1st June of every year.

Eligibility

- Any individual aged between 18 years to 70 years are eligible to apply for the scheme.
- He/she must have a bank account along with their phone number linked to the account.
- The individual should submit their Aadhaar details while applying for the scheme. This Aadhaar details will be linked with their bank account.
- If any individual has multiple bank accounts of one or different banks, then he/she will be eligible to join the scheme through one bank account only. In the case of a joint account, the scheme benefits can be availed by all the bank account holders.
- In the case of an NRI beneficiary, the claim benefits will only be provided to the nominee in Indian currency.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA

- The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a government scheme launched in 2016.
- The scheme originally envisaged the distribution of 50 million LPG connections to women below the poverty line.

Some of the major benefits provided by Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana are:

- It provides five crore LPG connections to families below the poverty line.
- Financial support of Rs 1600 is provided by the scheme for each LPG connection for BPL households. The administrative cost of this support is borne by the Government.
- This subsidy is meant for the security fee for the cylinder, pressure regulator, booklet, safety hose, and other fitting charges.
- Under the scheme, oil marketing companies also provide interest-free loans for refilling and purchasing stoves.
- The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana covers all the BPL families that come under all forms of distributorship and distributes various sizes of cylinders (14.2 kg, 5 kg, etc.) as per the field situation.
- The benefits of this scheme are also available for the people of all Hilly States including the NE States (who are treated as 'Priority States').
- The scheme effectively addresses several difficulties faced by the people in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Tripura in accessing LPG for cooking purposes.

Objectives

- To empower women and protect their health.

- To minimize health issues arising from the use of unclean fossil fuel and other fuel while cooking.
- To control indoor pollution from the use of fossil fuel which causes respiratory issues.
- To prevent degradation of the purity of the environment that is compromised by widespread usage of unclean cooking fuel.

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a woman aged above 18 years. She must also be a citizen of India.
- She should belong to a family below the poverty line and no one else from the household should own an LPG connection.
- The overall monthly income of the family should not exceed a certain limit that is prescribed by the UT/State Governments.
- The applicant's name should be in the list of **SECC-2011** and should also match with the information provided in the BPL database of the oil marketing companies.
- The applicant should not be registered under any other similar scheme provided by the government.

➡ PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in **December 2000** with the objective of providing **unrestricted all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages** of India.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme and is part of the poverty reduction strategies of the government.
- **Eligibility for the Scheme**: Rural areas with a population of 500 and above in plain areas; and hill states including NE, desert states, tribal areas and other backward areas with a population of 250 and above.
- Apart from building new roads, the scheme also has provisions for the upgrade of existing roads in these areas, although the primary focus is to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations.
- All-weather roads imply roads that can be used throughout the year in all seasons.
- To provide all-weather roads, the scheme envisages providing for the draining of roads by adequate cross-drainage structures such as culverts, minor bridges and causeways.
- The scheme does not cover repairs to black-topped or cement roads, even if the surface condition is bad.
- The share of the central government's funding is 60% of the cost with the share increasing to 90% for northeastern and hill states.
- Currently, the scheme is in its third phase – **PMGSY – III**.
- The roads developed under this scheme are maintained by the **Panchayati Raj institutions**.
- The nodal ministry for the scheme is the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

- In 2012, an agreement was signed between the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), the Ministry of Rural Development, and the ILO to enable the international organisation to help with the implementation of the project.

PMGSY III Objectives

- The objective of the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is to consolidate the existing rural road network by the up-gradation of the existing 'Through Routes and Major Rural Links' that connect habitations to:

  - Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)
  - Higher Secondary Schools
  - Hospitals

PMGSY Significance

- PMGSY is an important scheme for the development of rural India. Its benefits and significance are discussed in the following points.
- Rural road connectivity is very important for two main reasons. **One,** it is a key component of rural development by enhancing access to social and economic services thereby increasing farm incomes and employment opportunities to people. **Secondly,** it is a key ingredient in poverty alleviation.
- The development of roads, apart from national highways, is the responsibility of the state governments. Because of inadequate funds and diverted focus of planners, rural roads hardly received any attention. This scheme seeks to fill this gap and take the fruits of development to remote corners of the country.
- Increased connectivity will help the rural population avail opportunities of employment, health, education and various other social welfare schemes provided by the government. Good, dependable roads translate to easier and faster connectivity from farm to market, timely movement of perishable products from village to market centres, and provide an incentive to industry to move to the hinterland among many other such benefits.
- Connectivity also encourages government functionaries such as health workers, teachers, and agriculture extension workers to willingly move to the villages to offer their services. This ultimately contributes to prosperity, and allows economies of scale and sustainable employment.

➡ RoDTEP

- The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme was announced in 2019 by the Government of India and it became effective on 1 January 2021.
- The RoDTEP Scheme allows exporters to receive refunds on taxes and duties that are not exempted or refunded under any other scheme.
- Under the scheme, **exporters receive refunds on the embedded taxes** and **duties** previously non-recoverable.
- The chief aim of the scheme is to boost the export of goods that were poor in volume.
- The scheme basically **replaces the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS).**

- The scheme provides for rebates of Central, State and Local duties/taxes/ levies which are not refunded under any other duty remission schemes.
- The RoDTEP scheme can be said to be a combination of the MEIS and the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL).
- Under this scheme, refund would be claimed as a percentage of the Freight On Board (FOB) value of exports.

Need for RoDTEP Scheme

- In 2018, the United States challenged five Indian export subsidy schemes in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The five schemes were:

  - Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS)
  - Export Oriented Units (EOU)
  - Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP)
  - Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
  - Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG)

- In October 2019, WTO ruled that these schemes are inconsistent with the WTO agreements for providing prohibited export subsidies. The WTO panel recommended to the Indian government that these schemes should be withdrawn.
- In response, the Indian government came up with the RoDTEP scheme which is WTO-compliant.

Features

- Remission of taxes/duties/levies
- It covers duties and taxes levied at the central, state and local levels that are not reimbursed under any other mechanism. Items that were under the MEIS and the RoSCTL are shifted to the RoDTEP.
- Automated refund system
- Refunds will be issued to exporters as transferable duty credit/electronic scrips and maintained in an electronic ledger. This is keeping in line with the Digital India mission.
- This can be used to pay basic customs duty on imported goods. The credits can also be transferred to other importers.
- Speedy clearance through digitalisation
- Faster clearance through a digital platform will be facilitated through a monitoring & audit mechanism, with an IT-based risk management system that would physically verify the exporters' records.
- The scheme is applicable across all sectors.

RoDTEP Benefits

- Being WTO-compliant, the RoDTEP scheme can make available from the government benefits to the exporters seamlessly.
- The scheme is more exhaustive in that certain taxes that were not covered under the previous scheme are also included in the list, for example, education cess, state taxes on oil, power and water.
- It will add more competitiveness in the foreign markets, with assured duty benefits by the Indian Government.

- It will also help exporters meet international standards and promote business growth.

➡ RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION

- The Rashtriya Gokul Mission was launched in **December 2014** as an initiative to develop and conserve the indigenous bovine breeds for improving the milk production and productivity in a scientific manner which includes superior nutrition and farm management.
- PM along with the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** announced the implementation of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
- This mission was launched under the National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development during the 12th Five Year Plan.

Objectives

- To develop and conserve the indigenous breeds.
- To initiate a breed improvement programme for improving the genetic makeup.
- To improve and increase milk production and productivity.
- Use of elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi for upgrading nondescript cattle.
- To distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

Initiatives under Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- Various cattle development centres were established to develop indigenous breeds. These development centres were known as **Gokul Grams**.
- Initiating different awards for the farmers to encourage them to rear these indigenous breeds. **Gopal Ratna award** was given to the farmers for best management and maintenance of the Indigenous Breed while the Kamdhenu award was given for best managed Indigenous herd by Institutions/Trusts/ NGOs/ Gaushalas or best-managed Breeders' societies.
- Establishment of **National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre (NKBC)** as a centre of excellence for the development and conservation of indigenous breeds in a scientific way.
- Developing an e-market portal for connecting the breeders and farmers. This e-market portal was named as **'E-Pashu Haat – Nakul Prajnan Bazaar'.**
- An animal wellness program, Pashu Sanjivani, was established that encompassed the provision of animal health cards.
- Use of advanced reproductive technology for a disease-free female bovine. This technology included **In-vitro Fertilization (IVF)** and **Multiple Ovulation Embryo Transfer (MOET).**
- Establishment of National Bovine Genomic Center for Indigenous Breeds (NBGC-IB).

PM recently inaugurated the following under Rashtriya Gokul Mission:

- Semen Station with state-of-the-art facilities in Purnea, Bihar.
- IVF lab established at Animal Sciences University, Patna.
- Sex sorted semen in artificial insemination by Baroni Milk Union in Begusarai district of Bihar.

➡ SKILL INDIA MISSION

- Skill India Mission is a government scheme launched in 2015.
- It is an umbrella scheme that has many skilling schemes and programmes under it.

Objectives

- The chief objective of the Skill India Mission is to provide market-relevant skills training to more than 40 crore young people in the country by the year 2022.
- The mission intends to create opportunities and space for the development of talents in Indian youth.
- It aims to develop those sectors which have been put under skill development for the last many years, and also to recognize new sectors for skill development.
- Closing the gap between skill required by the industry and skills people possess for employment generation.
- Reducing poverty in the country.
- Increasing the competitiveness of Indian businesses.
- Ensuring that skill training imparted is relevant and of quality.
- Preparing Indians to take on the world manpower/resources market.
- Diversifying the existing skill development programmes to meet today's challenges.
- Building actual competencies rather than giving people mere qualifications.
- Offering opportunities for lifelong learning for developing skills.
- Augmenting better and active engagement of social partners and building a strong public-private partnership in skill development.
- Mobilising adequate investments for financing skills development sustainable.

Features of Skill India

- The focus is on improving the employability of the youth so that they get employment and also enhances entrepreneurship among them.
- The mission offers training, guidance, and support for all traditional types of employment like weavers, cobblers, carpenters, welders, masons, blacksmiths, nurses, etc.
- New domains will also be emphasised on such as real estate, transportation, construction, gem industry, textiles, banking, jewellery designing, tourism, and other sectors where the level of skill is inadequate.
- Training imparted would be of international standards so that India's youth get jobs not only in India but also abroad where there is demand.
- An important feature is the creation of a new hallmark 'Rural India Skill'.
- Customised need-based programmes would be started for specific age groups in communication, life, and positive thinking skills, language skills, behavioural skills, management skills, etc.
- The course methodology would also not be unconventional and would be innovative. It would involve games, brainstorming sessions, group discussions, case studies, and so on.

Sub-schemes under Skill India

Skill India is an umbrella mission under which there are multiple schemes and programmes with specialised focus areas. The sub-schemes are as follows.

National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)

- The NSDM was launched for creating convergence across various sectors and different states with respect to activities relating to skills training.
- The mission, apart from consolidating and coordinating skilling efforts, would also facilitate decision making across sectors to achieve quality skilling on a large scale.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

- PMKVY is a **skill certification scheme** that aims to encourage the young population of the country to take up training which is industry-relevant and builds them in skill development.
- The scheme contains many specialised components such as the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Kaushal, and Rozgar Melas among others.

Indian Skill Development Service

- The Indian Skill Development Services (ISDS) is a new central government service that has been created especially for the training directorate of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- It is a **Group 'A' service** and is expected to give a big push to the government's skilling initiatives by drastically enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the various schemes in this domain.
- The idea behind the ISDS **is to attract young and talented people** into the skill development domain and make skilling initiatives successful in the country.

National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- The **chief objective** of this policy is to match the challenge of skilling at scale with speed, standard (quality), and sustainability.
- It **aims t**o offer an umbrella framework to all skilling activities carried out within India, to align them to common standards and connect skilling with demand centres.
- In addition to laying down the objectives and expected outcomes, the policy also identifies the overall institutional framework which will act as a means to achieve the expected results.

Skill Loan Scheme

- Under this scheme, loans ranging from **Rs.5000 to Rs. 1.5 lakhs** will be provided for those seeking to attend skill development programmes.
- The idea behind the scheme is to remove financial hurdles for people who want to upgrade their skills and learn new skills.

Apprenticeship Protsahan Yojana

- This scheme revamps the Apprenticeship Act, 1961 to make the legal framework conducive to both the industry as well as young people.

➡ PM-YUVA

- Pradhan Mantri Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan (PM-YUVA).
- It is a centrally-sponsored scheme related to entrepreneurship education and training.

Objectives

- The development and education of entrepreneurship to all citizens **free of cost through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)** and eLearning systems.
- The designing of assessment and certification mechanism for the same.
- To equip institutes (schools and colleges) to help them deliver entrepreneurship educational programmes of global standards.
- Also to focus on social entrepreneurship promotion.
- The creation of an online web-based platform that connects entrepreneurs, investors, financial institutions, and business services such as legal, accounting, HR, and technology services.
- The setting up of a national mentor network for budding entrepreneurs.
- Create a network of incubators, credit agencies, business service providers, and accelerators.
- Establishment of a **National Entrepreneurship Resource** and Coordination Hub to coordinate and support entrepreneurship development programmes.
- The creation of a culture of dynamic entrepreneurship by way of branding and the media.
- Promote entrepreneurship research and advocacy.
- Include social entrepreneurship awareness programmes for the marginal sections like SC/ST and minority.

➡ SANKALP and STRIVE

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved two new schemes in 2019: Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) to boost the Skill India Mission.
- Both are central sector with half of the scheme outlay as loan assistance from the World Bank.

Objectives of SANKALP:

- SANKALP intends to set up Trainers and Assessors academies with self-sustainable models.
- Additional training academies will also be set up under the scheme.
- The focus will be on greater level of decentralization in skill planning through institutional strengthening at the state level, that includes setting up of State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) and allow the states to come up with State and District level Skill Development Plans.
- It aims at improving the inclusion of marginalized communities including Persons with Disabilities (PwD), Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and also women for providing skill training opportunities.

- A skilling ecosystem will be created, such that it will support the country climb up the ladder in the Ease of Doing Business Index.

Objectives of STRIVE:

- STRIVE scheme **aims at developing a powerful mechanism for delivering training for quality skill development** by strengthening the institutions like National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), SSDMs, Sector Skill Councils etc.
- By involving Industrial clusters, business association and Small Scale Industries, the scheme intends to incentivize Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to improve the overall performance.
- Both the schemes will work towards increasing the aspirational value of skill development programs by increasing the marketability of skills, through better industry connect and quality assurance.

➡ SAATHI

- The **Union Ministry of Power and Textiles** have jointly launched an initiative called SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries). Under the initiative, Small and Medium Power loom units will be provided with energy efficient powerlooms, motors and rapier kits at no upfront costs by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power.
- The SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries) initiative will be jointly implemented pan India by EESL and the office of the textile commissioner of India.
- Key clusters such as Ichalkaranji, Surat, Erode etc have been chosen for the implementation of the initiative.
- The **initiative is based on the aggregation, bulk procurement and financing model** that EESL has successfully deployed in several sectors like Electric Vehicles, Smart Met Meters and LED bulbs.
- Under this initiative, the owner of the unit does not have to allocate any upfront capital cost to procure this equipment. He also does not have to allocate additional expenses for repayment. The repayments by unit owners to EESL will be made from savings that accrue as a result of higher efficiency equipment and cost savings.
- The aggregation of demand and bulk procurement will lead to a reduction in capital cost and benefits of it will be passed on to power loom units so that their repayment amount and period would reduce.
- Use of this efficient equipment will result in energy savings that will, in turn, lead to cost savings to the owner of the unit. This would help the owner repay the equipment cost to EESL in instalments over a period of 4 to 5 years.

➡ SERB-POWER

- The **Ministry of Science and Technology** has launched the SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research) Scheme in India.
- The **main objective of this project** is to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research funding in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D Laboratories.

About SERB-POWER Scheme

- To mitigate the gender disparity in science and engineering research, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) launched the Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research (POWER) scheme, named SERB-POWER
- It was launched on an e-platform and is specifically designed to empower women in the field of science, technology and engineering
- The scheme comprises of two components: **Research Grants** and **Fellowship**
- It will courage more women to take up a career in the field of science and create a more women friendly atmosphere in research and academic institutions.
- The project also aims at appointing more and more women in the decision making panels and promote women at leadership level.

Components of SERB-POWER

The Science and Engineering Research Board, with the help of this project, intends to create a funding framework to empower women researchers. To achieve this goal, two main components of the scheme are essential. This includes:

SERB-POWER Fellowship

- **Target:** Women researchers between the age of 35-55 years and up to 25 fellowships every year. Also, not more than 75 fellowships can be given at any point of time
- **Components of Support:** Fellowship worth Rs.15,000 per month; a research grant of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum; and an additional overhead of Rs.90,000 per annum
- **Duration:** Three years, without a possibility of extension

SERB-POWER Research Grants

- The funding for women-led projects will be done on the basis of two level:
- **Level I:** The scale of funding is upto 60 Lakhs for three years. This is applicable for candidates from Government Institutes, National Labs of these Institutes, IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, etc.
- **Level II:** The scale of funding is upto 30 Lakhs for three years. This is applicable for candidates studying in private of State Universities/Colleges.

➡ SUMAN

- Suman Scheme – The Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan scheme is an **initiative by the Central Government for Zero preventable maternal and newborn death** i.e.

through the Suman scheme the central government is committed to achieving the target of reducing maternal and infant mortality.

- The central government launched the Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) scheme.
- It aims to provide dignified and quality health care at no cost to every woman and newborn visiting a public health facility.
- The scheme was launched in October 2019 during the Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi.
- All pregnant women, newborns and mothers up to 6 months of delivery will be able to avail several free health care services under this scheme.
- This initiative focuses on assured delivery of maternal and newborn healthcare services encompassing wider access to free, and quality services, zero tolerance for denial of services, assured management of complications along with respect for women's autonomy, dignity, feelings, choices and preferences, etc.
- The beneficiaries visiting public health facilities are entitled to several free services such as

- at least four antenatal check-ups
- six home-based newborn care visits.
- one checkup during the 1st trimester
- Iron Folic Acid supplementation
- Tetanus-Diphtheria injection
- at least one checkup under (PMSMA- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare runs various programmes for the welfare of Pregnant Women and newborns, like-

- PMSMA – Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
- LaQSHYA – Labour Room & Quality Improvement Initiative
- JSSK – Janani-Shishu Suraksha Karyakram
- JSY – Janani Suraksha Yojana

➡ GREEN SKILLS PROGRAMME

- Green skills are those skills needed to adapt processes, services, and products to climate change and the environmental regulations and requirements related to it.
- They include the knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society.
- These skills are required in areas such as Renewable energy, climate change readiness, Wastewater treatment, Climate-resilient cities, Green construction, Solid waste management, etc.

Importance

- India would need around 10.4 crores of new workforces by the year 2022, in various sectors and hence skill development is essential to meet the demand.

- The trainees of this programme can also be exposed for the expertise on wildlife conservation, nurseries, horticulture etc. and can be absorbed with the Department of Environment and Forests of the State Governments as well.
- The programme aims to train youth who have not been able to continue higher education due to different financial or social constraints but has an urge to learn new things and do something fruitful.
- The green skilled workforce having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development will help in the attainment of SDGs, INDCs and National Biodiversity Targets.
- Green skill is crucial for making a transition from energy and emission-intensive economy to cleaner and greener production and service patterns.

➡ SAMARTH SCHEME

- The **Ministry of Textile** is implementing Samarth Scheme, a flagship Scheme for Capacity Building in the Textiles Sector (SCBTS).

Objectives

- It will provide **National Skills Framework Qualification (NSFQ)** compliant skilling programmes to over 10 lakh persons.
- The skilling programmes offered under Samarth Scheme aim to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the Textile industry.
- The scheme aims to create more jobs in the textile and related sectors that will cover the entire value chain of the textile but will exclude spinning and weaving.
- Traditional sectors of handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and jute will be upgraded through skilling and skill upgradation.
- Through skill upgradation of lakhs of persons, it aims to induce self-employment capabilities among youth and others.
- It aims to promote sustainable livelihood to all sections of society.

Salient Features

- Training of Trainers (ToT) – That will provide enhanced facilitation skills to the master trainers.
- Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) – That will ensure the credibility of the trainers and the beneficiaries.
- CCTV recording of training programmes – To avoid major conflicts in the functioning of the scheme, training institutes will be fixed with CCTVs.
- Dedicated call centre with helpline number –
- Mobile app-based Management Information System (MIS)
- On-line monitoring of training processes

Government Initiatives to Promote Textile Industry

- To boost start-ups and innovative ideas in the textile sector, the Indian government plans to establish a venture capital fund (Rs. 100 crores).
- Another major initiative to promote the textile sector is allowance of 100 percent FDI through automatic route.

- Integrated Processing Development Scheme (IPDS) was launched during the 12th Five Year Plan to create brownfield and greenfield projects with modern facilities to benefit the textile clusters.
- Government launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to boost investments in textile and related sectors in 1999.
- Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) was launched in 2005 to attract investments in the textile sector.
- To boost the power loom sector, the government launched the PowerTex India Scheme in 2017.
- To increase the productivity of the domestic silk, the Silk Samagra Scheme has been launched.
- In 2015, the government launched Jute-I CARE for jute cultivators.

➡ SAHAKAR MITRA SCHEME

- **Sahakar Mitra Scheme is a Summer Internship Programme (SIP)** that has been flagged off by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- It is also called the Scheme on Internship Programme. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is the responsible authority to run the scheme, aiming to benefit both Cooperatives and young professionals (interns).
- The **"SAHKAR MITRA Scheme on Internship Program" (SIP)** is an arrangement where NCDC will provide short term (not exceeding four months) opportunities to young professionals to acquire learning experience by applying skills and knowledge in an organisational context to facilitate professional development.
- It is an internship programme for students, young professionals to gain work-related learning experience in the NCDC functioning.
- These interns will be given opportunities to deliver innovative solutions to the cooperative sector, thus making it beneficial for both interns and cooperatives.

Objectives

- The role, contribution and impact of NCDC and cooperatives to be taught to the interns.
- Context and practical working of NCDC to be learnt by the interns.
- Professional graduates to be oriented towards a cooperative business model so as to engage themselves in start-up cooperatives.
- To provide opportunities to the interns to take up leadership/ entrepreneurial roles in Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) which are organised under cooperative acts
- To help the blooming cooperatives or those in need with business plans and projects through assured project loans on liberalized terms to young cooperators on startup mode.
- To help promote Modi's idea of 'Vocal for Local'
- Capacity development in the cooperative sector

➡ STARTUP INDIA SEED FUND SCHEME (SISFS)

- The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation.
- On February 5, 2021, the Government of India made an official announcement about the approval of SISFS.
- It has been approved for a period of four years and was implemented with effect from April 1, 2021.

About the SISF Scheme

- The Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups at the very initial stage of their project
- It has been approved for a time period of four years, starting from 2021-22
- Rs. 945 Crore corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India
- It is expected that the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme shall help over 3600 startups in the country
- This scheme is in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Campaign launched in May 2020
- Seed Fund to an eligible startup by the incubator shall be disbursed as follows:

  - Up to Rs. 20 Lakhs as a grant for validation of Proof of Concept, or prototype development, or product trials
  - Up to Rs. 50 Lakhs of investment for market entry, commercialisation, or scaling up through convertible debentures or debt or debt-linked instruments

Eligilibility

- The startup must be recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- It must have incorporated not more than 2 years ago at the time of application
- Preference would be given to startups creating innovative solutions in sectors such as social impact, waste management, water management, financial inclusion, education, agriculture, food processing, biotechnology, healthcare, energy, mobility, defence, space, railways, oil and gas, textiles, etc.
- The startup should not have received more than Rs 10 lakh of monetary support under any other Central or State Government scheme
- Shareholding by Indian promoters in the startup should be at least 51% at the time of application to the incubator for the scheme

Experts Advisory Committee (EAC) under SISFS

- DPIIT shall constitute an Expert Advisory Committee that will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme.
- The EAC will evaluate and select incubators for allotment of Seed Funds, monitor progress and take all necessary measures for efficient utilisation of funds.

- Members from different departments shall be appointed in EAC, which comprises:

- A Chairman
- Financial Advisor, DPIIT or his representative
- Additional Secretary/ Joint Secretary/ Director/ Deputy Secretary, DPIIT

One Representative each from:

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- Department of Science & Technology (DST)
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY)
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- NITI Aayog
- At least three expert members nominated by Secretary, DPIIT from the startup ecosystem, investors, experts in the domain of R&D, technology development and commercialization, entrepreneurship and other relevant domains

➡ SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

- The Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy, 2020 formulation process will be facilitated jointly by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (Office of PSA), and the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- This policy has been formulated with a decentralized, bottom-up, and inclusive design process, aiming to restrategize priorities, sectoral focus, and methods of research and technology development for larger socio-economic welfare
- With the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects on the economy and life, STIP 2020 has been designed with the integration of GoI's Atmanirbhar Bharat. Research, development, science and technology workforce, institutions, etc.
- An engaging national policy-making process has been initiated, with an aim to gather input and manage outreach. A six-level initiative has been introduced:

- **In Conversation with** – Interviews with experts and leaders in various capacities to provide inputs for the policy
- **Across the Table** – 16 panel discussions will be held to hear out different perspectives from the expert
- **Policy Compass** – Policy Compass is a dedicated platform through which people can give their suggestions, views, and ideas in the formation of policy
- **Open Letter** – To spread awareness, open letter will be published in multiple languages to invite ideas from various parts of the country
- **Thoughts for India** – It is a podcast series in partnership with community radios across the country where awareness shall be raised about the science policy
- **Ideathon** – It is a competition where participants will be encouraged to share concepts or ideas regarding the STI ecosystem and how the policy should be addressing it

- Aspirants can also visit the Mission Innovation page and know more about this international initiative to accelerate public and private clean energy innovation and issues.

STIP 2020 – The 4 Tracks

The Government and the authorising bodies have finalised a participative model with four interconnected tracks. Discussed below are the same:

- **Track 1:** Extended public and expert consultation – aims to create a repository of public voices that will act as a guiding force for the drafting process
- **Track 2:** Thematic group consultation – consultations comprises 21 expert-driven thematic collectives to feed evidence-based recommendations into the policy drafting process
- **Track 3:** Ministries and State consultation – brings together Ministries and States in extensive engagement through nominated nodal officers
- **Track 4:** Apex Level Multi-Stakeholder consultation – is the binding force that draws upon apex level multi-stakeholder engagement at the national and global levels

➡ STAND UP INDIA

- The Stand Up India scheme aims at providing people belonging to the scheduled caste or scheduled tribe or women of the country a loan between Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.1 crore, based on their requirement.
- The **aim is to promote entrepreneurship** among them.

Key features

- The scheme is part of an initiative by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS),Ministry of Finance** to promote entrepreneurial projects.
- An amount ranging from Rs 10 lakhs to Rs.1 crore to be provided as a loan, inclusive of working capital for setting up a new enterprise.
- The scheme states that each bank branch needs to facilitate two entrepreneurial projects on an average. One for SC/ST and one for a woman entrepreneur.
- A **RuPay debit card** would be provided for the withdrawal of credit.
- Credit history of the borrower would be maintained by the bank so that the money is not used for any personal use.
- **Refinance window** through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of Rs.10,000 crore.
- Under this scheme, through NCGTC, creation of a corpus of Rs.5000 crore for credit guarantee.
- Supporting the borrowers by providing comprehensive support for pre-loan training like facilitating the loan, factoring, marketing, etc.
- A web portal has been created to assist people for online registration and support services.
- The main purpose of this scheme is to benefit the institutional credit structure by reaching out to the minority sections of the population by initiating bank loans in the non-farm sector.
- The scheme will also be an advantage for the ongoing schemes of other Departments.

- The Stand Up India scheme will be led **by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) along with the involvement of the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI).** Along with DICCI, there will also be involvement of other sector-specific institutions.
- The designation of Stand Up Connect Centres (SUCC) will be provided to SIDBI and National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- An initial amount of Rs.10,000 crore will be allotted to the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide financial aid.
- There will be a pre-loan and an operational phase for this scheme and the system and Officials tend to help people throughout these phases.
- To help the credit system reach out to the entrepreneurs, the margin money for the composite loan will be up to 25 per cent.
- The people who apply for this scheme will be familiarised with the online platforms and other resources of e-marketing, web-entrepreneurship, factoring services and registration.

➡ SATAT

- The **SATAT Scheme** (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) is an initiative by the government of India with the objective of setting up Compressed Biogas production plants, and make it available for market use for automotives by inviting expression of interest through potential investors
- The Scheme was launched in October 2018 by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** in collaboration with several oil related public sector units like Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation.
- The scheme will help to maintain India's commitment towards reducing carbon emissions, fulfilling agreements such as the Paris Agreement.

Objectives

- Making use of more than 62 million metric tonnes of waste generated every year
- Reducing dependence on imported fuel
- Creation of more jobs in the alternative fuels industry
- Reduction of carbon emissions and pollutants from burning of agriculture/organic waste
- Bio-gas is a naturally produced gas through means of anaerobic decomposition from waste or other biomass sources.

- A Compressed Biogas will have the same properties of commercially natural gas in terms of composition and energy potential. As a result, it can be used as an alternative energy source of automobile fuel.
- The abundance of biomass in India makes it entirely possible to replace compressed natural gas in industrial and commercial spaces.

Benefits

- Wastes can be responsibly managed, effectively reducing carbon emissions
- Additional avenues of income for farmers
- Fostering an environment for rural entrepreneurship, economy and employment

- Providing support to achieving national-level climate change goals
- A safety net against crude oil/natural gas fluctuations

Implementation

- Proposals for setting up Compressed Biogas plants are through entrepreneurs is the primary implementation method of the scheme. The CBG produced at these plants will be transported in cylinders to fuel stations throughout the country.
- The entrepreneurs would be **able to separately market the other by-products** from these plants, including bio-manure, carbon-dioxide, etc., to enhance returns on investment.
- There are plans to set up about 5000 CBG plants across the country in a phased manner. The ultimate goal is to set up 5000 of such plants by 2025. These plants will be expected to produce about 15 million tons of Compressed biogas per annum. By setting up these plants, it is expected that 45,000 people will be employed.

➡ SVAMITVA

- **Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas or SVAMITVA scheme** is a Central Government initiative to enable an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- This is the first time ever initiative that such a large-scale exercise involving most modern drone technology is being carried out to benefit millions of rural property owners covering all villages across the country.
- It was launched on April 24, 2020, which is also **National Panchayat Day**.
- The Nodal Ministry for this scheme will be the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).**

About

- In each state, the Revenue Department / Land Records Department, along with the State Panchayati Raj Department and the Nodal Ministry will work to carry out the objectives of the scheme.
- The **main aim of the scheme is to provide an integrated property validation solution** for rural India
- SVAMITVA Property cards will be provided to the landowners by the Government authorities, under this scheme.
- Drone Surveying technology and Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) will be used for demarcation of rural abadi areas.
- This will help owners possess their houses in the inhabited areas and use them as an asset for loans or other financial requirements
- The mapping of areas using drones will done gradually is all the villages for a period of 4 years, starting from 2020, and ending in 2024.
- Presently, the scheme is only applicable for 6 states: Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The scheme is funded by the Central Government of the country and Rs 79.65 crores have been allotted for the pilot phase of the project.

SVAMITVA card

- Under the Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas scheme, SVAMITVA property cards will be generated for each landowner.
- This will help them present an official document to the financial institutions in case of using their land/property as an asset in the future.

Activities

- **Establishment of Continuous Operating Reference System** – CORS is network of reference stations that provide a virtual base station that allows access long-range high-accuracy network RTK corrections with centimetre-level horizontal positioning in real-time. CORS network supports in accurate Geo-referencing, ground truthing and demarcation of lands.
- **Large Scale mapping using Drones** – Rural inhabited (abadi) area would be mapped by Survey of India using drone Survey. It would generate high resolution and accurate maps to confer ownership property rights. Based on these maps or data, property cards would be issued to the rural household owners.
- Awareness program to sensitize the rural population about the surveying methodology and its benefits.
- Setting of Programme management unit at National and State level.
- Development/ Maintenance of Scheme Dashboard and integration of drone survey Spatial data/maps with Ministry's Spatial planning application to support in planning at local level.
- Documentation of best practices/ conducting National and Regional workshops.

➡ SOLAR CHARKHA MISSION

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched the Solar Charkha Mission in June 2018 on the occasion of United Nations MSME Day.
- The government recently has released information about this enterprise-driven mission.
- In 2016, a pilot project of mission solar charkha was run in Khanwa village of Bihar's Nawada district.
- After the success of the mission solar charkha pilot project, It was officially introduced in 2018 on United Nations MSME Day.

Salient Points

Establishment of Solar Charkha Clusters:

- It is a focal village along with surrounding villages (within the radius of 8-10 kms.)
- It will have 200-2042 beneficiaries.
- Spinners, weavers, stitches and other skilled artisans are the beneficiaries of mission solar charkha (MSC.)

The components of solar charkha:

- Each beneficiary will get two solar charkhas of 10 spindles each.
- One cluster is to have 1000 solar charkhas.
- Artisans will get direct employment in a cluster that will work with full capacity.
- The government has set an outlay of Rs.550 crores for 50 clusters between 2018-2020.

- One lakh artisans with a focus on women and youth will be directly employed in 50 clusters under the solar charkha scheme.
- One cluster will attract a maximum subsidy of Rs. 9.60 crores.

Objectives

- **Inclusive growth** – The mission solar charkha aims to enhance inclusivity by employing women, youngsters in this mission.
- **Sustainable Development** – The use of solar charkhas in the scheme aims to promote sustainable development in rural areas.
- **Rural Economic Development** – The group of villages are going to act as clusters and hence, through employment generation, the mission aims to boost the rural economy.
- **Arresting Migration** – The mission aims to contain the migration from villages to cities. As a fact, according to census 2011, 37 percent of Indians are internal migrants.
- Promote low-cost and innovative technologies.

➡ SAHAKAR PRAGYA

- The 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas of the country along with **Laxmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy (Linac).**
- Sahakar Pragya initiative mainly aims at strengthening the cooperative sector of our country by imparting knowledge and skills to the rural population of India.

Major objectives

- 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya of NCDC will be training the cooperative societies in rural India
- Farmers will be trained by the primary cooperatives to educate them about minimizing the risk in agricultural activities
- It will also boost the cooperative sector to act as a shield between the farmers and the unscrupulous traders
- Enhancement of NCDC's training capacity through a network of 18 Regional Training Centres across the country will also be established
- The training modules under Sahakar Pragya Initiative aim at imparting knowledge as well as organizational skills. They also attempt to prepare the primary cooperative societies all over the country to be able to play a major role in the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- This programme is in terms with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and aims to educate and impart knowledge to the poor farmers of the country and make them self-aware and independent.

Other Sahakar Initiatives by NCDC

Sahakar Pragya is not the only initiative that has been taken up by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), there are a few other programmes and initiatives which were launched.

Sahakar-22

- Aims to provide new employment opportunities for farmers through cooperatives
- Another objective of this initiative is to develop cooperatives in the focus 222 districts and other aspirational districts

Sahakar Mitra

- It is a Summer Internship Programme (SIP)
- Students and young professionals to be hired as interns to gain work experience and give them opportunities to deliver innovative solutions for the cooperative sector

Yuva Sahakar

- It aims to attract aspirational youths and their youth-friendly schemes for the development of the cooperative sector

Ayushman Sahakar

- Aims to assist cooperatives in the creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country
- Under this scheme, the establishment, development, expansion, renovation, etc. of hospital and healthcare infrastructure to be covered.

➡ SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME

- The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme was introduced in the **Union Budget 2015-16**.
- It was launched **to reduce the demand for physical gold** and with an aim to invest a part of these physical gold bars and coins that are purchased every year into financial savings in the form of gold bonds.
- Gold Bond **is an initiative taken** by the Government of India in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India to reduce the demand for physical gold as the increasing import of gold is affecting the growth and investment of the country.
- A large amount of physical gold in the form of gold bars and coins are kept in every Indian household as savings.
- Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme thus **aims at investing this physical gold into financial savings** through gold bonds. The tenure of these gold bonds is 8 years which can be canceled prematurely after 5 years on interest payment dates.
- The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme was launched under the Gold Monetisation Scheme in the year 2015.
- The Gold Monetisation Scheme was introduced to replace the existing Gold Deposit Scheme (GDS), 1999.
- The scheme facilitates the gold depositors to earn interest of 2.25% annually for a short-term deposit of one year to three years.
- The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme can be availed by the individuals falling under the following categories:

▪ As per the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999,** an individual must be an Indian resident to meet the eligibility criteria under the Gold Bond Scheme.

- Any **individual/association/trusts/HUFs** having an Indian residency is eligible to invest in the Sovereign Gold Bond scheme. They can also jointly invest in these gold bonds as the eligibility criteria of the scheme.
- The benefits of this scheme can also be availed by the minors provided this bond is purchased by the parents on their behalf.

Benefits

- The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme provides flexible gold denomination in terms of purchasing gold. These gold bonds are available in multiple weight denominations starting from 1 gram.
- The gold bonds can be availed either in paper or in demat form as per the convenience of an individual.
- The scheme also provides flexible investment where one can choose the amount he/she wants to invest.
- The interest provided for the gold bond is 2.50% per annum which can be paid semi-annually on the nominal value.
- The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with an exit option in the 5th, 6th and 7th year, to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- The gold bonds invested by the Investors can be gifted or transferred to others who are eligible under the scheme. They can also trade these bonds on stock exchanges subject to notifications of the Reserve Bank of India.
- These Gold bonds can be purchased through multiple payment modes such as cheques, cash, DDs or electronic transfer.

➡ SWADESH DARSHAN

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a Central scheme launched by the **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.
- It was launched in **2014-15.**
- The scheme aims to promote, develop and harness the potential of tourism in India.
- It is theme-based tourist circuits in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.
- 15 thematic circuits have been identified under the Swadesh Darshan for development.
- Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance – CFA to State Governments, Union Territory Administrations for the infrastructure development of circuits.
- This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, the driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

Objectives

- To develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner.
- Development of identified theme-based circuit in an integrated manner.

- To promote employment through the active involvement of local communities.
- Follow community-based development and pro-poor tourism approach.
- Promote cultural and heritage value of the country
- To enhance the tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world-class infrastructure in the circuits or destinations
- To aware the local communities about the importance of tourism for them in terms of increased sources of income, improved living standards and overall development of the area.
- To promote local art, handicraft, culture, cuisine, etc. to generate livelihoods in the identified regions
- To harness tourism potential for the direct and multiplier effect on employment generation and development of the economy.
- To leverage the capital and expertise of the public.

➡ SAANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA

- Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a village development project under which each Member of Parliament (MP) owned the responsibility to develop the institutional and physical infrastructure in three villages by 2019.
- The scheme aims to develop five 'Adarsh Villages' or 'Model Villages' by 2024.
- The **main objectives** of SAGY are:
  - To trigger processes which lead to the holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats.
  - Improving the standard of living and quality of life of all sections of the population by improving the basic amenities, enhancing human development, creating higher productivity, enhancing human development, providing better livelihood opportunities, reducing disparities and enriching social capital.
  - Generating models of local level development and effective local governance to motivate and inspire the neighbouring Gram Panchayats for adaptation.
  - To nurture the identified Adarsh Grams as schools of local development to train other Gram Panchayats.

In order to achieve these objectives, SAGY would be **guided by the following approach**:

- Leveraging the leadership, capacity, commitment and energy of the Members of Parliament (MP) to develop model Gram Panchayats
- Engaging with and mobilizing the community for participatory local level development.
- Converging different government programmes and private and voluntary initiatives to achieve comprehensive development in tune with people's aspirations and local potential.
- Building partnerships with voluntary organisations, co-operatives and academic and research institutions.
- Focusing on outcomes and sustainability.

Aims of the scheme

- Personal development: To maintain the cleanliness of the villages and to develop the cultural heritage, behavioural changes and personal values of the village people.
- Human development: To provide education and social security to the villages. It also aims to improve the health and nutrition of the village people.
- To look after the economic development of the villages.
- To introduce social development programmes which should include voluntarism, social justice and good governance.

Functioning bodies	Responsibilities
Member of Parliament	Identifying the Adarsh Gram and facilitating the planning process. It is also responsible for mobilising additional funds and for monitoring this scheme.
Two national committees, headed by the Minister of Rural Development, and Secretary, Rural Development, respectively.	Monitoring the process of identification, planning and implementation of the scheme. Issue operational guidelines and indicate specific resource support that each Ministry can provide.
A state committee headed by the Chief Secretary	Supplementing central guidelines for the scheme Reviewing implementation and Village Development Plans Outline monitoring mechanisms Design a grievance redressal mechanism for the scheme
District Collector	Conducting the baseline survey Ensuring grievance redressal and reviewing the monthly progress of the scheme
Gram Panchayat	Implementation of the scheme Identifying the common needs of the village and ensuring the participation of the people in the scheme.

➡ SPONGE CITIES MISSION

- Urban flooding has become a recurrent feature in Indian metros. India's Land policy has not helped in managing or controlling the recurrence of major floods in urban areas. The reason for poor land policy could be economic, social and political.
- The importance of proper land policy has been highlighted even by **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**

- There is a lack of a proper drainage network in the cities. Trillions of litres of free, rainwater drop each year, yet most of it is channelled straight into gutters, drains and rivers. This represents a waste of a valuable natural resource.
- Concrete structures tend to wastewater while natural systems retain it. When we build cities, we build on wetlands and ponds, which actually have the ability to soak in extra water.
- Cities are getting bigger and climate change is threatening to bring more extreme weather events. There is no long-term vision of how to tackle such climate challenges.
- Rising global temperatures are making rainfall from storms more destructive which bring devastating urban floods.

Sponge Cities Mission – Significance

- Following the philosophy of innovation, a sponge city can solve water problems instead of creating them. Instead of funnelling away the rainwater, sponge city retains it for use within its own boundaries. It's a resource to augment our water supply.
- In the long run, sponge cities will reduce carbon emissions and help fight climate change.
- If properly implemented, a sponge city can reduce the frequency and severity of floods and improve water quality.
- By capturing stormwater, it helps in preventing beach pollution.
- Greening the city by planting new plants.
- Associated strategies such as green space can improve quality of life, improve air quality and reduce urban heat islands.
- Water can be used to keep green spaces verdant, provide an outdoor area for the people who live and work in the building, and even be used to grow food.
- This in turn can improve urban ecosystem diversity by providing new habitats for a wider range of organisms.

➡ SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (URBAN) 1.0

- Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) is under the **Ministry of Urban Development** and is commissioned to give sanitation and household toilet facilities in all 4041 statutory towns with a combined population of 377 million.
- The estimated cost is Rs 62,009 crore over five years with the centre's share of assistance being Rs 14,623 crore.
- The Mission hopes to cover 1.04 crore households, give 2.5 lakh community toilet seats, 2.6 lakh public toilet seats
- It also proposes to establish solid waste management facilities in every town.
- At the core of this mission lie **six components**:

  - Individual household toilets;
  - Community toilets;
  - Public toilets;
  - Municipal Solid Waste Management;
  - Information and Education Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness;
  - Capacity Building

- The Urban Clean India mission seeks to eradicate open defecation; convert insanitary toilets to flush toilets; eradicate manual scavenging, and facilitate solid waste management.
- The mission emphasizes on ushering in a behavioral change among people, for healthy sanitation practices, by educating them about the damaging effects of open defecation, the environmental dangers spreading from strewn garbage, and so on.
- To achieve these objectives, urban local bodies are being brought in and fortified to design, implement and operate systems to promote a facilitating environment for the participation of the private sector in terms of both capital and operations expenditure.

➡ SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (URBAN) 2.0

- The government in the **Union Budget 2021** allocated Rs 1,41,678 crores for the Swachh Bharat Mission (U) 2.0. The components of SBM-Urban 2.0 are:

- New component – Wastewater treatment, including faecal sludge management in all ULBs with less than 1 lakh population
- Sustainable sanitation (construction of toilets)
- Solid Waste Management
- Information, Education and Communication, and
- Capacity building

Achievements expected out of SBM-Urban 2.0:

- ODF+ certification to all statutory towns.
- ODF++ certification to all statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population.
- Water+ certification to half of all the statutory towns with less than 1 lakh population.
- Rating of at least 3-star Garbage Free to all statutory towns as per Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA's) Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free cities.
- Bio-remediation of all legacy dumpsites.

➡ SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (RURAL)

- The Rural mission, known as Swachh Bharat Gramin, aims to make Village Panchayats open defecation free.
- Removing obstacles and addressing critical issues that affect results is the new thrust of this rural sanitation mission, which aims to provide all rural households with individual latrines; and build cluster and community toilets on public-private partnership mode.
- Considering the filth and unhygienic conditions in village schools, this programme lays special emphasis on toilets in schools with basic sanitation amenities.
- Construction of Anganwadi toilets and management of solid and liquid waste in all Village Panchayats is the object of the Clean India mission.

➡ SAANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (SAGY)

- Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a village development project under which each Member of Parliament (MP) owned the responsibility to develop the institutional and physical infrastructure in three villages.
- AGY popularly known as **'Saanjhi'** was launched on 11th October 2014.
- SAGY is a development programme project focusing mainly on the social and cultural development of the villages.
- Under this yojana, **each member of the parliament is responsible for developing the institutional and physical infrastructure in three villages each by the year 2019**. Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana was established with an aim to develop three villages by 2019 **followed by the development of five Adarsh Grams by the year 2024**.
- It also aims at achieving objectives apart from infrastructure development along with developing various model villages.

Objectives

- To trigger processes which lead to the **holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats**.
- Improving the standard of living and quality of life of all sections of the population by improving the basic amenities, enhancing human development, creating higher productivity, enhancing human development, providing better livelihood opportunities, reducing disparities and enriching social capital.
- Generating models of local level development and effective local governance to motivate and inspire the neighbouring Gram Panchayats for adaptation.
- To nurture the identified Adarsh Grams as schools of local development to train other Gram Panchayats.
- In order to achieve these objectives, SAGY would be guided by the following approach:

- Leveraging the leadership, capacity, commitment and energy of the Members of Parliament (MP) to develop model Gram Panchayats
- Engaging with and mobilizing the community for participatory local level development.
- Converging different government programmes and private and voluntary initiatives to achieve comprehensive development in tune with people's aspirations and local potential.
- Building partnerships with voluntary organisations, co-operatives and academic and research institutions.
- Focusing on outcomes and sustainability.

➡ SETU BHARATAM PROJECT

- The Setu Bharatam Project was launched in March 2016.
- This project was started as an initiative to make all the **national highways free of railway crossings**.

Objectives

The Setu Bharatam aimed to make all the national highways free from railway crossing by the year 2019. Some of the major objectives of the Setu Bharatam Project were:

- Construction of bridges in the national highways across the country.
- Construction of around 280 under and over railway tracks bridges by the Government with an expense of around Rs. 100 Crore.
- Around 64 bridges would get the green signal at the end of the year 2016.
- Use of scientific techniques such as measurement of distance, longitude, latitude, material, designs etc. during the construction of bridges.

- An **Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS)** was also established by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways at the Indian Academy for Highway Engineer in Noida.
- The **primary aim of this project** is to conduct surveys and inventions of all the bridges on the national highways through mobile inspection units.

➡ SCHEME FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS (SAG)

Scheme for Adolescent Girls Need

- Adolescence is a crucial phase in the life of a human being, especially women. At this stage, various emotional and physical changes happen in a girl and vital interventions at this stage can help the individual develop positive attitudes towards health and well-being.
- Lack of nutritional food and healthy & hygienic practices can hamper the growth and development of a girl and hinder her from fully achieving her potential.
- It is with this intent that the SAG was envisaged.

About

- The Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the government which targets adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 14 years.
- The Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) was devised in **2010** as a special intervention for adolescent girls of the age group 11 – 14 years to break the intergenerational life-cycle of nutritional and gender disadvantage and offer a supportive environment for the self-development of adolescent girls in the country.
- SAG focuses on **out-of-school adolescent girls** of the said age group.
- The scheme was rolled out in 2011 under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- The scheme was previously known as Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG or SABLA).
- The scheme replaced the **Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)** and **Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY).**
- The scheme is implemented by using the Anganwadi services of the umbrella ICDS Scheme through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the state/UT governments.

- The scheme is being implemented in a phased manner with the number of beneficiary districts increased with every phase.
- In **March 2021, this scheme was included under the Mission POSHAN 2.0.**

Objectives

- The overarching objective of the scheme is to provide nutrition and enhance the social and economic status of the adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 14 years. The idea is to facilitate adolescent girls to become self-reliant and aware citizens of the country by educating and empowering them.
- Enable the Adolescent Girls for **self-development and empowerment**.
- **Improve the nutrition and health status** of Adolescent Girls.
- Promote awareness of health, nutrition and hygiene.
- Support out of school Adolescent Girls to successfully transition back to formal schooling or bridge learning/skill training.
- Upgrade their home-based skills and life skills.
- Provide information/guidance about existing public services such as Primary Health Centres, Rural Hospitals/CHCs, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

Services

Under the scheme, the following services are provided to the beneficiaries. The services are divided into the nutrition and non-nutrition components.

- **Nutrition provision**: Every out-of-school registered beneficiary would be provided with supplementary nutrition similar to that of pregnant women and lactating mothers under ICDS containing 600 calories, 18-20 grams of protein and micronutrients for 300 days in a year. This nutrition would be provided in the form of Take Home Rations or Hot Cooked Meals.
- **Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation**: Along with IFA tablets, the Adolescent Girls would also be offered information on food fortification, advantages of supplementation by IFA tablets for combating iron deficiency anaemia, and dietary diversification.
- **Health check-up and Referral services**: General health check-up of all Adolescent Girls at least once in three months.
- **Nutrition & Health Education (NHE):** Sustained information on health and nutrition will help enhance the general health of the beneficiaries and also their families which will help to break the vicious intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. This is given in the AWC jointly by the ICDS and health functionaries and resource persons/field trainers from NGOs/Community Based Organisations (CBOs). Information given includes information promoting healthy traditional practices while dispelling myths, good sanitation practices, safe drinking water habits, healthy eating and cooking habits, managing menarche, personal hygiene, etc.
- Mainstreaming out-of-school girls to join formal schooling, bridge course/skill training: Under this, out-of-school Adolescent Girls are identified and provided guidance to enrol or restart mainstream school. Families are provided with information on the benefits of a formal education. Under this, female role models are also highlighted for girls to emulate.
- **Life Skill Education, home management, etc.:** Beneficiaries are offered guidance on life skills and also home management (home maintenance, budgeting, saving, running the

household, gender sensitivity, schooling of children, etc.) so that they can become productive members of society when they grow up.

- **Counseling/Guidance on accessing public services:** Awareness talks and visits are arranged in collaboration with PRI members, NGOs/CBOs, health functionaries, police personnel, bank officials, post office officials, school authorities etc.

➡ SHRAMEV JAYATE YOJANA

- Shramev Jayate Yojana was launched to support the 'Make in India' campaign for encouraging the manufacturing sector. The Government of India took several initiatives under the Shramev Jayate Yojana.
- The five major initiatives that are launched under this Yojana are discussed below:
- Shram Suvidha Portal
- Labour Inspection Scheme
- Universal Account Number: The Universal Account Number (UAN) has been allotted to all the workers. The UAN is linked with their bank account, Aadhar card and other KYC details for their unique identification. It contains complete information of around 4.17 crore subscribers.
- Apprentice Protsahan Yojana: This scheme was launched as an initiative to support the manufacturing units through reimbursement of 50% of the stipend paid to the apprentices during their first two years of training.
- Revamped Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana: It aimed to provide Smart Card facility to the workers belonging to the unorganized sector.
- Some of the benefits provided by the Shram Suvidha Portal are given below:
- Allotting the Unique Labour Identification Number (LIN) for facilitating online registration.
- Facilitating the filing of simplified and self-certified single online return by the industry.
- Allowing mandatory uploading of the inspection reports by the labour inspectors within 72 hours.
- To ensure the timely redressal of grievances.

➡ KISHORI HEALTH CARD

- The **Kishori Health Cards** are maintained by the States in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to record the Adolescent Girls' height, weight, BMI (body mass index), along with other services provided under the SAG scheme.
- The card also carries the details of the achievements or outcomes under the scheme.
- **Kishori Diwas**: A special day is to be observed as 'Kishori Diwas' once in three months. This would typically be the day on which the general health check-up of the girls would be carried out. On this day, Information Education and Communication (IEC) would be imparted to the community, parents, etc.

➡ UMMID

- The acronym UMMID stands for **Unique Methods of Management and Treatment of Inherited Disorders.**
- Along with UMMID, the Department of Biotechnology also flagged off National Inherited Diseases Administration (NIDAN) Kendras.
- Ministry of Science & Technology launched it.
- It is an initiative of Department of Biotechnology

Aims

Establishment of NIDAN Kendras to provide the following services:

- Counselling
- Prenatal testing and diagnosis,
- Management, and multidisciplinary care in Government Hospitals
- Emphasising on the importance of genetic studies, the scheme aims to produce skilled clinicians in Human Genetics
- To prevent/cure inherited genetic diseases, the scheme aims to screen test pregnant women and newborns in the hospitals of aspirational districts.

Five NIDAN Kendras to be established at the below-mentioned five hospitals to provide clinical care:

- NRS Medical College-Kolkata
- AIIMS- Jodhpur
- Army Hospital Research & Referrals- Delhi
- Lady Harding's Medical College- New Delhi and
- NIMS- Hyderabad

To train the clinicians, the support of the following training centres have been taken:

- Madras Medical Mission- Chennai
- SGPGIMS- Lucknow
- CDFD – Hyderabad
- AIIMS- New Delhi
- MAMCNew Delhi
- NIIH- Mumbai and
- CMC Vellore

- Seven aspirational districts that have been chosen for the screen testing of 10,000 pregnant women and 5000 newborns are:
- Mewat, Yadgir, Haridwar, Washim, Ranchi, Shrawasti and Nandurbar.

UMMID – What are inherited genetic disorders?

- It is referred to as a health problem that is caused by abnormalities in the genomes of the newborn.

- A genetic disorder is a disease caused in whole or in part by a change in the DNA sequence away from the normal sequence.
- Genetic disorders can be caused by a mutation in one gene (monogenic disorder), by mutations in multiple genes (multifactorial inheritance disorder), by a combination of gene mutations or by damage to chromosomes.
- Some of the examples of Genetic disorders are Sickle Cell Anemia, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes, Cancer, and Obesity.

➡ UDAN

- UDAN is a regional connectivity scheme spearheaded by the Government of India (GoI).
- The full form of UDAN is **'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik'** and aims to develop smaller regional airports to allow common citizens easier access to aviation services.

Objectives of the Regional Connectivity Scheme

- Operationalization and development of 425 underserved or unserved airports in the country
- Boost inclusive economic development by providing faster connectivity
- Development of air transport infrastructure in remote areas aiding job growth.

Salient features

- The scheme duration is for 10 years
- Airlines participating in UDAN are selected through a competitive bidding process
- The Central government will provide the following:

- Subsidy to cover Value Gap funding (VGF) for participating airlines
- Concessional GST on tickets booked using the scheme
- Codesharing for flights under the policy
- State Governments will extend the following measures:
- GST reduction to 1% for 10 years
- Coordination with oil companies to facilitate refuelling facilities
- Provide land for airport and ancillary development
- Trained security personnel
- Utilities at subsidised rates
- 20% of VGF

Airport operators such as AAI will provide the following concessions:

- No parking, landing and storage charges at participating airports
- Nil TNLC (Terminal Navigation Landing Charges)
- Allow ground handling by the airline selected through the bidding process
- RNCF (Route Navigation and Facilitation Charges) will be discounted to 42.4% of normal rates by the Airports Authority of India
- Value Gap Funding is not provided to cargo airlines. All other terms and conditions remain the same as passenger airlines. The fares are graded based on distance and flight hours for both fixed-wing and rotary-wing services. The RCS subsidy is funded by a levy of Rs 5000 per

flight on major routes. Flights regulated under this policy framework can be booked from the UDAN website and major travel portals by passengers.

UDAN 4.0

- The 4th round of UDAN was launched in December 2019 with a special focus on North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands.
- The airports that had already been developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are given higher priority for the award of VGF (Viability Gap Funding) under the Scheme.
- Under UDAN 4, the operation of helicopters and seaplanes is also been incorporated.

➡ UJALA

- The full form of UJALA is Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All.
- UJALA scheme was launched on 1st May 2015 under the government of India.
- The Ujala Scheme was established by replacing the **Bachat Lamp Yojana** is a joint initiative of Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Union Ministry of Power and the Electricity Distribution Company.

Objectives

- The UJALA scheme also known as the LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) aims to promote the efficient usage of energy for all i.e., its consumption, savings and lighting. This scheme is considered the world's largest program.
- Aims to promote efficient use of energy at the residential level.
- Enhance the awareness of consumers about the efficacy of using energy-efficient appliances and aggregating demand to reduce the high initial costs, thus facilitating higher uptake of LED lights by residential users.
- According to the UJALA scheme, LED bulbs would be distributed by the Electricity Distribution Company at subsidized rates to every grid-connected customer with a metered connection.
- Implementation of UJALA scheme
- Implementation of the UJALA scheme was done successfully in terms of investment and risk factors. The scheme was implemented as a joint contribution of EESL and DISCOM. Some of the outputs that were put forward by the UJALA scheme were:

- Replacing 200 million ordinary light bulbs by LED bulbs.
- Load reduction of 5000 MW.
- To reduce the emissions caused by greenhouse gases by 79 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

➡ UMANG

- UMANG stands for Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.
- It is a mobile application launched to provide secured access to the citizens to multiple government services at one platform.

- UMANG is a key component of the Digital India initiative of the government that intends to make all traditional offline government services available 24 * 7 online through a single unified app.



UMANG Key Facts

- It aims to bring 162 government services on a single mobile app, with a larger goal to make the government accessible on the mobile phone of our citizens.
- The services live on the app include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) among others.
- According to official documents, the UMANG app provides access to over 1,200 services of various government organisations in states and at the Centre as well as utility payments.

- Using the app, citizens are able to access Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) services, apply for a new permanent account number (PAN), and those looking for jobs can register themselves under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- It supports 13 Indian languages and caters to on-demand scalability.
- The State Government of Odisha launched 9 online services of state transport via the Umang App. The initiative was announced Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as part of efforts for digitisation of transport services. The state of Odisha also the first to introduce learner license application in UMANG App.

Features

- With a thought to add convenience to the lifestyle of the Indian citizens, UMANG has been created. The services of the app are made available on multiple channels like web and mobile application, IVR and SMS that can be easily accessed through feature phones, smartphones, desktops, laptops and tablets.
- It provides seamless integration with popular customer-centric services like Digilocker, Aadhaar, and more.
- The services made available through the UMANG application are as follows:

➡ SHRAMEV JAYATE YOJANA

- Shramev Jayate Yojana also known as **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram** was launched on October 2014 under the Government of India.
- This scheme was launched as an initiative for the development of industries. It also aims to expand government support for imparting skill training to the workers.

Important Initiatives

- Shramev Jayate Yojana was launched to support the 'Make in India' campaign for encouraging the manufacturing sector.
- The Government of India took several initiatives under the Shramev Jayate Yojana.
- The five major initiatives that are launched under this Yojana are discussed below:

- Shram Suvidha Portal
- Labour Inspection Scheme
- Universal Account Number: The Universal Account Number (UAN) has been allotted to all the workers. The UAN is linked with their bank account, Aadhar card and other KYC details for their unique identification. It contains complete information of around 4.17 crore subscribers.
- Apprentice Protsahan Yojana: This scheme was launched as an initiative to support the manufacturing units through reimbursement of 50% of the stipend paid to the apprentices during their first two years of training.
- Revamped Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana: It aimed to provide Smart Card facility to the workers belonging to the unorganized sector.

Shram Suvidha Portal

- The Shram Suvidha Portal was launched for allotting the Labour Identification Number (LIN) to around 6 lakh units and thus allowing them to file online compliance regarding 16 labour laws out of 44.
- The Shram Suvidha Portal was launched in October 2014.

Benefits provided by the Shram Suvidha Portal:

- Allotting the Unique Labour Identification Number (LIN) for facilitating online registration.
- Facilitating the filing of simplified and self-certified single online return by the industry.
- Allowing mandatory uploading of the inspection reports by the labour inspectors within 72 hours.
- To ensure the timely redressal of grievances.

Shram Suvidha Portal – Objectives

The Shram Suvidha Portal was launched for consolidating information on labour inspection and its enforcement. The major objectives of the Shram Suvidha Portal have been discussed below:

- To provide transparency and accountability in inspections.
- Reporting of the compliances in a single harmonized form to make the filing simple and easy.
- Use of key indicators for monitoring and evaluating the performance.
- To promote the use of Labour Identification Number (LIN) by all implementing agencies.

Labour Inspection Scheme

A Labour Inspection scheme has been developed by the Government of India to bring in transparency in the labour inspection. Some of the key features of the Labour Inspection Scheme are mentioned below:

- The Inspection scheme covers all the serious matters under the mandatory inspection list.
- It generates a computerized list of inspections which is based on pre-determined objective criteria.
- To centrally determine complaints based inspections on data and evidence after the examination.
- There will be a provision of the emergency list for inspection of serious cases in specific circumstances.
- A transparent inspection scheme will provide a check on the arbitrariness in the compliance mechanism.

➡ ULPIN

- The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) is a 14-digit identification number accorded to a plot of land.
- It is an **alpha-numeric unique ID** for each land parcel that contains ownership details of the plot besides its size and longitudinal & latitudinal details.
- It is part of the **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP),** a programme that had been initiated in 2008.
- The identification will be based on the longitude and latitude coordinates of the land parcel, and depends on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.

- The number is developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC).**
- The ULPIN scheme was rolled out in 2021 in ten Indian states. The government plans to launch it in all states and UTs by March 2022.
- The idea behind the program is to check land fraud, especially in the rural hinterlands of India, where there are no clear land records and often, land records are ambiguous and land ownership disputed.
- It will eventually integrate its land records database with revenue court records and bank records, as well as Aadhaar numbers on a voluntary basis.
- It is being touted as **'Aadhar for Land'**.
- Proper land statistics and land accounting through the ULPIN scheme will aid in developing land banks and usher in the Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS).

ULPIN Scheme Benefits

- The major benefit of having the ULPIN is that all land records and consequently transactions will be transparent.
- It will help keep land records up-to-date. It will also be easier to share land records across departments, financial institutions and all stakeholders.
- Through this, it will be possible to deliver land records services to citizens through a single window. The scheme will also protect government land, not to mention, make land acquisitions easier. According to the government, it is also a cost-effective approach.
- Linking Aadhaar with land records through ULPIN would cost ₹3 per record, while seeding and authentication of landowner Aadhaar data would cost ₹5 each.

Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme

- The Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) is a central sector scheme that was initiated in 2008.
- It was formed as a result of the merger of two schemes that the Land Reforms (LR) Division under the Dept of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) was running, namely, the Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) & Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA&ULR).
- The State Governments/UT Administrations will execute the programme with technical and financial support from the Land Resources Department. The district will be the unit of implementation.

Aims of the DILRMP

- Usher in a system of updated land records
- Automated and automatic mutation
- Integration between textual and spatial records
- Inter-connectivity between revenue and registration
- Replace the present deeds registration and presumptive title system with that of conclusive titling with title guarantee

DILRMP Components

- Computerization of land records
- Survey/re-survey

- Computerization of Registration

DILRMP Benefits

- Citizens will get real-time land ownership records.
- Since the records will be placed on the websites with proper security IDs, property owners will have free access to their records without any compromise in the confidentiality of the information.
- Free access to the records will reduce rent-seeking and harassment because of the reduced interface between citizens and government functionaries.
- **Abolition of stamp papers** and **payment of stamp duty** and registration fees through banks, etc. will also reduce interface with the registration machinery.
- The time taken for obtaining RoR (record of right), etc. will be reduced because of IT inter-linkages.
- Automatic and automated mutations will significantly reduce the scope of fraudulent property deals.
- Conclusive titling will also significantly reduce litigation.
- Citizens will have better access to credit facilities and information such as market value.

➡ UDID PROJECT

- With effect from June 2021, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has made it mandatory for all states and UTs of the country to issue a disability certificate to eligible people only through the online mode via the UDID portal.
- The UDID Project was **launched in 2016** by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,** Govt. of India.
- The **chief objective of the project is to create a national database for Persons with Disability (PwD)** and to issue a Disability Identity Card to such persons.
- The project is expected to improve the ease with which government benefits can be delivered uniformly to PwDs.
- It will also enhance transparency and efficiency in the process.
- The UDID project will also help in streamlining the tracking of physical and financial progress of beneficiaries at all levels of hierarchy of implementation – from village level, block level, district level, state level and national level.
- The idea is to build a holistic and integrated seamless system of issuing ID cards for PwDs that includes their identity as well as disability details.

Salient Features

- Online availability of information about PwDs from all over India through a centralized web application.
- Eligible persons can fill and submit their registration application form for certificate of disability online.
- The assessment process for calculating the disability percentage by medical board/hospitals will be expedited.
- Non-duplication of PwDs data.

- PwDs can renew and update relevant information online.
- The project will enable the effective management of the schemes launched by the government for physically disabled people.

Benefits

- The disability card will contain all the necessary information about PwDs that can be captured by a reader. This will ensure that PwDs do not have to make multiple copies of their documents and papers making it easier and convenient for them to avail of benefits that are due to them.
- The UDID card will be the single document of identification, verification of the disabled for availing various benefits in future.
- This will facilitate the various authorities at the state/district/national/village levels to track the physical and financial progress of the beneficiaries.

Disabilities Covered

The list of disabilities covered under the project are mentioned below:

- Blindness, Cerebral palsy, Low vision, Locomotor disability, Leprosy-cured, Mental retardation, Mental illness, Hearing impairment

➡ URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (UIDF)

- UIDF will be established through the use of priority sector lending shortfall.
- **Purpose:** The fund will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- It will be managed by the **National Housing Bank**.
- It will be established on the lines of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- States will be encouraged to leverage resources from the grants of the 15th Finance Commission, as well as existing schemes, to adopt appropriate user charges while accessing the UIDF.
- **Tier-2 and tier-3 cities**: Cities with a population in the range of 50,000 to 100,000 are classified as tier 2 cities, while those with a population of 20,000 to 50,000 are classified as tier 3 cities.

➡ RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (RIDF)

- The RIDF was set up by the Government in 1995-96 for financing ongoing rural Infrastructure projects.
- The Fund is maintained by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).**

- Contribution: Domestic commercial banks contribute to the Fund to the extent of their shortfall in stipulated priority sector lending to agriculture.
- **Main Objective:** To provide loans to State Governments and State-owned corporations to enable them to complete ongoing rural infrastructure projects.
- Repayment period: Loan to be repaid in equal annual instalments within seven years from the date of withdrawal, including a grace period of two years.

➡ VATSALYA MAATRI AMRIT KOSH

Objectives

- Vatsalya Maatri Amrit Kosh was launched as a national human milk bank and lactation counselling centre at Lady Hardinge Medical College.
- It was launched under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in collaboration with the Norwegian government, Oslo University and Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) with the following objectives:

- To collect, pasteurise and test the milk donated by the lactating mothers and safely storing it for the infants in need.
- The Vatsalya Maatri Amrit Kosh also aims in protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding by providing lactation support to the mothers through dedicated lactation counsellors.
- Vatsalya Maatri Amrit Kosh is an initiative under the Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It was not only launched as a dedicated centre for supporting breastfeeding and improving the infant survival but this project also serves as a teaching, training and demonstration site for several other milk banks.

➡ YUVA

- 'Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors' (YUVA) Scheme
- The YUVA scheme is basically a mentorship program to train young authors. It is aimed at mentoring 75 writers under the age of 30.
- It targets young authors who are ready to express themselves and portray Indian culture and literature in a global arena.
- Under the scheme, each author will get a consolidated scholarship of Rs 50,000 per month for a period of six months.
- The idea behind this program is to push reading and authorship as a profession on par with other professions.
- Another motive behind the initiative is to provide a positive psychological push to young minds in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The scheme envisions cultivating modern ambassadors of Indian literature as the country heads towards 75 years of independence.
- The scheme is expected to generate a stream of writers who would be able to write on a variety of topics promoting Indian heritage, culture and knowledge.

- This will also give a window to aspiring writers to express themselves in their mother tongues and represent their country at the international level.
- The scheme will cover various genres such as fiction, non-fiction, drama, poetry, memoirs, travelogues and so on.
- The YUVA Scheme is **implemented and executed by the National Book Trust (NBT)** under the **Ministry of Education**, Government of India.

National Book Trust (NBT)

- The NBT is an apex body established by the GOI under the Department of Higher Education in 1957.
- The objectives of the NBT are to produce and encourage the production of good literature in English, Hindi and other Indian languages and to make such literature available at moderate prices to the public.
- It also aims to bring out book catalogues, arrange book fairs/exhibitions and seminars and take all necessary steps to make the people book minded.
- The NBT organizes the annual New Delhi World Book Fair, which is the largest book event in the Afro-Asian region.
- It is mandated to publish:

  - India's classical literature
  - Works of Indian authors in Indian languages and their translations into other Indian languages
  - Translation of foreign works into Indian languages
  - Books of modern knowledge for popular diffusion
  - It also engages in other activities such as the promotion of reading and books, conducting mobile book exhibitions, promotion of children's literature, promotion of Indian books overseas, providing assistance for translations, and assisting authors and publishers, among others.

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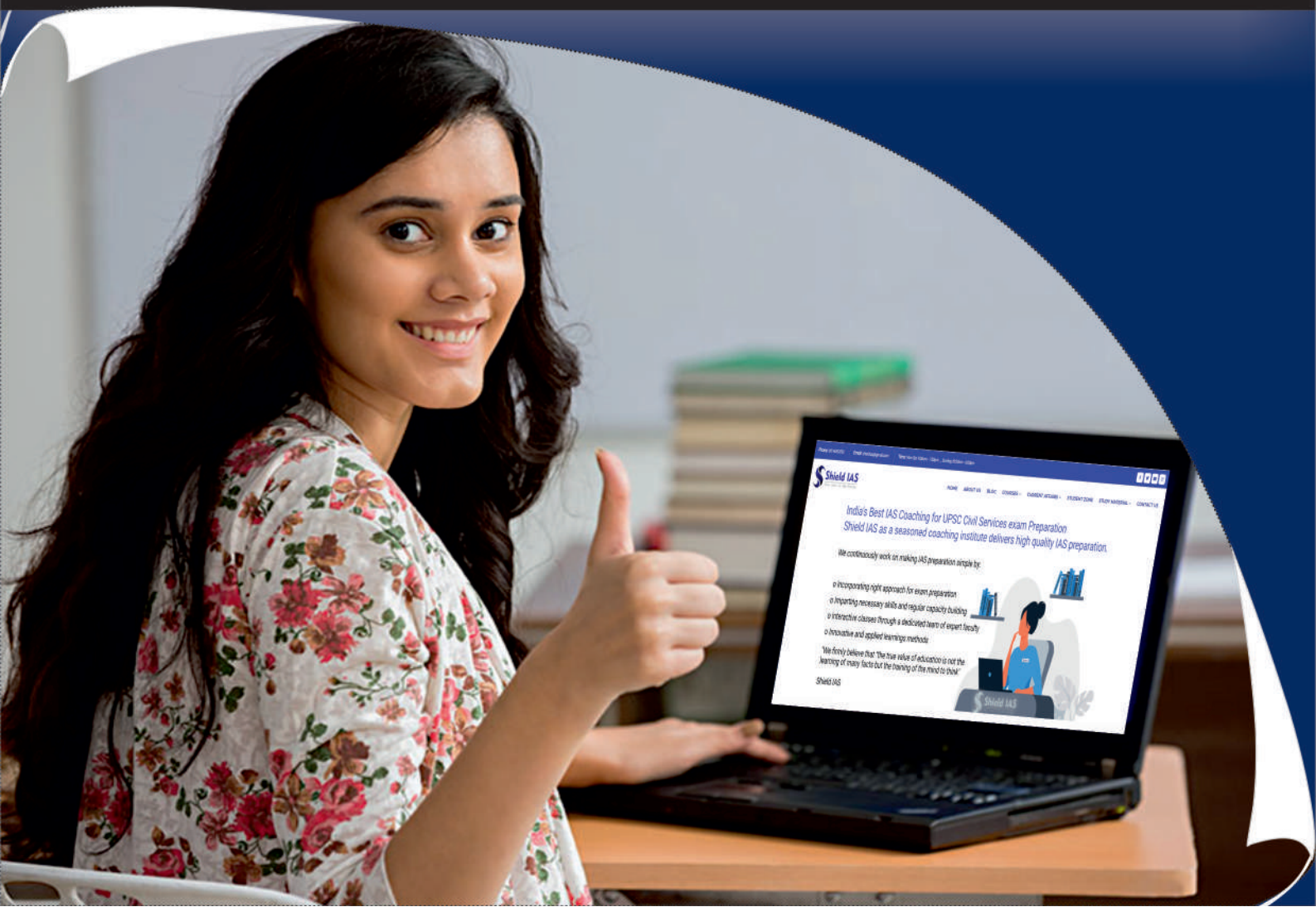
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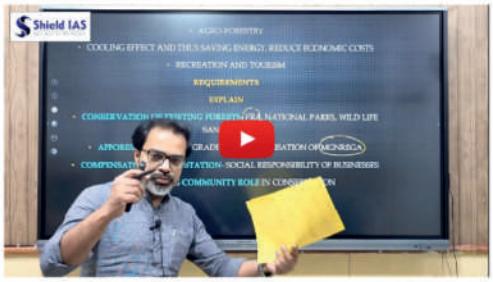
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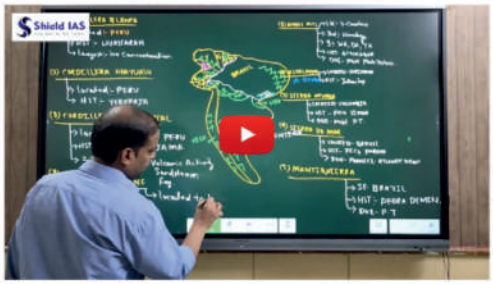
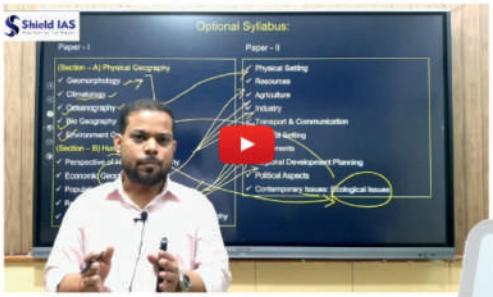
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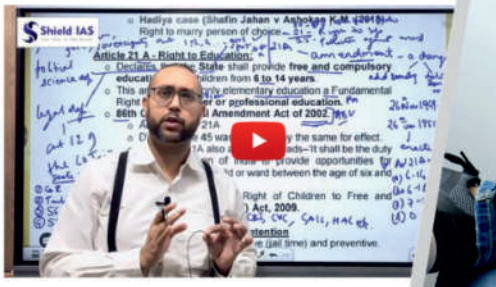













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