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Contents

1. **Health & Family Welfare.....1**
2. **Housing and Urban Affairs 14**
3. **India & The World 18**
4. **Industry 28**
5. **Law & Justice 46**
6. **Labour, Skill Development & Employment 54**
7. **Mass Communication.....60**
8. **Planning 66**
9. **Rural Development.....72**
10. **Scientific & Technological Developments 81**
11. **Transport 96**
12. **Water Resources 104**
13. **Welfare.....113**
14. **Youth Affairs & Sports.....128**

1 Health & Family Welfare

The **Ministry of Health Family Welfare (MoHFW)** earlier had two departments - the Department of Health & Family Welfare and the Department of Health Research. Department of AIDS Control has been merged with the Department of Health & Family Welfare and now be known as the **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).** In December 2014, the **Department of AYUSH** was made Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH). **Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)** is an attached office that renders technical advice on all medical and public health matters and is involved in the implementation of various health services.

⊙ National Health Policy (NHP)

- It was released in 2017 after a gap of 15 years. It envisages providing a **larger package of assured comprehensive primary healthcare** through the health and wellness centres. **The policy aims to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages**. This would be achieved through increasing access, improving quality, and lowering the cost of healthcare delivery. NHP 2017 advocates allocating major proportion (two-thirds or more) of resources to primary care and aim to ensure the availability of two beds per 1,000 population distributed in a manner to enable access within the golden hour. Besides this, the highlights of the policy include:
  - **Assurance based approach -** It advocates progressively incremental assurance based approach with a focus on preventive and promotive healthcare.
  - **Micronutrient deficiency-** There is a focus on reducing micronutrient malnourishment and systematic approach to address heterogeneity in micronutrient adequacy across regions
  - **Make-in-India initiative-** It advocates the need to incentivize local manufacturing to provide customized indigenous products for the Indian population in the long run.
  - **Application of digital health-** The policy advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system and aims at an integrated health information system.
- One of the mandates of the NHP 2017 is the use of information technology towards healthcare. In line with that the IT initiatives of the Ministry are listed here:

Mobile Apps: various mobile apps have been launched namely—

- Indradhanush Immunization for tracking immunization;
- India fights Dengue (enables a user to check dengue symptoms, get nearest hospital/blood bank information and share feed-back);
- NHP Swasth Bharat (information on disease, lifestyle, first-aid);
- NHP Directory Services (information of hospitals and blood banks across the country;
- No More Tension (information on stress management related aspects);
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (for reporting pregnancy cases across the states).

- **National Health Portal (NHP)** is functioning as a citizen portal for healthcare providing health-related information to citizens and stakeholders in different languages **(currently six languages).** A voice portal, providing information through a toll-free number and mobile app has also been launched. It serves as single point of access for information on health and diseases.
- **Hospital Information System (HIS)** is being implemented in hospitals for automation of hospital processes to achieve better efficiency and service delivery in public health facilities upto CHC level.
- **Online Registration System (ORS)** is a framework to link various hospitals for online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online, etc.
- **Mera Aspataal (My Hospital) application** is an IT-based feedback system to collect information on patients' level of satisfaction using a multi-channel approach viz. SMS, outbound dialing (OBD), web portal, and mobile application. The application automatically contacts the patient using the above tools to collect information on patients' level of satisfaction.
- **Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) / Reproductive Child Health (RCH) application** is an individual-based tracking system across all the states & UTs to facilitate timely delivery of antenatal and postnatal care services and immunization to children to improve IMR, MMR, & morbidity.
- **Kilkari application** was launched to deliver free weekly audio messages about pregnancy, childbirth, and care.
- **Mobile Academy** is a free audio training course designed to expand and refresh the knowledge base of ASHAs and improve their communication skills.
- **TB Patient Monitoring System "Nikshay"** for tracking of individuals for treatment-adherence has been implemented across all states for monitoring of TB patients. Also, a missed call centre facility for reaching to unreached TB patients has been started, for counseling and treatment support.
- **Tobacco Cessation Programme** is a mobile-based interventional initiative for counseling and helping people to quit tobacco.
- **m Diabetes Programme** is a mobile-based initiative for the prevention and care of diabetes.
- **e-CGHS card** enables self-printing of CGHS cards from any location.
- **SUGAM by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO)** enables online submission of applications, their tracking, processing & grant of approvals online mainly for drugs, clinical trials, ethics committee, medical devices, vaccines, and cosmetics. Provides a single window for multiple stakeholders (Pharma Industry, Regulators, Citizens) involved in the processes of CDSCO.
- **Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) (eAushidhi)** deals with purchase, inventory management and distribution of various drugs, sutures, and surgical items to various district drug warehouse of state/UT, district hospitals, their sub-stores, etc., by automating the workflow of procurement, supply chain, quality control, and finance department in-state/UT level.

National Health Mission (NHM)

- One of the major focuses in the health sector has been to increase the funding to healthcare to at least 2% of the GDP. As a step towards this goal, the **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005** and it morphed into National Health Mission (NHM) with the launch of **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) in 2013**. Thereafter, NRHM and NUHM became two sub-missions under the overarching NHM.
- The main programmatic components include **health system strengthening in rural and urban areas, Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) interventions, and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases**.

Mission Indradhanush

- It was launched in 2014 **to cover all those children who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated during routine immunization rounds.** The objective of the scheme is **to increase full immunization coverage to at least 90% children by 2020**.

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE)

- MNTE is defined **as less than one neonatal tetanus case per 1,000 live births in every district per annum**. India has been validated for Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus elimination in May 2015. India achieved MNT Elimination through the strengthening of health systems by innovative programmes like **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karayakaram (JSSK)** to improve institutional delivery and by strengthening Routine Immunization.

New Vaccines

- **Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV):** In concurrence with the **World Polio End Game strategy,** IPV was introduced in November 2015 in six states and expanded throughout the country by June 2016.
- **Rotavirus Vaccine:** This vaccine was launched in March 2016 in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Odisha, to reduce the burden of diarrhea caused by Rotavirus. It has been expanded to five more states (Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura and Tamil Nadu).
- **Rubella Vaccine as Measles-Rubella (MR) Vaccine:** MR vaccination campaign targeting **children from 9 months up to 15 years of age,** was launched in 2017 in five states viz., Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Lakshadweep and Puducherry where after completion of the campaign the MR vaccine was introduced in routine immunization replacing measles-containing **vaccine 1 & 2 at 9-12 months and 16-24 months of age**.
- **Adult JE vaccine:** Japanese Encephalitis vaccination in children was introduced in 2006. However, the vaccine was expanded in the adult population of districts with a high disease burden in 2015.
- **Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV):** This vaccine is provided to reduce child deaths due to pneumonia - which is a major cause of child mortality. It was launched in 2017 in 3 states i.e. in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar in the first phase.

India New Born Action Plan

- This was launched in 2014 to attain **"Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) by 2030" and "Single Digit Still Birth rate (SBR) by 2030".**

Ayushman Bharat

- **Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)** a new **centrally sponsored scheme** was launched in 2018. The target beneficiaries are to be more than 10 crore families belonging to the poor and vulnerable populations **based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database**. With this, AB-NHPM will **subsume the ongoing centrally sponsored schemes– Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).**
- It has a defined benefit cover **of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year**. To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children, and the elderly) **there will be no cap on family size and age**. The benefit cover will also **include pre and post-hospitalization expenses**. All pre-existing conditions will be covered from day one of the policy. A defined transport allowance per hospitalization will also be paid to the beneficiary.
- Being an **entitlement based scheme the entitlement is to be decided based on deprivation criteria in the SECC database**, female-headed households with no adult male member between ages 16 to 59, disabled member and no able-bodied adult member in the family, SC/ST households; and landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour will be automatically covered.

- The payments for treatment will be done on the **package rate (to be defined by the government in advance) basis.** The package rates will include all the costs associated with treatment. For beneficiaries, it will be a cashless, paperless transaction. Keeping in view the state-specific requirements, states/ UTs will have the flexibility to modify these rates within a limited bandwidth.
- One of the **core principles of AB-NHPM is co-operative federalism and flexibility to states**. There is the provision to partner the states through co-alliance. This will ensure appropriate integration with the existing health insurance/protection schemes of various central ministries/ departments and state governments (at their own cost). **State governments will be allowed to expand the scheme both horizontally and vertically**. They can implement through an insurance companies or directly through trust/society or a mixed model. States would need to have the **State Health Agency (SHA) to implement it**.

Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) Programme

- It is an intensified programme launched in 2016. The goal of the MAA programme is **to revitalize efforts towards promotion, protection, and support of breastfeeding practices through health systems to enhance breastfeeding rates**. The key components of the programme are - awareness generation, promotion of breastfeeding, and interpersonal counseling at the community level, skilled support for breastfeeding at delivery points, monitoring, and award/ recognition.

Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF)

- It is a programme to combat diarrhoeal mortality in children with the ultimate **aim of zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhea**. It is being implemented as a campaign in July, since 2014. Under this, more than 14.7 crore under-5 children have been reached since 2014 by ASHA with prophylactic ORS.

National Deworming Day (NDD)

- **To combat Soil-Transmitted Helminth (STH) infections**, the Ministry has adopted a single day strategy called NDD wherein a **single dose of albendazole is administered to children from 1-19 years of agegroup** schools and Anganwadi centres.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram

- This initiative launched in 2013 entails provision for **Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services** through early detection and management of **4 Ds i.e. defects at birth, diseases, deficiencies, development delays** including disability, and free management of 30 identified health conditions including surgery at tertiary health facilities. **Children between 0-18 years of age** are covered in a phased manner across the country.

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)

- It was launched to provide information, commodities, and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents.
- The interventions under RKSK are:
  - **Weekly Iron Folic Supplementation**: It is an evidence based programmatic response to the prevailing anemia situation amongst adolescent girls and boys through supervised weekly ingestion of IFA supplementation.
  - **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme:** The scheme aims to ensure that adolescent girls have adequate knowledge and information about menstrual hygiene and the use of sanitary napkins and high quality, safe products are made available to them with knowledge of environmentally safe disposal mechanisms;

- **Peer Educator Programme:** The Programme aims to ensure that adolescents are benefitted from regular and sustained peer education. To further equip the peer educators, the Ministry launched the **"Saathiya Resource Kit" in 2017**. Understanding the growing number of mobile-based app users, **Saathiya Salah App has also been made a part of the "Saathiya Resource Kit".**

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)

- JSSK scheme entitles **all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including caesarean section**.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

- JSY is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission. The objective is **to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality** by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women.

Family Planning

- I**nitiated in 1952, the Family Planning programme was the first of its kind of national-level programme with a focus on population stabilization. Over the decades it has evolved to the current holistic and target free approach.**
- **T**he National Population Policy 2000 redefined it **as a medium of intervention for promoting reproductive and child health.** The programme focuses on assuring complete knowledge and access to reproductive rights and services and enables women and men to make an individual reproductive choices.

Free Drugs

- The initiative has been launched to put in place systems such as facility wise Essential Drug List (EDL), robust procurement system, and IT backed logistics and supply chain management, etc**, to ensure the provision of quality free essential drugs.**

Free Diagnostic Services

- The objective behind the NHM free diagnostic services initiative is **to reduce the out-of-pocket expenditure on diagnostics as well as to improve the quality of care**. Support is provided to states for providing essential diagnostics free of cost in public health facilities. Five states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, J&K, and Tripura, have already adopted the model as per the national guidelines.

National Mobile Medical Unit

- The objective of MMU is to take health care to the doorstep of the public in the rural and underserved areas, especially in under-served areas.

National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)

- NUHM is the initiative to strengthen health systems and service delivery in urban areas.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- The programme aims to provide assured, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally **to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month**. PMSMA guarantees a **minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy** at designated government health facilities. The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with the private sector.

■ Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme

- Support is being provided to all states **for the provision of free dialysis services for the poor.** Guidelines for dialysis services in district hospitals in **PPP mode** have been shared with states/UTs and the programme has been implemented with state support in 384 districts. Under this, every facility will have 6 dialysis machines and will be extended up to 10 machines per facility.

■ Affordable Medicine and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT)

- AMRIT outlets have been put in place **to provide drugs for cancer and cardiovascular diseases along with cardiac implants.** These are provided at 60 to 90% discount on prevailing market rates.

■ Kayakalp

- Kayakalp awards were launched **to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control practices in public health facilities.** Under this initiative awards and commendation certificates are given to public healthcare facilities that show exemplary performance i.e., meeting standards of protocols of cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control.

⊙ Organ Transplant

➤ National Organ Transplant Programme was launched for carrying out the activities as per the **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994** training of manpower, and promotion of organ donation from deceased persons. Under this, an apex level organization, **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)** was set-up at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi including a **National Registry (NOTTR)** to provide an online system for procurement and distribution of organs and tissues and to promote deceased organ and tissue donation.

■ Swachh Swasth Sarvatra

- It is a **joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** launched in 2016.

■ Mental Health Care

- The **Mental Health Care Act, 2017 adopts a rights-based statutory framework** for mental health and strengthens equality and equity in the provision of mental healthcare services to protect the rights of people with the mental health problems. The **Act increases accountability of both government and private sectors** in the delivery of mental healthcare with the representation of persons with a mental health problem and their care-givers in statutory authorities such as central and state mental health authorities.
- The most progressive features of the Act are the provision of advance directive, nominated representative, special clause for women and children related to admission, treatment, sanitation, and personal hygiene; **restriction on the use of electro-convulsive therapy and psychosurgery**. **Decriminalization of suicide** is another significant facet of the Act, which will ensure proper management of severe stress as a precursor for suicide attempts.

■ HIV & AIDS

- **HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, aims to end the epidemic by 2030** in accordance with the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. A person living with AIDS **cannot be treated unfairly** at employment, educational establishments, renting a property, standing for a public or private office, or providing healthcare and insurance services. The Act also aims to **enhance access to healthcare services by ensuring informed consent and confidentiality** for HIV-related testing, treatment, and clinical research. Every person in the **care and custody of the state shall have the right to** HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and counseling services.

- **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)** is the nodal organization for the National AIDS response in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. **National AIDS Control Programme is a fully funded central sector scheme** implemented through **State/ UT AIDS Control Societies (SACS) in states/union territories** and closely monitored through the **District AIDS prevention and control unit (DAPCU)** in 188 high priority districts. Currently, the **National AIDS Control programme (NACP)-IV (extension) is under implementation for the period 2017-20.**

■ Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

- **PMSSY envisages the creation of tertiary healthcare capacity** in medical education, research, and clinical care, in the underserved areas of the country. It aims at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the country. **PMSSY has two components- setting up of new AIIMS like institutes in underserved regions of the country: and upgradation of existing Govt Medical Colleges (GMCs).**

⊙ Medical Education

The major step was the passage of the **Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2016,** a uniform entrance examination for admission to Under Graduate and Post Graduate medical courses in the country viz. **National Eligibility-cum-Entrancee Test (NEET) has been introduced from the Academic Year 2016-17.**

⊙ Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research

The Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research is a **pioneering initiative by AIIMS, New Delhi in the quest for convergence of contemporary medicine with India's ancient and traditional medical practices** and has been envisioned as a "state-of-the-art" research centre.

■ Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)

- The goal of RNTCP is to **decrease mortality and morbidity due to TB and cut transmission of infection until TB ceases to be a major public health problem in India.** Under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), the government provides support to the state /UT governments for human resources, drugs, diagnostics, and consumables.

■ National AIDS Control Programme

- It is a **100 percent central sector scheme**. More than 10 lakh people living with HIV are on ART; one lakh additional patients brought under the ambit of Anti Retro Viral (ARV) treatment in line with the **'Test and Treat' Policy launched for covering all patients with ART cover irrespective of CD count or clinical stage**.

■ National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)

- NTCP was launched in 2007- 08 in 9 states covering 18 districts. Further, in 2008-09, the programme was upscaled to cover 12 new states covering 24 districts.

■ National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)

- It is being implemented to improve coverage and accessibility of mental health care in the country.
- Under it, there is the provision of regular psychiatric OPD and IPD services at the district hospital, free supply of psychotropic drugs, and ambulatory support for psychiatric patients, awareness generation activities on mental health in community and camps, and outreach clinics in taluka hospitals/community health centres.

■ National Programme for Healthcare of Elderly (NPHCE)

- The basic aim of the NPHCE programme is to provide separate, specialized, and comprehensive health care tothe elderly people in the country.

■ National Programme on Prevention and Management of Burn Injuries

- The objective of the programme is to reduce incidence, mortality, morbidity, and disability due to burn Injuries, to improve awareness among the general masses and vulnerable groups especially the women, children, industrial and hazardous occupational workers, and rehabilitation interventions.

■ National Oral Health Programme

- The programme was initiated in 2014-15 to reduce the morbidity from oral diseases by strengthening the oral health care delivery in the existing public health facilities of the country.

■ National Leprosy Eradication Programme

- Its objective is to reduce leprosy burden in the country by providing quality leprosy services through general health care - to achieve the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in all states and districts i.e., **reduce annual new case detection Ratio to < 1 per 100,000 populations at the national level**.

■ Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

- The objectives of RSBY was **to provide cashless treatment in any public or private empanelled hos**pitals for most of the diseases that require hospitalization and will give improved access to quality health care to the beneficiaries. **This Scheme has been subsumed in the Ayushman Bharat Programme.**

■ Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme under NHM implemented in all states and UTs**. The main objectives and strategies include strengthening /maintaining a decentralized laboratory based IT-enabled disease surveillance system for epidemic prone diseases to monitor disease trends and to detect and respond to outbreaks in the early rising phase through trained rapid response teams.

⊙ Food Regulation

Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 was enacted to consolidate the laws relating to food and for laying down science-based standards for articles of food. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was established in 2008. FSS Act, 2006 is being implemented by all state/UT governments.

⊙ Drug Regulation

Control over the import, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs, cosmetics, and notified medical devices in the country are regulated under the provisions of **the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules, 1945.** The manufacture, sale, and distribution of drugs in the country are **primarily regulated by the state drug control authorities appointed by the state governments** while control over drugs imported into the country and introduced is exercised by the central government through central drugs standard control organization.

⊙ Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)

- It was set up in 1997 **to provide financial assistance to the patients living below the poverty line**, who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at Government hospitals.

- The financial assistance to such patients is released **in the form of a "one time grant" to the Medical Superintendent of the hospita**l in which the treatment is being received.
- Under the scheme, central government also **provides grant-in-aid to states/union territories (with legislature) to set up State Illness Assistance Fund (SIAF)** to the extent of 50% of the contribution made by state government/union territories.

Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF)

The scheme HMCPF within RAN was also set up in 2009. To utilize the HMCPF, the revolving fund as under RAN has been established in 27 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs). Such a step ensures and speeds up financial assistance to needy cancer patients and helps fulfill the objective of HMCPF under RAN.

Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG)

Under the scheme of HMDG **financial assistance up to ₹ 1,25,000/- is available to the poor and needy patients** to defray a part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical intervention and treatment of major diseases. **The patients who are not covered under RAN, due to the criterion of below poverty line and whose annual income does not exceed ₹ 1,25,000/- can avail of** the financial assistance under the scheme.

Health Research

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

- As one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world, the ICMR was established in **1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA). It has remained the apex and premier medical research organization** in the country through its commitments to research, professional development, collaboration, and knowledge dissemination.

Flagship Programmes

- **The India TB Research Consortium**: ICMR took a lead and initiated a new flagship programme to establish India TB research and development consortium that aims to bring together all major national players (with International Collaborators) to address overarching scientific questions to tackle TB in a mission mode.
- **TB Diagnostic Initiative: Truenat Rif,** an indigenous, cost-effective, rapid molecular diagnostic kit for TB/MDR-TB has been developed in **collaboration with ICMR, DBT, and the industry**.

e-Health/M-Health and use of Space Technology Tools

ICMR is focusing its efforts on using e-Health/ M-Health and promote the use of space technology tools. ICMR has developed- **a mobile-based disease surveillance system for malaria (MosQuit) using a mobile platform**. This technology has been **developed by RMRC, Dibrugarh in collaboration with CDAC, Pune**, which has **been deployed in Tengaghat PHC of Assam**. ICMR has also developed various e-learning programmes in Health Research as well as prepared databases like TB-Drugs, DDRTB, Food and Nutrition Database, etc.

Disease Burden Estimation

- State-level disease burden estimation launched at the **Univ of Washington, the USA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,** to generate state-level disease burden and risk factors estimates to improve health programmes and planning in India.

- **Preparedness to handle the Zika virus outbreak:** ICMR-NIV established surveillance at 25 sites in the country for Zika testing. Entomological surveillance for ZV also established.
- **National Rotavirus surveillance network (NRSN) (2012-2016):** The study carried out at 4 Major referral labs, 7 ICMR's Regional labs and 23 hospital sites to see the trend in the burden of rotavirus diarrhoea as well as the **impact of rotavirus vaccine under Universal Immunization Programme.**

⊙ Ayush

- The **Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) was established in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in 1995.** It was rechristened as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy with acronym AYUSH in 2003. The Department of AYUSH was granted the status of Ministry in 2014. **Sowa Rigpa is the recent addition to the existing facility of AYUSHsystems.**
- **Ayurveda, Siddha Unani, and Homoeopathy drugs are covered under the purview of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.** Since most of the medicines of this sector are made from medicinal plant materials, the Ministry has set up a **National Medicinal Plants Board** to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants and ensure the sustained availability of quality raw material.

■ Ayush Healthcare Infrastructure

- National AYUSH Mission (NAM) was notified in 2014 which envisages better access to AYUSH services including co-location of AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs), upgradation of existing Government AYUSH Hospitals, upgradation of existing government/ panchayat/ government-aided AYUSH dispensaries and setting up of upto 50 bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals.

■ Ayush Drug Quality Control

- Ministry of AYUSH has **a Drug Control Cell** to look after and co-ordinate in matters related to Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani, and homeopathy (ASU&H) drugs. Also, **the Ministry has taken up the amendment of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945** for promoting scientific data based shelf-life studies and prohibition of the use of prefix and suffix with the names of classical formulations.
- Under the **centrally sponsored initiative of the National AYUSH Mission**, grant-in-aid is provided to the states for the strengthening of infrastructural, functional, and regulatory capacity for manufacturing and testing of drugs and enforcement of the regulatory provisions.

■ Medical Education in Ayush

- The **Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) is the statutory body constituted under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970** which lays down the **standards of medical education in Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani** through its various regulations. Similarly, **homeopathy medical education is being regulated by the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH)** through its various regulations under **the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.** For medical education in **Yoga and Naturopathy, no such governing body exists.**

■ Research in AYUSH

- The government has set-up five autonomous research councils, namely, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines (CCRUM), Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) with the mandate to undertake research in their respective system.

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)

- It is an **apex national body that coordinates all matters relating to the medicinal plant sector in the country**. The Board was established in 2000 and acts as an advisory body to the concerned ministries, departments, and Agencies in strategic planning of medicinal plants related initiatives and to plan and provide financial support to programmes relating to conservation, cultivation, and also all-round development of medicinal plants sector.

Autonomous Institutes imparting ASU&H education

- National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur
- Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar
- National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata
- National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru
- National Institute of Siddha, Chennai
- Others are: Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth, New Delhi; National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune; Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi; All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi; North-Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine, Pasighat; and North-Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy, Shillong.

AYUSH Pharmacopoeial Laboratories

- **Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM): It is a subordinate office of the Ministry of AYUSH located at Ghaziabad.** The laboratory was established in 1970 as a Pharmacopoeial Standards Setting - cum Drugs testing laboratory at the national level for Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani (ASU) Medicine. It acts as an appellate laboratory for testing of Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani (ASU) drugs under Drugs & Cosmetic Act, 1940.
- **Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeial Laboratory (HPL):** HPL, Ghaziabad was set up as a national laboratory to lay down standards and testing for identity, purity, and quality of homeopathic medicines. Standards worked out by the laboratory are published in the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India (HPI). The Department of Science and Technology has recognized HPL as Science and Technology Institution.

➤ **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicines & Homeopathy (PCIM &H): It is an autonomous organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860**.

Regulatory Councils

The Statutory Regulatory Councils under AYUSH are:

- **Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), New Delhi**
  - **It is a statutory body constituted under the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.**
  - The main objectives of the Central Council include:
    - To prescribe the minimum standards of education inIndian Systems of Medicine viz., Ayurveda, Siddha, UnaniTib and Sowa Rigpa.;
    - To advise central government in matters relating to recognition (inclusion/withdrawal) of medical qualification in/from the Second Schedule to Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.
    - To maintain a Central Register of Indian Medicine and revise the Register from time to time.
    - To prescribe standards of professional conduct, etiquette, and code of ethics to be observed by the practitioners.
- **Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), New Delhi**
  - It has been constituted by the central government under the provisions of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 for the maintenance of a Central Register of Homoeopathy and other matters connected therewith.

- The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 was amended lastly in 2002, provisions of which were enforced from 2003

Public Sector Undertaking

- **Indian Medicine Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL)**
  - It is a Government of India Enterprise, having 98.01% shares of Government of India and 1.99% shares of Uttarakhand government, was incorporated in 1978. The registered office and factory of the company are at District Almora, Uttarakhand. **IMPCL comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of AYUSH, New Delhi. The Company is schedule D, 'Mini-Ratna' Category-II**. The Company was set up with the objectives to manufacture and supply the genuine and efficacious Ayurvedic and Unani medicines to the central government hospitals, central government research units all over India and to state government departments besides sales in the open market.

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2

Housing and Urban Affairs

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** is entrusted with the responsibility of broad policy formulation and monitoring of programmes regarding **urban housing and urban development**. It is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of **urban transport** matters at the central level. **Urban development is a state subject** and the Constitution 74th Amendment Act, 1992 enjoins upon the state governments to delegate many functions to urban local bodies.

- As per the Census of India 2011, the population of India is 1,210.50 million, of which **377.10 million (31.2 per cent) is urban** and 833.40 million (68.8 per cent) is rural.
- The **urban population is located in 7,933 towns**, comprising 4,041 statutory towns and 3,892 census towns.
- During 2000-11, in absolute terms, the decadal increase in urban population was 90.99 million vis-à-vis 90.97 million in rural population.
- At current rate of growth, urban population estimated to reach a staggering 575 million by 2030 and 875 million by 2050.
- The 2030 development agenda of the United Nations has emphasized the role of sustainable cities by incorporating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), i.e., Sustainable Cities and Communities for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Schemes & Initiatives

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Housing for All (Urban)

- Mission aims for **ensuring housing for all in urban areas** was launched in 2015 which is to be implemented during 2015-22.
- It provides **central assistance to all eligible families/ beneficiaries** across all statutory towns for houses included under the mission.
- States/UTs will have the flexibility to include the Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified with respect to Statutory Towns and such Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified by development authorities.
- **Progress of the Scheme:**
  - The coverage of the Mission was earlier limited to all statutory towns as per Census 2011 and towns notified subsequently. Later the coverage was revised in 2018 and

To address Housing for All in urban area, the **Mission has four verticals**:

- **In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR)** with participation of private developers using land as resource for providing housing to eligible slum dwellers;
- affordable housing through **credit-linked subsidy scheme** (CLSS now renamed as CLSS for EWS/LIG);
- **Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)** with public and private sectors;
- **subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house** construction/enhancements;

now it is extended to the entire urban areas consisting of all statutory towns and areas including Notified Planning/development area/industrial development authority/special area development authority/urban development authority or any such Authority under state legislation which is entrusted with the functions of urban planning and regulations.

Smart Cities Mission

- The **Smart Cities Mission** was launched in **2015**.
- The **objective of the Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' solutions**.
- The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development and the idea is to look at compact areas, create a replicable model which will act like a lighthouse to other aspiring cities.
- The 100 cities under the Mission have proposed to execute 5,151 projects worth ₹ 2,05,018 crore in 5 years from their respective dates of selection.
- Under it, 100 Smart Cities have been selected in 4 Rounds based on All India Competition. All 100 cities have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), City Level Advisory Forums (CLAFs) and appointed Project Management Consultants (PMCs).

The **core infrastructure elements in a smart city** would include:

- adequate water supply;
- assured electricity supply; sanitation, including solid waste management;
- efficient urban mobility and public transport;
- affordable housing, especially for the poor;
- robust IT connectivity and digitalization;
- good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation;
- sustainable environment;
- safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly; and
- health and education.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

- The **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** was launched in **2015**.
- In all, 500 cities have been included in the Mission.
- All Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with a population of one lakh or more, all other capital cities of states/ UTs, all Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) cities, identified cities on the stem of the main rivers, from hill states, islands and tourist destinations.
- **Approximately 60 per cent of urban population in the country is covered under AMRUT**.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** with a total outlay of rupees one lakh crore including a Central Assistance of ₹ 50,000 crore spread over 5 years i.e., from 2015-16 to 2019-2020. The balance share of ₹50,000 crore has to come from states and ULBs.
- The **thrust areas** of the Mission are **water supply**, **sewerage** and **septage** management, **storm water drainage, green spaces and park, non-motorized urban transport and capacity building**.
- The Mission focuses on development of basic urban infrastructure in the specified cities with the following expected outcomes:
  - universal coverage for access to potable water for every household;
  - substantial improvement in coverage and treatment capacities of sewerage;
  - developing city parks;
  - reform implementation and capacity building.

Heritage City Development

- The National **Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)**, a central sector scheme of the Government of India was launched in 2015 with the **aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner with the objective of preserving the heritage character of each Heritage City.**
- By November 2018 the scheme is being implemented in 12 identified cities namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** since 2013 for reducing the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households.
- The Mission covers all the statutory towns in the country, to be decided by the state as per local need and capability.
- Its **major components** include:
  - **Social Mobilization and Institutional Development (SM&ID),** which envisages mobilisation of urban poor women, differently-abled men and men in vulnerable occupations into thrift and credit- based Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations/collectives;
  - **employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P)** for skill development of urban poor in market-oriented courses to enable them to earn sustainable livelihoods;
  - **self-employment programme (SEP)** provides interest subvention on loans to individuals/ groups of urban poor for setting up self- employment ventures/micro-enterprises;
  - support to urban street vendors to support pro-vendor planning, development of vendors' market, credit enablement, socio-economic survey of street vendors, skill development and micro-enterprises development and convergence with social assistance under various schemes of the Government;
  - **innovative and special projects (I&SP)** to promote pioneering efforts, aimed at catalysing sustainable approaches to urban livelihoods through Public, Private and Community Partnership (PPCP).

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016

- Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was passed by the Parliament in March, 2016 heralding a new era of transformation in the real estate sector.
- **The core objective of this transformative legislation is to ensure regulation and promotion of real estate sector in an efficient manner and to protect the interest of home buyers.**
- **The Act is applicable to all the states/UTs.**
- Most of the states/UTs have notified the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules.
- 4 North-Eastern States have initiated the process of notifying the rules under RERA.

Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014

- The objective of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 is to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities.

Urban Transport

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal Ministry for planning and coordination of Urban Transport matters at the central level. However, technical planning of rail transport continues to be with Ministry of Railways.
- Similarly, Road transport is the responsibility of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. However, the major responsibility for urban transport infrastructure and service delivery rests with State Governments and local bodies.
- **National Urban Transport Policy:** In order to deal with the emerging problems in Urban Transport, the Government of India formulated a National Urban Transport Policy in 2006. The policy seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of travel along with use of cleaner technologies. It offers central government's financial support for investmentsin public transport, infrastructure for greater use of non-motorized modes, as well as in the construction of parking facilities, including demonstrative pilot projects.
- **Standardization and Indigenization of Metro Rail Systems :** To promote indigenization and reduction in cost, the specifications of various metro rail components like rolling stock, signalling systems, electrical and electro-mechanical components and civil engineering structures have been standardized. These mandatory parameters will ensure that metro rail sub systems for all new metro projects conform to the prescribed standards. Specific steps for promoting 'Make in India' have also been stipulated in these standards. A standard eligibility criterion for procurement of rolling stock is also issued.
- **I-Metros (Indian Metro Rail Organizations' Society):** A platform to exchange ideas, pooling of knowledge and sharing of experience, best practices, innovations etc. among the Indian metro rail companies to nurture excellence in performance, was launched in March 2018.
- **Metro Rail Policy:** The policy was launched for ascertaining and enhancing the feasibility of metro rail projects from economic, social and environmental perspective. It creates an ecosystem for the rapid development of metro rails in the larger cities under different models including public private partnerships and paves way for 'Make in India' products in the sector.

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3 India & The World

The primary objective of India's engagement with the world is to ensure a peaceful, stable global environment and create the most propitious climate for India's economic growth and development. The **rising profile of the country in global affairs and its emergence as a fast-growing economy in an otherwise difficult global environment presents a moment of opportunity that can be utilized to diversify India's strategic and economic options**. In this context, India's external engagements have sought to simultaneously advance and deepen relations with each bilateral or multilateral partner, in the specific areas where **such engagement brings maximum benefit to Indian interests.**

Ministry of External Affairs continued its pragmatic and **outcome-oriented engagements**, to enhance India's security, uphold its territorial integrity, while, promoting and facilitating India's economic transformation. Some of them are:

- Outreach efforts with the Indian diaspora
- Prime Minister's informal summits with Russia and China,
- the 2+2 engagement with the US,
- high-level visits to Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean,
- High-level visits to the Central Asian Republics,
- Presentation of a six-point Indo-Pacific policy, reinforcing our concept of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)
- India played a pioneering role on climate change and global warming issues with the holding of the First General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in 2018.

India and its Neighborhood

India's policy of '**Neighborhood First'** continued to be accorded the highest priority, with a focus on creating **mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity**. The pace of bilateral engagements was maintained and the focus was on making progress on the execution of infrastructure and connectivity projects.

Afghanistan

India has extended support to all efforts for an inclusive peace and reconciliation in keeping with its consistent policy that all such efforts should be **Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan controlled.**

Initiatives taken

- Expansion of air freight corridor between the two countries

- Commencement of work for India-assisted socio-economic developmental projects in Afghanistan identified under the New Development Partnership announced in 2017**.**
- Delivery of wheat and pulses to Afghanistan from India,
- Bilateral trade crossed US$ 1 billion
- Committed its support to promoting peace, security, unity, sovereignty, plurality and democracy in Afghanistan

■ Pakistan

Bilateral relations between India and Pakistan remained constrained. The reasons for this constrained relationship are:

- Continue support in Pakistan to cross-border terrorism against India;
- Absence of any credible action on the ground against infrastructure of support to terrorism in areas under Pakistan's control;
- Increased incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan forces, including in support of terrorist infiltration, along the Line of Control and International Border

Persistent efforts from India were made to move ahead on **humanitarian and people to people issues, including those related to prisoners, fishermen and pilgrim visits.**

Recent development

- India's proposal to establish a "Corridor" to facilitate smooth and easy access for Indian pilgrims to visit ***Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib***, located on the Pakistani side of the International Border, was agreed to by Pakistan

■ Bangladesh

India-Bangladesh relations expanded in depth and complexity in the year under review**.**With several initiatives underway to boost transport and energy connectivity, the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh agreed that this is a **'golden chapter'** in bilateral relations.

Recent development

- Opening of a Bangladesh Bhavan at Shantiniketan and to receive an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Kazi Nazrul Islam University
- India has offered three lines of credit to Bangladesh totaling US$ 8 billion. (Bangladesh is also a major recipient of grant aid).
- In solidarity with Bangladesh's efforts to provide succor to those displaced from North Rakhine State in **Myanmar**, India launched ***Operation Insaniyat*** and supplied three tranches of humanitarian aid

■ Myanmar

The positive trajectory of bilateral ties between India and Myanmar was maintained.

Recent development

- **Signing five MoUs** including the Land Boundary Crossing Agreement whereby **designated boundary points were opened up to the normal movement of visa-holding travellers**, including from third countries.

- Completion of **construction of two elements out of three** (**port plus inland waterway**) of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project.
- India is **assisting Myanmar** to create an environment **conducive to the return of displaced persons through the Rakhine State Development Programme.**

Nepal

India-Nepal relations derive strength and salience from age-old cultural and religious ties, close people-to-people contacts, multi-faceted economic and development partnership, reinforced by open borders. The continued high-level visits provided an opportunity to comprehensively review bilateral partnership as well as to launch new initiatives in the areas of ***agriculture, inland waterways and railways.***

Recent development

- The **Arun III hydro-electric project** and the **Nepal India Ramayana Circuit** were launched during visit of Indian Prime Minister.
- India is the largest trade partner of Nepal and one of the largest investors.

China

The closer developmental partnership between India and China reached anew milestone in 2018 with the first Informal Summit between Indian Prime Minister and Sino President held in 2018.The Informal Summit, which reflected the desire on both sides to raise the level of their bilateral relations, set the stage for enhanced high-level engagements throughout the year. India joining the SCO as a full member and China taking over the chairmanship of SCO in 2018 provided further opportunities for greater interaction between the two sides at senior levels.

Sri Lanka

India-Sri Lanka relations flourished over the year. The momentum from the landmark visit of Prime Minister to Sri Lanka was retained with implementation of people-centric development projects and expanding economic engagement. Overall, the ties matured in areas like security and defence cooperation, disaster management, education, culture, trade and commerce, tourism, space and connectivity to a level which can be termed as multi-faceted.

Maldives

The new government in Maldives has reiterated its India-first policy. Defence Cooperation continued to be an important aspect of our relationship.

Recent development

- India undertook a Short Refit of Maldivian Coast Guard Ship Huravee in 2018 at Vishakapatnam.
- The 14th edition of the Trilateral **Joint Naval Exercise, "Dosti-14"** between **India, Sri Lanka and Maldives was held in Maldives.**
- The 3rd Joint Staff talks were held in Male

Mauritius

India and Mauritius relations experienced an intensive engagement, in keeping with the traditional close political, economic, cultural and diaspora linkages.

Recent development

- Delegation to the **11th World Hindi Conference led by External Affairs Minister** was held in Mauritius in 2018.
- Several rounds of negotiations towards **conclusion of CECPA** (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement) were held that resulted in signing of the Joint Study Report in 2018.
- Implementation of several **grants-in-aid projects** namely metro express, ENT hospital, new supreme court building, social housing and digital tablets for school children under the special economic package of US$ 353 million, civil service college; and 18 other priority projects under line of credit of US$ 500 million.

■ Seychelles

India-Seychelles relations entered into a new phase of close bilateral partnership.

Recent development

- 6 important agreements pertaining to various sectors of cooperation during Presidential visit in 2018.
- Gifting of US$ 30 million worth Dornier aircraft to Seychelles for enhancing EEZ Surveillance.

⊙ Indian Ocean Rim Association

India considers IORA an important instrument for promoting cooperation and ensuring stability in the region.

■ About IORA

- It is a dynamic inter-governmental organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean **region through its 22 Member States** and 10 Dialogue Partners.
- The Ministry of **Home Affairs** in collaboration with the **Ministry of External Affairs** and National Disaster Management Authority (**NDMA**) organized a meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) **Cluster Group on Disaster Risk Management (DRM**) in New Delhi last year.

Significance of IORA

- Its existence is a reminder of the untapped potential of Indian Ocean regionalism.
- It is an attempt to bring together the Indian Ocean states faltered amidst deep divisions within the littoral and due to the negative impact of the Cold War.
- IORA underlines the region's agency in shaping its own future.
- India has been supportive of further invigoration of IORA activities across a wide spectrum, ranging from renewable energy and the Blue Economy to maritime safety and security.

India, Australia, Iran, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Singapore, Mauritius, Madagascar, UAE, Yemen, Seychelles, Somalia, Comoros and Oman are among the members of IORA.

South East Asia and Asia Pacific

- Under India's Act East Policy (AEP), India has been engaging robustly with countries in Southeast Asia region, Oceania, Northeast Asia and East Asia. ASEAN is at the core of AEP. The upgrade from Look East to Act East not only highlights the importance of the region through a more proactive and pragmatic approach but also addresses key strategic, economic and cultural opportunities and recognizes the role of the diaspora.
- India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region includes
  - Training, ship visits, joint coordinated patrols, defence sales and defence supplies;
  - Close security cooperation especially in counter terrorism and other transnational crimes; comprehensive economic engagement;
  - Regular dialogues on education and skill development;
  - Capacity building through scholarships and ITEC programmes;
  - Cultural cooperation including promotion of Indian culture through Indian cultural centres and growing ties with the diaspora.
  - Engagement with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam and Pacific Island countries through its various development assistance programmes.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

After successfully hosting the India-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Commemorative Summit in January 2018, India continued with its calibrated efforts to pursue a dynamic and multi-dimensional relationship with ASEAN. In accordance with its 'Act East Policy', India has boosted ties with the ASEAN Member States across political, security, economic and cultural spheres.

Areas of Cooperation

- Nontraditional security issues like terrorism, cyber-security, and environmental threats.
- Cooperation in the maritime domain has gained increasing prominence in India's dialogue with ASEAN and other regional forums.
- India has made concerted efforts to boost connectivity in physical, digital and cultural spheres with ASEAN countries.

EAST ASIA

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Since its inception in 1973, the bilateral and diplomatic relations between India and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPPK) have been cordial and mutually beneficent. The momentum continued in 2018 as well.

Japan

Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership continued making strides in2018.

Republic of Korea

India-Republic of Korea (ROK) bilateral relationship, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership and gathered further momentum.

Mongolia

India's traditionally friendly and cordial relations with Mongolia have steadily improved over the years, following Prime Minister's historic visit to Mongolia in May 2015 when bilateral relations were upgraded to Strategic Partnership. A number of high-level exchanges took place in 2018 between the two countries.

EURASIA

Russia

The 'Special and Privileged' Strategic relationship with Russia, which constitutes an important dimension of India's foreign policy, attained a new high with the first landmark Informal Summit between Russian President and Indian Prime Minister in 2018.Both sides continued with various projects of cooperation in the strategic sectors of defense, civil nuclear energy and space.

Central Asia

India's outreach with its extended neighborhood of Central Asia saw further progress with the visit of **President of Uzbekistan** to India and that of Indian President to Tajikistan in 2018**.**

Ukraine and Belarus

India continued to have cordial relations with Ukraine. Both countries held a Joint Working Group meeting on Defence cooperation in 2018. India and Belarus relations witnessed a qualitative forward movement with the visit of a Parliamentary delegation to Minsk in 2018. India and Belarus also held meetings of the Inter-governmental Commission and Foreign Office Consultations in Minsk and New Delhi.

South Caucasus

India's relations with **Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia** continued in an upward trajectory. India and Azerbaijan continued to have productive exchanges with the visit of a delegation led by Minister of **Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan** for the **Inter-governmental Commission meeting held in New Delhi in 2018.**

The Gulf and West Asia

Gulf

India has a close and strong relationship with the Gulf region which has remained a region of prime importance for India's extended neighbourhood. The region is **one of our largest trading partners** with **a trade of US$ 123 billion in 2017-18**, energy supplies with over 50 per cent of crude oil and 70 per cent of LNG requirements. A **huge diaspora of over 9 million** contributes to the goodwill between the countries besides contributing to annual remittances of over US$ 38 billion (in 2017).

Iran

The year witnessed strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Iran.

Areas of Interest

- Bilateral cooperation in the areas of economic, energy, connectivity, people-to-people contacts.
- The Trilateral Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran for establishment of **International Trade and Transit Corridor through Chabahar** came into effect in 2018.

West Asia and North Africa (WANA)

It continues to remain important from energy security, food security and for global peace and security. Relations with all the countries of the WANA region were taken forward in a calibrated manner, through the regular holding of institutional dialogue mechanisms and high-level exchange of visits.

India's Interest in the region

- This region is a primary source of rock phosphates and its derivatives, and potash—the key raw materials for the production of various fertilizers.
- More than 80 per cent requirements of rock phosphates are sourced from the countries in this region. This region is also rich in minerals.

Initiatives taken by India

- India forged greater defense and security cooperation with most of the countries in the region through formal and informal mechanisms that include ***intelligence sharing; counter-terrorism; cyberspace, etc.***
- India has enhanced its cooperation with Djibouti, Somalia and other countries in the region to secure their interest in the areas of anti-piracy and maritime security.
- Several business delegations are also exchanged to promote our economic and trade interests in the region

AFRICA

East & South Africa

During 2018-19, India-Africa relations continued to enjoy an unprecedented renaissance enhancing political engagement with African countries. Several first visit to few African nation was made. They are as:

- **First ever visits by an Indian President** to **Swaziland (Eswatini)** and Equatorial **Guinea in 2018** and the **first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda.**
- President also visited Zambia (2018) and **Prime Minister visited Uganda after a gap of 21** years and South Africa**.**

Initiatives taken by India

- Decision to **open 18 new embassies/high commissions** there in the next 4 years which will take the number of Indian Missions there to 47**.**
- Indian Missions **in Rwanda and Djibouti** have already been opened this year.
- Commemoration of the **120th year of the incident involving Mahatma Gandhi** at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station in South Africa and West Africa Regional CII-EXIM Bank Conclave in Nigeria in 2018.
- Launch of **India for Humanity Programme** in Malawi.
- **Participation of dignitaries from Africa in the first Assembly of International Solar Alliance** and Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention held in India.
- The new capacity **building institutions launched included Gandhi-Mandela Skills centre in South Africa** and **upgrade of Indo-Zim Technology centre in Zimbabwe.**

■ West Africa

India's relations with countries in the West Africa (WA) region continued to expand and diversify during the year. The region **(covering 25 countries of west, northwest, central and south-west Africa**) is home to Africa's **largest population and fastest growing economies** with largest proven reserves of energy resources and minerals.

What does India imports from the region?

- India sources about 18 per cent of its crude oil requirements from this region **(Nigeria alone accounts for 11-12 per cent**).
- Gold from Ghana.
- India also sources a significant amount of raw cashew nuts from countries in the region including **Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Senegal**

Recent development in the region to fight terrorism

- Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel **(G5 Sahel) or FC-G5S** established by Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger**.**
- India has been contributing troops including military observers and police personnel for **MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the Domestic Republic of Congo).**

⊙ Europe and European Union

■ Central Europe

- India continued with its policy of engaging with the countries of Central Europe to consolidate bilateral relations. The growing bilateral trade, business exchanges, educational exchanges and cultural events added to our growing ties with the region.
- PM participated in the first ever India- Nordic summit at Stockholm and interacted with the leaders of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.
- The focus during the year was on disseminating information about progress on the parameters of Ease of Doing Business, creating a unified market through the Goods and Services Tax, liberalization of investment and licensing policies, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, productive disinvestment measures, launch of digital employment exchanges and government initiatives namely Make in India, start-up/stand-up India, housing for all, urban renewal and rejuvenation, infrastructure including digital infrastructure and industrial corridors, Swachh Bharat and Skill India.

■ Western Europe

- India continued its multifaceted engagement with the countries of Western Europe including Belgium, France, Germany, UK, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, etc
- India and France marked twenty years of their Strategic Partnership which was established in 1998. The relationship is marked by a close and growing bilateral relationship and convergence of views on a range of international issues.
- The areas of defence and security cooperation, space cooperation and civil nuclear cooperation constitute the principal pillars of the Strategic Partnership. India and France are increasingly engaged in new areas of cooperation like security in the Indian Ocean region, climate change including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and sustainable growth and development among others. High-level visits between India and Germany helped maintain the momentum in bilateral relations in 2018.

- India and Italy commemorated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations with year-long celebrations in both the countries.
- The multi-faceted strategic partnership between India and the United Kingdom received fresh impetus with the visit of Prime Minister to London, which was the third at Prime Minister-level within a span of three years.

■ European Union

- A multi-tiered institutional architecture of cooperation exists between India and the EU with summit level meetings since 2000. The relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' in 2004. Today, India and the EU have over 30 dialogue mechanisms covering a large gamut of issues of mutual interest.
- 2018 has been, by all standards, a very eventful year in the India-EU strategic partnership. The European Union came out with a new Strategy Paper for India covering wide canvas with concrete action points to be worked upon over the next 10- 15 years.

⊙ The Americas

■ North America

2018-19 witnessed significant forward movement in India's bilateral relations with the U.S. and steady progress in relations with Canada.

Recent developments

- The **first-ever Trilateral Summit involving leaders of India, the U.S. and Japan took place in Buenos Aires**.
- The inaugural meeting of the **India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue** for rich discussion and outcomes on foreign policy, defense and security fields.
- India's elevation as a **Strategic Trade Authorization Tier-I partner** country for the purpose of U.S. trade in dual-use items.
- **India- Canada Strategic Dialogue of the two Foreign Ministers**, provided impetus to functional cooperation on a number of areas, including **for countering terrorism and violent extremism.**

⊙ Latin America

India attaches importance to its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean region**.** Regular exchange of messages between the leadership of India and of LAC countries helped maintain close contacts.

⊙ Importance of Diaspora in the region

The presence of **more than one million Indian diaspora** which is culturally and emotionally attached to India adds a special dimension to the relationship.

⊙ United Nations and International Organisations

In 2018, India continued its active engagements with international organizations including **United Nations (UN), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Commonwealth. PM led the Indian delegation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in London**. External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation at the **18th NAM Mid-term Ministerial conference held in Baku**.

India and Peacekeeping

India continued to push for greater priority to be given within the UN system for the global counter-terrorism effort. It continues to give importance to international counter-terrorism cooperation by reaching agreement on the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT),** and ensure greater transparency and effectiveness of existing UN counter terrorism structures.

Journey so Far

- India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided more than 200,000 troops and police personnel since 1950s.
- As on 31 October 2018, **India is the fourth largest Troop Contributing Country (**TCC) with 6,608 personnel deployed in 9 peacekeeping missions.
- India was **elected to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC**) for the term 2019-2021.
- India **was re-elected to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations (CNGO**) for the term 2019-2022.
- India was also **elected to five UN Bodies**:
  - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for the term 2019- 21;
  - Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS for the term 2019-2021;
  - UN-Women (Executive Board of UN-WOMEN) for the term 2019-2021;
  - CPD (Commission on Population and Development) from 2018 to 2021;
  - CSoCD (Commission for Social Development) from 2018 to 2021.

Global Cyber Issues

- In keeping with its profile, the MEA upscaled its Global Cyber Issues cell to create the new Cyber Diplomacy (CD) Division which has been entrusted with the responsibility of projection and safeguarding of Indian interests on the subject in international fora.

Consular, Passport and Visa Services

- The Ministry has made many quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services**.** Indian Passports [together with other travel documents such as Identity Certificates (IC), Emergency Certificates (EC) for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates (PCC) and Line of Control Travel Permits in Jammu & Kashmir] are issued by the Ministry through the Central Passport Organisation and its all India network of 36 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official Passports) and the Andaman &Nicobar Islands administration.
- India today is placed **third behind China and the United States in terms of global passport issuance**.

New Developments

- The Ministry, in association with the Department of Posts, has taken an **innovative initiative to open Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices** in the country to be known as **'Post Office Passport Seva Kendra'** (POPSK).
- **The mPassport Seva Mobile App** with additional facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services was launched in 2018.
- From June, 2018, an applicant can apply for passport from anywhere in India.
- The **Police Verification (PV)** is to be conducted by the Police Station in whose jurisdiction the address mentioned in the form falls and the passport will also be dispatched at the same address

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4 Industry

Industrial Policy of the Government seeks to maintain a sustained growth in productivity; to enhance gainful employment; to achieve optimal utilization of human resources; to attain international competitiveness; and to transform India into a major partner and player in the global arena. Specific steps were taken to boost it further.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and InternalTrade (DPIIT) was **established in 1995 and was reconstituted in 2000** with the merger of the Department of Industrial Development.
- The Department also **handles matters related to Protection of Intellectual Property Rights** (IPR) and administers six Acts related to IPRs. It also **handles matters related to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Investment by NRIs**, and undertakes promotion of investment for industrial development of the country.
- The **role and functions of the Department**, primarily include:
  - **Formulation and implementation of industrial policy and strategies** for industrial development in conformity with the development needs and national objectives;
  - **Monitoring the industrial growth**, in general, and performance of industries specifically assigned to it, in particular, including advice on all industrial and technical matters;
  - **Formulation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy** and promotion, approval and facilitation of FDI;
  - **Formulation of policies relating to Intellectual Property Rights** in patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of goods and administration of regulations, rules made there under.

National Manufacturing Policy

- In order to bring about a **quantitative and qualitative change** and to provide necessary impetus to the manufacturing sector, the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) **was notified in 2011** with the objective of **enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade or so**.
- The policy envisages that central government will create the enabling policy framework, provide incentives for infrastructure development on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis through appropriate financing instruments.
- **National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs)** are an important instrumentality of the Policy. These zones have been conceived as large integrated industrial townships with state-of-the-art infrastructure; land use on the basis of zoning; clean and energy efficient technology; necessary social infrastructure; skill development facilities, etc., to provide a conducive environment for manufacturing industries.

- **Important instruments/features of the policy are**:
  - National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs).
  - Rationalization and simplification of business regulations.
  - Simple and expeditious exit mechanism for manufacturing units.
  - Incentives for SMEs.
  - Industrial training and skill up gradation measures.
  - Financial and institutional mechanisms for technology development, including green technologies.
  - Government procurement; and special focus sectors.

Index of Industrial Production

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a measure of industrial performance which is compiled and released every month by Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- CSO revised the base year of IIP in May, 2017 from 2004-05 to 2011-12.
- The latest series with base year 2011-12 is more representative of the current structure of the industrial sector.
- It comprises 3 sectors - mining, manufacturing and electricity.

Manufacturing Clusters

- The objective of the National Plan for Manufacturing Clusters is to bring about **convergence in the multiple models of development of industrial clusters** by the central and state governments so as to affect better **cost efficiency and optimal utilization of resources**.
- DIPP has developed **Industrial Information System, a web-portal** to capture information of all industrial clusters/zones/nodes/parks in existence and those which are in pipeline. The system has been developed in **Open Source Software on the GIS layers developed by BISAG**.

Foreign Direct Investment Policy

- **DPIIT is the nodal department for formulation of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment** (FDI). It is also responsible for maintenance and management of data on inward FDI into India based on the remittances reported by the Reserve Bank of India.
- After **abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB),** process for granting FDI approvals has been simplified.
- The work relating to processing of applications for FDI and approval of the government thereon is **now handled by the concerned ministries/departments**. However, DIPP is a single point interface of the government to facilitate investors for FDI through approval route.
- DIPP is the nodal department for approvals in case **of single brand retail trading, multi brand retail trading, food product retail trading, non- resident Indian/export oriented units** investments.
- In recent past, the government has brought FDI policy reforms in a number of sectors.
  - FDI in animal husbandry (including breeding of dogs), pisciculture, aquaculture and apiculture was **allowed 100% under automatic route** under controlled conditions.
  - The government has issued guidelines for FDI on E-commerce sector. **100% FDI under automatic route is now permitted** in marketplace model of e-commerce.
  - Investments by Non Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) on non-repatriation basis is **now deemed to be domestic investment at par with investment made by residents**.
  - FDI inflows to India have been quite significant since 2000-01. Its equity inflows have risen from US$ 2.46 billion in 2000-01 to US$ 43.48 billion in 2016-17.

Investment Promotion

- The Department plays an active role in **investment promotion and facilitation through dissemination of information on investment climate and opportunities** within the country and by advising prospective investors about investment policies and procedures and opportunities.

Make in India

- The **initiative was launched in September, 2014** as a national effort towards making India an important investment destination and a global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.
- The programme is based on four pillars namely, **new processes, new infrastructure, new sectors and new mindset.**
- Under the Make in India initiative a '**Seven Year Strategy'** was adopted which involves redefining the sectors, adding new sectors like medical devices while removing sectors that lose relevance in an evolving economy, to maximize job creation potential with evolution of the economy.
- Make in India initiative is no**w focused on 27 sectors - 15 manufacturing sectors and 12 champion service sectors.**
- The sectoral plans for manufacturing sectors are coordinated in DPIIT while the sectoral plans for services are coordinated by the Department of Commerce in convergence with the Champion Services Sector initiative.

Public Procurement

- Under **The Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017** (PPP-MII Order) a Standing Committee, DPIIT has been constituted to review the implementation of order.
- A **Public Procurement Cell has been created** in the Department to monitor the grievances received for violation of PPPMII Order.

Ease of Doing Business

- In order to improve the business environment in the country, the DPIIT has taken up a series of measures to simplify and rationalize the regulatory processes (registration and inspection processes) and introduction of information technology as enabler to make governance more efficient and effective.
- **India ranks 77th in the World Bank's annual Doing Business Report (DBR) 2019** as against 100th rank in the DBR 2018.
- DPIIT has been closely working with the state governments and UT administrations to help them identify the constraints in doing business and improving the overall business environment. **DPIIT launched an online portal to track implementation of reforms on a real-time basis**.
- The **assessment of Business Reforms Action Plan, 2017-2018 was released jointly by DPIIT and the World Bank** in 2018. An 80-point Business Reforms Action Plan 2019 has been prepared and shared with states and UTs.

Start up India

- Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to catalyse startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- **Launched in 2016**, the startup India has rolled out several programmes with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, building up a robust start up ecosystem and transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers.
- Under the Startup India Scheme, **eligible companies can get recognized as startups by DPIIT** in order to access a host of tax benefits, easier compliance, IPR fast tracking and other benefits.

Invest India

- Invest India has been set up as a **joint venture (not for profit) company** between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), CII, NASSCOM and various state governments.
- Invest India is the **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India** and acts as the first point of reference for investors.

Project Monitoring – Invest India Cell

- Project Monitoring Group (PMG), was set up in Cabinet Secretariat in 2013 and has recently been merged with DPIIT from 2019, with Invest India providing support. The PMG is now known as Project Monitoring- Invest India Cell (PMIC).
- It is an **institutional mechanism for resolving of issues** and fast tracking the setting up and expeditious commissioning of large public, private and Public- Private Partnership (PPP) Projects.
- Any investor having issues delaying or likely to delay the execution of a project of estimated value of ₹1,000 crore and above **(now this threshold has been reduced to ₹ 500 crore)** can raise them on the portal before PMIC, which takes them up with the concerned authorities in the central or state governments.

Startup India Hub

- Startup India Hub was operationalized in 2016 to **resolve queries and handhold Startups**.
- A **digital extension to Startup India Hub,** an intelligent online hub was operationalized in 2017 which will serve as a platform where all the stakeholders of the Startup ecosystem can collaborate and synergise their efforts.
- It will facilitate **location-wise and sectoral mapping**.

Intellectual Property Rights

- **DPIIT is nodal department for administration of various laws related to Intellectual Property Rights:** patents, trade marks, industrial designs, geographical indications of goods, copyrights, and semiconductor integrated circuit layout designs.
- **DPIIT is also the nodal Department for vetting of MoUs for the Cabinet, etc**., entered into by various ministries/departments of Government of India from IPR angle, as also international negotiations on IPRs.
- **DPIIT also is the nodal department for dealing with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).**
- The office of the **Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM), a subordinate office under DPIIT**, carries out statutory functions related to grant of patents and registration of trademarks, Designs and Geographical Indications.
- The registration of Copyrights is administered by the **Registrar of Copyright Office**, working under the CGPDTM.
- The **Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB), established in 2003**, is the appellate tribunal to hear appeals against decisions of the Controller of Patents as also Registrar of Trade Marks and Geographical Indications. Under the Finance Act, 2017, the **Copyright Board has also been merged in the IPAB**. It is headquartered at Chennai.

Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM):

- CIPAM is created to address the 7 identified objectives of the policy. It is a professional body under the aegis of DIPP to ensure focused action on issues related to IPRs.
- Assist in simplifying and streamlining of IP processes, apart from undertaking steps for furthering IPR awareness, commercialization and enforcement

National IPR Policy

- The National IPR Policy, lays the future roadmap for intellectual property in India.
- It is a vision document that aims to **create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP),** concerned statutes and agencies. It sets in place an institutional mechanism for implementation, monitoring and review.
- It reiterates India's commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS agreement.
- The Policy lays down the following objectives:
  - **IPR Awareness:** outreach and promotion - to create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society.;
  - **generation of IPRs** – to stimulate the generation of IPRs.;
  - **legal and legislative framework** - to have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest.;
  - **administration and management** - to modernize and strengthen service oriented IPR administration.;
  - **commercialization of IPRs** - get value for IPRs through commercialization.
  - **enforcement and adjudication -** to strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements;
  - **human capital development** - to strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.

Productivity and Quality

- **DPIIT is the nodal department** for the promotion of productivity and quality in the industrial sector. The **National Productivity Council (NPC)** represents India in the **Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), of which India is a founder member**.
- The Quality Council of India, another autonomous body under this Department, promotes adoption of quality standards relating to Quality Management Systems, Environment Management Systems, Food Safety Management Systems, Product certification and inspection bodies through the accreditation services provided by National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB).

Industrial / Economic Corridors

- Development of industrial/economic corridors is a very important policy initiative for boosting industrial development, income and employment.
- **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor:** The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project was launched in pursuance of anMoU signed between the Government of India and the Government of Japan in 2006. The DMIC is being developed on either side, along the alignment of the 1504 km long Western Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor between Dadri (UP) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai.
- **Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor:** The Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) proposes to address the infrastructure bottlenecks through a holistic approach while benefiting from the inherent strengths and competitiveness of each of the CBIC states.

National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust

- In view of the success and importance of DMIC project, four more industrial corridors were assurance namely Amritsar - Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) Bengaluru - Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC), Chennai – Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and East Coast Economic corridor with Vizag - Chennai industrial corridor (VCIC) as the initial phase of development.
- It has been expanded and re-designated as **National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)**.

- **Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor:** The Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC) is intended to facilitate development of a well-planned and resource-efficient industrial base served by world-class sustainable connectivity infrastructure, bringing significant benefits in terms of innovation, manufacturing, job creation and resource security to the two states.
- **Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor:** In order to give a boost to industrial development in the densely populated states of northern and eastern India, the government is to commence work on creating an Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC). This will be structured around the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) as the backbone and also the highway system that exists in this route.
- **Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor:** The Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) is a key part of the east Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), India's first coastal corridor. VCIC is aligned with the Golden Quadrilateral and is poised to play a critical role in driving India's Act East Policy.

National Design Policy

- Announced in 2007, this Policy envisages a key role for design in enhancing competitiveness of Indian industry.
- Focus is on spread of **design education, branding of Indian designs** and establishment of a **Design Council.**
- **A Design Clinic Scheme project** is being implemented by NID across the country which is intended to improve the manufacturing competency of the MSMEs through design intervention to their products and services and to provide them design edge in the global market and hence supports the Make in India programme.

Industrial Performance

- Government has taken numerous steps to boost industrial development, capital formation and employment generation in the country.

Performance of Eight Core Industries

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) monitors production of eight core industries i.e., coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity every month. In line with the base year change in IIP, the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, revised the base year of Index of Eight Core Industries to 2011-12. These eight industries have combined weight of around 40.27 per cent in Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Leather Industry

- The export of leather and leather products from the country has undergone a **structural change in the last two decades**.
- Share of leather footwear, leather garments, leather goods, and several articles of leather in the total exports has **increased substantially** as a result of government's policy to encourage export of value added leather products.

Indian Leather Development Programme

- Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) aims at **augmenting raw material base through modernization and technology upgradation of leather units**, addressing environmental concerns, human resource development, supporting traditional leather artisans, addressing infrastructure constraints and establishing institutional facilities.

Performance of Selected Industries

The figures of production are based on estimates made from production returns furnished by industrial units and therefore may not always be true reflection of the entire production of the industry concerned. Trade figures are based on estimates of Department of Commerce.

- **Cement Industry:** Cement is one of the most technologically advanced industries in the country. The industry plays a crucial role in the development of housing and infrastructure sector of the economy. India is the second largest manufacturer of cement after China in the world. Cement industry comprises of about 210 large cement plants operating under 64 Companies with an installed capacity of 410 million tonnes.
- **Ceramic Industry:** The Ceramic industry in India is about 50 years old. It comprises ceramic tiles, sanitary-ware and crockery.
- **Tyre& Tubes Industry:** Tyres play an integral role to ensure mobility including movement of passengers and essential goods across the urban and rural landscape of the country using all types of vehicles ranging from carts, tractors, trucks and buses to the latest generation passenger cars that ply on the modern expressways.
- **Rubber Goods Industry:** The rubber goods industry excluding tyre and tubes consists of 4,550 small and tiny units generating about 5.50 lakhs direct jobs.

Wholesale Price Index

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the average change in the prices of commodities for **bulk sale at the level of early stage of transactions**.
- The index basket of the WPI covers commodities falling under the three major group's namely primary articles, **fuel and Power and Manufactured products**.
- WPI basket **does not cover services**.
- In the new WPI series significant improvement in concept, coverage and methodology has been made. In the revised WPI basket, the number of items has been increased from 676 to 697.
- The item level indices are being compiled based on statistically robust **geometric mean as compared to arithmetic mean used in the WPI 2004-05 series**.

- **Paper Industry:** India continued to rule as one of the fastest growing paper market in the world. The Indian paper industry is in a fragmented structure, consisting of small, medium and large paper mills having capacity ranging from 5 to 1,500 tonnes per day. These units use wood and agro residues as well as recovered paper as raw material.

Central Public Sector Enterprises

- The **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**, comprising the Department of Heavy Industry and the Department of Public Enterprises, functions under the charge of Cabinet Minister (Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act was notified in 2006 to address policy issues affecting MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment ceiling of the sector.
- The Act provides the **first-ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of "enterprise"** which comprises both manufacturing and service entities.
- It defines medium enterprises for the first time and seeks to integrate the three tiers of these enterprises, namely, micro, small and medium.
- In 2007, subsequent to an amendment of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, erstwhile **Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries were merged to form the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established under the Act of Parliament, and as amended in 1987 and 2006 is a **statutory organization under the Ministry of MSME** and engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) for providing employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby strengthening the rural economy.
- KVIC has been identified as one of the major organizations in the decentralized sector for generating **sustainable non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas** at a low per capita investment.
- KVIC undertakes activities like skill improvement; transfer of technology; research and development; marketing etc. and helps in generating employment/self employment opportunities in rural areas.

Coir Board

- The Coir Board is a **statutory body established under the Coir Industry Act, 1953** for promoting overall development of the coir industry and improvement of the living conditions of the workers engaged in this traditional industry.

Textiles

- The Indian textiles industry is **one of the largest in the world** with a large raw material base and manufacturing strength across the value chain.
- Indian textiles are known for its rich and diverse range of manufacturing with the hand-woven sector on one end and capital intensive mill sector on the other.
- India is the **largest producer of cotton and jute and second largest producer of silk** and man-made fibre.
- India has a distinctive advantage of strength across the entire textiles value chain from fibre to spinning, weaving, knitting and apparel manufacturing.
- It is also blessed with the young, talented and highly skilled work force. All this has given textiles industry a unique positioning in the Indian economy.
- The textile industry contributes to **7 per cent of industry output in value terms of 2 per cent of India's GDP and to 15 per cent of the country's export earnings**.

India Handloom Brand

- Indian handlooms have worldwide recognition through India Handloom Brand (IHB) which guarantees high quality, authentic handloom items made with organic substance. It has partnered with 100 retail stores to sell the exclusive IHB items from their stores.

Silk

- In India, about 97 per cent of the raw mulberry silk is produced in **the five states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Three other commercially important types of silk fall into the category of **non-mulberry silks** namely: **eri; tasar; and muga**.

Cotton

- Cotton is **one of the most important cash crops in India** and the country accounts for around 25 per cent of the total global fibre production.
- India has the **largest area under cotton in the world** with around 105 lakh hectares under cotton cultivation which is around 35 per cent of the world area.

- To support the cotton industry, Government of India announces **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic staples groups viz., medium staple and long staple cotton**.
- **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Textile Ministry,** is the principal agency of Government of India for undertaking MSP operations in the event of prevailing seed cotton (kapas) price touching the MSP level.

- A **software platform "Jute-SMART"** (Jute Sacking Supply Management & Requisition Tool) was implemented for procurement of jute sacking from 2016.
- **Jute - ICARE** has been launched for increasing the income of jute farmers by at least 50 per cent through promotion of certified seeds, better agronomic practices and use of microbial retting of the jute plant.

Jute

- India is the largest producer of jute in the world with an average production of about 80 lakh bales of raw jute annually.
- The Government of India provides support to the jute growers not only through MSP operation by the Jute Corporation of India but also through direct purchase of jute sacking under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

Wool

- For the holistic growth of the wool sector, the Ministry formulated a new integrated formulated a new integrated programme i.e. **Integrated Wool Development Programme, (IWDP).**
- The programme is to be implemented through **Central Wool Development Board** in major wool producting states in next three years.
- A programme for development of **Pashmina sector in J&K** was announced.

Technical Textiles

- Technical textiles are the future of the textiles industry. **High tenacity fibers are the lightest and toughest fabrics yet.**
- They have a variety of applications in automobile, aerospace, architecture and building, occupational therapy, sport and apparel industries etc. **Eleven Focus Incubation Centres (FICs) have been established on plug and play model**.
- Textiles Research Associations (TRA) has developed **carbon fibre based space communication system**. Low cost modular toilets using jute fibres have been developed.

New Initiatives

- **Weavers' Mudra Scheme:** Weavers' Mudra Scheme was launched to provide concessional credit to the handloom weavers. Margin Money Assistance to a maximum of ₹ 10,000 per weaver and credit guarantee for a period of 3 years is also provided.
- **e-Dhaga App:** Govt of India launched Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) and e-Dhaga mobile App in 2016 to bring efficiency in service delivery to the handloom weavers and help them to access information on 24x7 basis. The App is available in 10 languages-Hindi, English, Assamese, Odiya, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Urdu and Bangla.
- **Bunkar Mitra Help Line:** To provide a single point of contact to handloom weavers for their professional queries.
- **Educational facilities to the children of handloom weavers:** Memorandums of Understanding was signed with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to provide customized educational service to the weavers for which Ministry provides 75% of the fee in case of SC, ST, BPL and Women weaver families.

- **Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs:** Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs for handloom weavers and handicraft artisans are organized across the country.

Out of a total global crude steel production of 1,241 MT (during January-August 2019, up by 4.4 per cent), **India was the 2nd largest crude steel producer (75.69 MT) with a 6.1 per cent share in total world production** and a 4.4 per cent growth in production over the same period of 2018. **China produced 664.87 mt of crude steel during this period and remained the largest crude steel producer in the world**, accounting for 75 per cent of Asian production and 54 per cent of world crude steel production.

National Steel Policy

- The National Steel Policy (NSP) was **launched in 2017** to ensure that the Indian steel sector is prepared to service the growing requirements of modern India and to promote a healthy sustainable growth for the sector.
- Key features of the NSP 2017 include establishing **self-sufficiency in steel production by providing policy support and guidance** to private manufacturers, MSME steel producers and CPSEs.
- The policy also **envisages 100 per cent indigenous fulfilment of demand** for high grade automotive steel, electrical steel, special steels and alloys for strategic applications.

Key Initiatives

- **Purvodaya:** The eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Northern Andhra Pradesh) are home to 80 per cent of the Indian iron reserves. Therefore, for the envisaged expansion of Indian steel sector, the Eastern hub will serve as the engine driving the growth of the steel sector. Therefore, a flagship initiative - Purvodaya was envisaged for an integrated steel hub in the Eastern states.
- **Ispati Irada to encourage steel usage:** This is a collaborative branding campaign with the objective of promoting the benefits of steel usage in various facets of nation building and how it impacts the lives of citizens in the country.

Fertilizers

- Department of Fertilizers comes under the ambit of **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
- The main objective of the Department is to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilizers at affordable prices for maximizing agricultural production in the country.
- The Department has one attached office under it, viz., **Fertilizers Industry Coordination Committee (FICC)**. It also administers 9 Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Various Initiatives

The Department of Fertilizers has taken various initiatives to augment growth of the sector. These initiatives aim at working in the direction of promoting the indigenous production of fertilizers, and making them available to the farmers in time.

- **New Urea Policy:** The New Urea Policy-2015 was notified with the objectives of maximizing indigenous urea production; promoting energy efficiency in urea production; and rationalizing subsidy burden on the government. The higher energy efficiency due to these measures will reduce subsidy bill.
- **Neem Coating of Urea:** Neem coating of urea (NCU) has been made mandatory for all the indigenous producers. Since NCU cannot be used for industrial purposes, illegal diversion of subsidized urea to non-agricultural use would not be possible.
- **New Investment Policy:** New Investment Policy was launched in 2013 to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector and to make India self sufficient in it. Further an amendment was brought in to give benefits to only those units whose production starts within five years from the amendment. Subsidy will be given only upon domestic sale as at present for a period of 8 years from the date of start of production. Thereafter, the units will be governed by the urea policy prevalent at that time.

Organisations/Undertakings

Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited

- Incorporated in 1961, **FCI was re-organized along with National Fertilizers Corporation Ltd** (NFCL) from 1978 into five companies.
- **FCI comprised four units** located at Sindri (Jharkhand), Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh) and Talcher (Odisha).

Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited

- The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) was **incorporated in 1978** as a result of the reorganization of the **erstwhile Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited** (FCIL), and NFL Group of Companies.
- The HFCL comprised Barauni Unit (Bihar), Durgapur Unit and Haldia Project (West Bengal) and Namrup Unit (Assam).

National Fertilizers Limited

- National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) was **incorporated in 1974** for setting up two nitrogenous plants, at Bathinda (Punjab) and Panipat (Haryana).

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited

- Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited (RCF) was incorporated as a **separate company in 1978** as a result of reorganization of the erstwhile Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited.

Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited

- Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACL) was incorporated in 1943. In 1947, FACL started production of ammonium sulphate with an installed capacity of 50,000 MT per annum at Udyogamandal, near Cochin (now Kochi). **In1980, FACL became a PSU**.

Madras Fertilizers Limited

- Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) was incorporated in 1906 as a **joint venture between GOI and AMOCO India Incorporation of USA** (AMOCO).

Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited

- Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) has two operating units at Namrup, Assam.

FCI-Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited

- FCI-Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 as **a public sector undertaking in 2003** after being hived off the Jodhpur Mining Organization (JMO) of Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited (FCIL).

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals was under the Ministry of Industry until 1989, when it was brought under the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. In 1991, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals was **transferred to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
- The Department is entrusted with the responsibility of **planning, development and regulations of the chemicals, petrochemicals and pharmaceutical industry sector**, inducting: drugs and pharmaceuticals, excluding those specifically allotted to other departments.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industry

- The chemical and petrochemical industry is a knowledge and capital intensive industry.
- In the chemical sector, **100 per cent FDI is permissible**. Manufacture of most of the chemical and petrochemical products is delicensed.
- **Only the following items are covered in the compulsory licensing list** because of their hazardous nature:- hydrocyanic acid and its derivatives; phosgene and its derivatives; and isocynates and di-isocynates of hydrocarbons.
- Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is implementing the **three schemes under the National Policy on Petrochemicals**:-
  - setting up of plastic parks;
  - setting up of Centres of Ecellence in Polymer Technology; and
  - national awards for technology innovation in petrochemical and downstream plastic processing industry.

Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions

- The Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) Policy, is to promote the petroleum chemical and petrochemical sector in an integrated and environmental friendly manner on a large scale.

Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited

- Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL) was **incorporated in 1960** with the objective of attaining self-reliance in basic organic chemicals. The company has two manufacturing units located at Rasayani (Maharashtra) and Kochi (Kerala).
- **HOCL is the sole manufacturer of strategically important N_2O_4 (Dinitrogen Tetroxide) in India** which is supplied by the company to ISRO for its satellites launching programme.

Hindustan Insecticides Limited

- Hindustan Insecticide Limited (HIL) was incorporated in 1954 for manufacture and supply of DDT. HIL is the **sole supplier of DDT to the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India**.
- It has got the status of National Level Seed Agency (NLA) from the Union Ministry of Agriculture and is producing and supplying seeds under Govt. sponsored schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Hindustan Flourocarbons Ltd.

- Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd. (HFL), a subsidiary company of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL), was incorporated in 1983. It is located at Rudraram, District Medak, Telangana.
- The company started production in 1987 and is engaged in the **manufacture of Poly Tetra Fluoro Ethylene (PTFE) and of Chloro Di Fluoro Methane (CFM-22).**
- PTFE is extensively used in chemical, mechanical, electrical and electronic industries and has strategic applications in defence and aerospace sectors. CFM-22 is used as a refrigerant and for production of PTFE.

Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology

- Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT) was established in 1991 as an autonomous institution **under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals**.

- IPFT is a **NABL accredited laboratory for testing of pesticides technical and formulation, pesticide residues in various food matrices and CWC related chemicals**.

■ Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy

- The Department notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP-2012) in 2012 with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs to ensure availability of required medicines - **"essential medicines" - at reasonable prices**.
- Subsequently, to implement the NPPP-2012, the new Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 was notified in 2013 to control the prices of specified dosages and strengths as under **National List of Essential Medicines-2011(NLEM-2011).**

■ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

- The Jan Aushadhi Scheme **was launched in 2008** with the aim of selling affordable generic medicines through dedicated sales outlets i.e., Jan Aushadhi Stores in various districts across the country.
- **Some of the objectives of the scheme include**:
  - ensure access to quality medicines;
  - extend coverage of quality generic medicines so as to reduce and thereby redefine the unit cost of treatment per person;
  - create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity so that quality is not synonymous with only high price
- Recently, "Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana" (PMJAY) has been **renamed as "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana" (PMBJP)** and "Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra" (PMJAK) as "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra" (PMBJK).

■ Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

- Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) was **incorporated in 1961** with the primary objective of creating self-sufficiency in essential life saving drugs and medicines.
- The company has presently **three manufacturing plants**, one each at Rishikesh (Uttarakhand), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Gurgaon (Haryana).

⊙ Mines and Minerals

Ministry of Mines is responsible for **survey and exploration of all minerals, other than natural gas, petroleum and atomic minerals**; for mining and metallurgy of non-ferrous metals like aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, gold, nickel, etc. and for administration of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder in respect of all mines and minerals other than coal, natural gas and petroleum as well as **Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 and rules** made thereunder.

■ Mineral Legislation and Reforms

- The Central Act to provide for the development and regulation of mines and minerals is the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957,**which came into force in 1958.
- **Section 13 of the MMDR Act** empowers the central government to formulate rules for regulation of grant of mineral concessions for major minerals; in accordance of which Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 have been framed.
- **Section 18 of MMDR Act, 1957** empowers the Central Government to frame rules for the conservation and systematic development of minerals and for the protection of environment in accordance of which Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 have been framed.

- **Section 15 of MMDR Act, 1957** empowers state governments to frame rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals; accordingly all state governments and some union territories have framed their own rules in this regard.

National Mineral Exploration Trust

- The Government has established National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) with primary objective to promote regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country to increase overall mineral production and achieve sustainable development of the mineral sector.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana

- The government launched Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) which is to be **implemented by the district mineral foundations of the respective districts**.
- PMKKKY will help in creating a congenial mining environment, ameliorate the condition of the affected person and create a win-win situation for the stakeholders.
- **A national portal for DMF is being developed** which will help monitor the implementation of projects under the PMKKKY scheme.
- The **monitoring of PMKKKY would be done under "DISHA",** the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee of **Ministry of Rural Development** to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact.

National Mineral Exploration Policy

- Government unveiled **National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016 (NMEP)** which spells out the strategy and outlines the action plan that the Government will adopt to ensure comprehensive exploration of country's mineral resources **(non-fuel and non-coal).**
- The NMEP primarily aims at accelerating the exploration activity in the country through enhanced participation of the private sector.

Transparency, Auction, Monitoring and Resource Augmentation (TAMRA)

- To facilitate and expedite various **clearances/approvals required after the mineral block is allocated**, an Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to expedite the requisite clearances to enable the early start of mining activity.
- The Ministry has developed a **Transparency, Auction, Monitoring and Resource Augmentation (TAMRA) portal and mobile application**.
- This will be an interactive platform for all stakeholders to compress the timelines for statutory/ other clearances.

Star Rating of Mines

- The Ministry of Mines **launched in 2016** Scheme of Star Rating of Mines/ mining leases for implementation of **Sustainable Development Framework (SDF).**
- The Star Ratings are to be awarded, **based on evaluation of performance of mines on techno, socio-economic and environmental parameters** and give objective reporting of their activities.
- It has been instituted as a two tier system providing self-evaluation templates to be filled in by the mine operator followed by validation **through Indian Bureau of Mines**.

Mining Surveillance System

- To **curb the menace of illegal mining**, a **satellite-based monitoring system** namely Mining Surveillance System (MSS), was developed and launched which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration through **automatic remote sensing detection technology**.

- The latest satellite image is juxtaposed on **geo-referenced mining lease maps** to check any illegal mining in the vicinity.

■ Mineral Resources

- **Bauxite:** Odisha alone accounts for 51 per cent of country's resources of bauxite followed by Andhra Pradesh (16 per cent), Gujarat (9 per cent), Jharkhand (6 per cent), Maharashtra (5 per cent) and Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh (4 per cent each). Major bauxite resources are concentrated in the east coast bauxite deposits in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Copper:** Rajasthan is credited with 813.33 million tonnes ore (54 per cent) containing 4.48 million tonnes of copper metal, Madhya Pradesh 283.43 million tonnes ore (19 per cent), containing 3.42 million tonnes copper, Jharkhand, 295.39 million tonnes ore (20 per cent), containing 3.28 million tonnes of copper metal and the rest 7 per cent are accounted for by other states namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- **Gold:** The largest resources in terms of gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar (44 per cent) followed by Rajasthan (25 per cent) and Karnataka (21 per cent), West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh (3 per cent each), Telangana & Madhya Pradesh (2 per cent each).
- **Iron Ore:** Hematite and magnetite are the most important iron ores in India. About 59 per cent hematite ore deposits are found in the eastern sector. About 92 per cent magnetite ore deposits occur in southern sector, especially in Karnataka. Of these, hematite is considered to be superior because of its higher grade. Major resources of hematite are located in Odisha - 7,559 million tonnes(34 per cent), Jharkhand - 5,286 million tonnes (24 per cent), Chhattisgarh - 4,858 million tonnes (22 per cent), Karnataka - 2,467 million tonnes (11 per cent) and Goa.
- **Lead and Zinc:** Rajasthan is endowed with the largest resources of lead-zinc ore amounting to 670.34 million tonnes (89.44 per cent), followed by Andhra Pradesh 22.69 million tonnes (3.02 per cent), Madhya Pradesh 14.84 million tonnes (1.98 per cent), Bihar 11.43 million tonnes (1.52 per cent) and Maharashtra 9.27 million tonnes (1.24 per cent).
- **Manganese Ore:** State wise, Odisha tops the total resources with 44 per cent share followed by Karnataka 22 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 12 per cent, Maharashtra and Goa 7 per cent each, Andhra Pradesh 4 per cent and Jharkhand 2 per cent.

⊙ Geological Survey of India

- Geological Survey of India (GSI) the **premier earth science organization of the country,** is the principal provider of basic earth science information to the Government, Industry and the geo-scientific sector.
- **Beginning in 1851** as a department engaged primarily in research for coal, GSI in its last 163 years of existence has expanded its activities manifold and has been involved either directly or indirectly in almost all areas of nation building.
- The vibrant steel, coal, metal, cement and power industries which expanded phenomenally in the post-independence era, bear eloquent testimony to GSI's contribution to national development. **GSI is now the custodian of one of the largest and most comprehensive earth science databases developed over the last one and half century**.

Online Core Business Integrated System and National Aero-geophysical Mapping Programme

- **GSI launched, in 2017**, an Online Core Business Integrated System (OCBIS) which is a state-of-the art IT enabled system encapsulating all the main activities of GSI using an online digital platform.
- The workflow of GSI from data acquisition to data storage, analysis and dissemination is digitally captured in this system, besides all the administrative and financial activities of GSI.
- All available baseline geo-science data of GSI is uploaded on geospatial platform for viewing and extracting free of cost.

Indian Bureau of Mines

- Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) established in March, 1948, is a multi-disciplinary scientific and technical organisation **under Ministry of Mines** with statutory and developmental responsibilities for conservation and systematic exploitation of mineral resources other than coal, petroleum and natural gas, atomic minerals and minor minerals.
- It also undertakes scientific, techno-economic, research oriented studies in various aspects of mining geological studies, ore **beneficiation and environmental studies**.
- The Ministry of Mines has three Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) under its administrative control. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) are operating in the field of mining and mineral processing, and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) is operating in the field of mineral exploration.

National Aluminium Company Limited

- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a **Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Mines.**
- It was **established in 1981** in the public sector.
- NALCO is **one of the largest integrated Bauxite-Alumina-Aluminium-Power Complex** in the country.

Hindustan Copper Limited

- Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a **Mini Ratna Government of India Enterprise** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Mines**, was incorporated in 1967 under the Companies Act, 1956.
- It has the distinction of being the **nation's only vertically integrated copper producing company** as it manufactures copper right from the stage of mining to beneficiation, smelting, refining and casting of refined copper metal into downstream saleable products.

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited

- Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) a **Miniratna Company** is a premier mineral exploration Public Sector Undertaking of the country.
- It is the **leading organisation both in government and in private sector**, possessing entire spectrum of mineral exploration facilities under one roof.

National Institute of Rock Mechanics

- National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) is the **only institution in south Asia exclusively devoted to research in rock mechanics**.

National Institute of Miners' Health

- National Institute of Miners' Health, Nagpur (NIMH) is an **autonomous institute established under Ministry of Mines,** with the objective of promotion of occupational **health and prevention of occupational diseases among the persons employed in mining and mineral based industries**.

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development & Design Centre

- The Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), Nagpur is a Centre of Excellence **set up in 1989 as a joint venture of Ministry of Mines, Government of India and UNDP** with a view to provide major R&D support system for the emerging modern aluminium industry in India.

- The Centre became **functional since 1996**. The Centre is recognized as **scientific and industrial research organization by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research**.
- It is the **only institute of its kind in India** pursuing the cause of R&D from bauxite to finished product under one roof.

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Law & Justice

Ministry of Law and Justice is the oldest limb of the Government of India dating back to 1833 when the Charter Act,1833 was enacted by the British Parliament. The said Act vested for the first-time **legislative power in a single authority, namely the Governor General of Council**.

Indian Legal System

It comprises four components namely:

- The **basic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution**;
- **rights and obligations conferred by ordinary statues**;
- **Organizational set up to enforce these rights** and obligations within the Constitutional norms
- the **judicial personnel**

India being a democratic country and there being a representative democracy there **is a chain of accountability towards sovereign which lies amongst the people.**

Sources of Law:

- The main sources of law in India are the **Constitution, statutes (legislation)**, **customary law and case law.**

Who Enacted laws?

- Governor General in Council enacted laws for the country from 1834 to1920.
- After the commencement of the Government of India Act, 1919 the legislative power was exercised by the **Indian Legislature constituted there under**.
- With the passing of the **Indian Independence Act, 1947** India became a Dominion and the **Dominion Legislature made laws from 1947 to 1949 under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935** as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947.
- When the Constitution of India **came into force on the January 26, 1950** the legislative power is vested in Parliament**.**

Other sources of Law:

- Subordinate legislation in the form of rules, regulations as well as byelaws made by central/state governments and local authorities
  - It is made under the authority conferred or delegated either by Parliament or state or union territory legislatures concerned
- **Judicial decisions of superior courts like Supreme Court and High Courts** are important sources of law.
  - Decisions of the Supreme Court **are binding on all courts within the territory of India**.
- **Local customs and conventions which are not against statute, morality, etc**., are also recognised and taken into account by courts while administering justice in certain spheres.

Enactment of Law

- The Parliament is competent to make laws on matters enumerated in the Union List.
- State legislatures are competent to make laws on matters enumerated in the State List.
- Parliament alone has power to make laws on matters not included in the State List or Concurrent List.
- On matters enumerated in the Concurrent List, laws can be made by both Parliament and the state legislature.
  - But in the event of repugnancy, law made by Parliament shall prevail over law made by state legislature, to the extent of repugnancy, be void **unless the latter law having been reserved for consideration of President, has received his assent and in that event shall prevail in that state.**

Judiciary

At the apex of the entire judicial system exists the **Supreme Court of India with a High Court** for each state or group of states and under the High Court's there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts. Panchayat Courts also function in some states under **various names like Nyaya Panchayat, Panchayat Adalat, Gram Kachehri**, etc., to decide civil and criminal disputes of petty and local nature. Different state laws provide for jurisdiction of these courts.

Supreme Court

- It comprises the Chief Justice and 30 other Judges appointed by the President of India. Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the age of 65 years.
- The Constitution seeks to ensure the independence of Supreme Court Judges in various ways. A Judge of the Supreme Court cannot be removed from office except by an order of the President passed after an address in each House of Parliament.
- A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is debarred from practising in any court of law or before any other authority in India. **The proceedings of the Supreme Court are conducted in English only.**

High Courts

- High Court stands at the head of the state's judicial administration. Among the union territories, Delhi alone has a High Court of its own. Each High Court comprises a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may, from time to time, appoint.

Subordinate Courts

- The structure and functions of subordinate courts are more or less uniform throughout the country. These courts deal **with all disputes of civil or criminal nature as per the powers**

Evolution

- During the British regime, **the King in Council, or Privy Council was the highest** forum to entertain appeals **from the judgments and orders passed by the courts in India**.
- Government of India Act, 1935 introduced a federal constitution to India, involving distribution of powers between the Centre and the constituent units. The Federal Court of India began functioning from October 01, 1937.
- Federal Court had a very limited jurisdiction, however Appeals from Federal Court could go to the Privy Council.
- **From 1949 appeals to the Privy Council were abolished** altogether and the entire appellate jurisdiction was vested in the Federal Court.
- **Federal Court gave way to the Supreme Court of India under the new Constitution on January 26, 1950**.

conferred on them. These courts follow **two important codes prescribing procedures**, i.e., the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, Cr. P.C., 1973 and further strengthened by state level amendments.

■ Provision under Constitution

- **Under Article 235** of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judicial service vests with the concerned High Court.
- Further in exercise of powers conferred under provision to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, **the state government shall frame rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such state**.
- The members of **the State Judicial Services are governed by these rules and regulations**.

■ National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms

- It was set up in 2011with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has taken several steps in each of the strategic areas towards fulfilment of its objectives.
- All States have formulated their Litigation Policies with a view to reduce the Governmental litigation. State governments have been requested in make an assessment of the impact of the State Litigation Policies on controlling proliferation of litigation by State agencies. Department of Legal Affairs have formulated National Litigation Policy, 2015, which is under active consideration of the government.

■ e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project

- It is one of the e-Governance projects being implemented in High Courts and district/subordinate courts of the country.
- The project has been ***conceptualized on the basis of the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary-2005***" by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India.
- The **e-Committee was formed in 2004 to draw up an action plan for the ICT enablement** of the Judiciary.

■ Access to Justice for the Marginalised

- In **partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP**), the Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice, is implementing adecade long programme on Access to Justice for Marginalised People (2008-2017).
- The project extends to the eight UNDAF states of ***Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.***
- This project focuses on strengthening access to justice for the marginalised people by developing **strategies that address barriers to accessing justice in legal, social and economic domains.**

⊙ Legal Affairs

Department of Legal Affairs is the nodal department for **reciprocal arrangement with foreign countries for enforcement of arbitral awards** pursuant to the **New York Convention** under section 44(b) of **the Arbitration and Concilliation Act, 1996**. The department of **Legal Affairs is the Central Authority under the Hague Convention of 1965** for service **aboard of judicial and extra-judicial documents in civil and commercial matters.**

- **Legal Information Management and Briefing System:** In line with Digital India mission, this system digitalizes the court case details and brings various stakeholders on a single platform. LIMBS help to introduce transparency as well as a sense of ownership among various stakeholders during the entire life cycle of a court case.
- **National Litigation Policy:** There are approximately **3.2 crore cases pending in various courts in India**. **Government is said to be the major litigant** and there have been several Law Commission reports suggesting for a Litigation Policy to avoid unwarranted litigation by government and thus bring down load on the court system as well as burden on the public exchequer. Therefore, **the draft National Litigation Policy 2017 proposes to put in place a system** which prevents controls and reduces litigation.
- **Institutionalisation of Arbitration:** Department of Legal Affairs, constituted a high-level committee to review **Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India**, under the **chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Shri B. N. Srikrishna**. The report of this Committee has been submitted to the Minister for Law and Justice in July, 2017.

Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange

- The Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange was established in 2000 under Section 18 of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. Under FEMA, the central government or any person aggrieved by an **order made by Special Director (Appeals), or made by an Adjudicating Authority** may prefer an appeal to the **Appellate Tribunal that may be filed within 45 days** from the date of receiving the order by the aggrieved person or the central government.
  - It shall consist of a Chairperson and such number of members as the Central Government may deem fit.
  - The jurisdiction of the Appellate Tribunal may be exercised by the Benches.
  - The Bench may be constituted by the Chairperson, with one or more Members as the Chairperson deems fit.
  - The Benches of the Appellate Tribunal shall ordinarily sit in New Delhi and at such other places as the Central Government may, in **consultation with the Chairperson**, notify and the Chairperson may transfer a Member from one Bench to another.
  - If at any stage it appears that the matter should be heard by a Bench of two Members the Chairperson may transfer the matter to such Bench as he deems fit.
  - A person who is qualified to be a **Judge of a High Court or is or has been a Judge of High Court can be appointed as Chairperson of the Tribunal and a person who has been or is qualified to be a District Judge can be appointed as a Member of the Tribunal.**

Enforcement Agencies

Police, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Assam Rifles, National Security Guard, Central Reserve Police Force, Rapid Action Force, Commando Battalion for Resolute Action, Central Industrial Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal.

Civil Defence

- Civil Defence includes any measures not amounting to actual combat, **for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack whether from air, land, sea or other places or for depriving any such attack of the whole or part of its effect**, whether such measures are taken before, during or after the time of such attack, or any measures taken for the purpose of disaster management, before, during, or after any disaster.

- Civil Defence is primarily organized on voluntary basis except for a **small nucleus of paid staff and establishment which is augmented during emergencies.** Civil Defence volunteers are in various constructive and nation building activities—including providing assistance to the administration in **undertaking social and welfare services and in the prevention, mitigation of natural, man-made disasters as well as in post-disaster response and relief operations and law and order situations.**

Home Guards

- Home Guards is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December, 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots. In the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962, the Centre advised the states and union territories to **merge their existing voluntary organisations into one uniform voluntary force known as Home Guards**.
- The role of Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary to the police in maintenance of internal security, help the community in any kind of emergency such as an air-raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic, etc., **help in maintenance of essential services, promote communal harmony and assist the administration in protecting weaker sections, participate in socio-economic and welfare activities and perform civil defence duties**. **Home Guards are of two types-rural and urban**.
- Home Guards are raised **under the Home Guards Act** and rules of the states/union territories. They **are recruited from various cross sections of the people such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, private sector organisations, college and university students, agricultural and industrial workers, etc**.,
- All citizens of India, **who are in the age group of 18-50, are eligible to become members** of Home Guards. Normal tenure of membership in Home Guards is 3 to 5 years. Expenditure on Home Guards is generally shared between centre and state governments as per existing financial policy.

Personal Law

- The people of India are of different religions and faiths. They are governed by different sets of personal laws in respect of matters relating to family affairs, i.e., marriage, divorce, succession, adoption, wills, etc. **The subject matter of personal laws is relatable to entry 5 of List III- Concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule** to the Constitution of India and hence the Union Legislature.

Marriage

- Law relating to marriage and divorce has been codified in different enactments applicable to people of different religions.

These are:

The Converts Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866;	The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936;
The Divorce Act, 1869;	The Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939;
The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872;	The Special Marriage Act, 1954;
The Kazis Act, 1880;	The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;
The Anand Marriage Act, 1909;	The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969;
The Indian Succession Act, 1925;	The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.

- **The Special Marriage Act, 1954** which provides for a special form of marriage and the registration of such marriages extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir, but also

applies to the citizens of India domiciled in Jammu and Kashmir. Persons governed by this Act **can specifically register marriage under the said Act even though they are of different religious faiths**. The Act also provides that the **marriage celebrated under any other form can also be registered under The Special Marriage Act**, if it satisfies the requirements of the Act.

- **The Hindu Marriage Act applies to Hindus (in any of its forms or development) and also to Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and also those who are not Muslims, Christians, Parsis or Jews by religion**. However, the Act does **not apply to members of any scheduled tribes unless the Central Government by notification in the official Gazette otherwise directs.**
- **In the Divorce Act, 1869** comprehensive amendments were made through Indian Divorce **(Amendment) Act, 2001** to remove discriminatory provisions against women in the matter of divorce and to provide for dissolution of marriage by mutual consent.
- **As regards Muslims, marriages are governed by the Mohammedan Law prevalent in the country**. As regards divorce, i.e., a Muslim wife has a much-restricted right to dissolve her marriage due its unwritten and traditional laws. Further, by the **Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939**, a Muslim wife has been given the right to seek dissolution of her marriage on other grounds.

■ Adoption

- Although there is no general law governing adoption, it is permitted by **the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956** amongst Hindus and by custom amongst a few numerically insignificant categories of persons.
  - Since adoption is legal affiliation of a child, it forms the **subject matter of personal law**. **Muslims, Christians and Parsis have no adoption laws and have to approach the court under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.** Muslims, Christians and Parsis can **take a child under the said Act only under foster care.**
  - Hindu law, Muslim Law and the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 are three distinct legal systems which are prevalent**. *A guardian may be a natural guardian, testamentary guardian or a guardian appointed by the court. In deciding the question of guardianship two distinct things have to be taken into account - person of the minor and his property. Often the same person is not entrusted with both.***
  - Through the Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010, **the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 was amended so as to remove the incapacity of married women** to take in adoption of a son or a daughter merely on the basis of her marital status and to provide that the mother with the consent of the father and the father with the consent of the mother shall have equal right to give in adoption of their children.
  - Though The Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010, **the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 was amended so as to include the mother along with the father as a fit person to be appointed as a guardian of a child so that the courts shall not appoint any other person as a guardian of a minor if either of the parents is fit to be the guardian of such minor.**

■ Maintenance

- Obligation of a husband to maintain his wife arises out of the status of the marriage. Right to maintenance forms a part of the personal law. Under the **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973**, right of maintenance extends **not only to the wife and dependent children, but also to indigent parents and divorced wives.**
  - Under the Hindu Law, **the wife has an absolute right to claim maintenance from her husband. But she loses her right if she deviates from the path of chastity**. Her right to maintenance is codified in The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956**.**
  - Under the Muslim Law, the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986** protects rights of Muslim women who have been divorced by or have obtained divorce from their husbands and provides for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- **The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 recognises the right of wife to maintenance-both alimony and permanent alimony.**

■ Succession

- The Indian Succession Act was enacted **in 1925 to consolidate the law applicable** to intestate and testamentary succession which was in existence atthat time. The Act does not apply to the residents of **the union territory of Puducherry.** While consolidating the law in respect of succession, two schemes, one relating to succession to property of persons like Indian Christians, Jews and persons married under The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the other relating to succession rights of Parsis, were adopted.
  - The law relating to testamentary succession among Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhsor Jains, subject to certain restrictions and modifications is carried in Section 57of the Indian Succession Act, 1925.
  - The remarkable features of the Act are the **recognition of the right of women to inherit property of an intestate equally with men and abolition of the life estate of female heirs**. Further, (vide The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005), the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 was amended so as to **provide for the equal share to a coparcener daughter in a joint Hindu property.**
  - A vast majority of Muslims in India follow **Hanafi doctrines of Sunni law.** Courts presume that Muslims are governed by Hanafi law unless it is established to be the contrary. Unlike Hindu and Christian laws, Muslim law restricts a person's right of testation. A Muslim can bequeath only one-third of his estate.

⊙ Election Laws and Electoral Reforms

The Acts in connection with the conduct of elections to Parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice-President are:

- The Representation of the People Act, 1950;
- The Representation of the People Act, 1951;
- The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952;
- The Delimitation Act, 2002;
- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Act, 2005;
- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Act, 2010.

These are administrated by the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

■ Reservation of Seats for Women

- During the years, a consistent demand has been made for giving adequate representation to women in Parliament and state legislatures. Such a demand finds support in the 73 and 74 Amendments to the Constitution made in 1992.

■ Voting Rights to the Citizens of India Living Abroad

- Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides that every person who is not less than eighteen years of age on the qualifying date and **is ordinarily resident in constituency** shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral rolls for that constituency. Mere ownership or possession of a building or other immovable property will not bestow on the owner, the residential qualification.

- The Government **introduced the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in Rajya Sabha** in **2006 to enable the Indian citizens absenting from their place of ordinarily residence** in India owing to their employment, education or otherwise outside India, **to get their names registered in the electoral rolls** of the concerned constituency of their place of ordinarily residence in India as mentioned in their passport so that they would be in a position to cast their votes in elections to the Lok Sabha and to the state legislatures **in case they happen to be in their constituency at the time of polls.**

However, RPA bill 2006 was withdrawn and the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2010 was introduced. It provided for:

- Every citizen of India, whose name is not included in the electoral roll and who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education, or otherwise outside India, (whether temporarily or not), **shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located;**
- provide that the Electoral Registration Officer shall make corrections of entries in electoral rolls and inclusion of names in electoral rolls after proper verification;
- Confer **power upon the Central Government to specify**, after consulting the Election Commission of India, by rules, the time within which the name of persons referred to in sub-paragraph above shall be registered in the electoral roll and the manner and procedure for registering of such persons in the electoral roll.

The said Bill has been enacted as the **Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010**. ***The overseas Indians can now furnish the documents self-attested by them and get their name enrolled in the electoral roll of their respective constituency.***

Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

- This provision found place in **Articles 330 and 332** of the Constitution**.** Adequate safeguards ware also provided for Anglo-Indians in our Constitution by giving representation to this small section of the society, under Article 331 of the Constitution by way of nomination of two persons of that community in the House of the People by the President. Likewise, provision for nomination of one member each **by the Governor**, wherever necessary, belonging to this community **in the state legislative assemblies was also incorporated.**
- Initially, the aforesaid provisions were made only for a period of ten years from the commencement of the Constitution. Recently, through the Constitution (One Hundred Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2009 extension of the period for a further ten years has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and received the assent of the President in January, 2010. The said Bill was enacted as the Constitution (Ninety-fifth Amendment) Act, 2009.

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6 Labour, Skill Development & Employment

Labour

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is one of the important and oldest ministries of the Government of India. The main responsibility entrusted to the Ministry is to protect and safeguard the interests of workers in general and the poor, deprived and disadvantaged sections of the society, in particular. The Ministry aims to create a healthy work environment for higher production and productivity and to develop and coordinate vocational skill training and employment services. To keep itself in tandem with the process of liberalisation, the Ministry's attention is focussed on promotion of welfare of labour and providing social security to the labour force both in organised and unorganised sectors.

New Initiatives

Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana

It is a pension scheme for unorganised workers **It ensures old age protection for unorganised workers.** PM-SYM is a **voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis,** where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the central government as per the scheme guidelines. The Scheme is being implemented through LIC and Common Services Centres-SPV.

Who are unorganised workers?

The unorganised workers are mostly home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washermen, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers and those engaged in similar other occupations, **whose monthly income is ₹ 15,000/ per month or less.**

Conditions for enrollment:

- The group should belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years;
- should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS); Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);
- should not be an income tax payee

Benefits

- Minimum Assured Pension: each subscriber "under the PM-SYM, shall receive minimum assured pension of ₹3,000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years;
- Family Pension: during the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50 per cent of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse;

- if a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before age of 60years), 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.

National Career Service Project

- It is a Mission Mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment related services like career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship internships etc. The NCS Project has also been enhanced to **interlink all employment exchanges with the NCS Portal so that services can be delivered online**. The scheme provides for **part funding to States for IT upgradation** and minor refurbishing of Employment Exchanges and for **organizing job fairs**.

Labour Inspection Scheme

- A computerized list of inspections is generated randomly based on risk based objective criteria. Serious matters are to be covered under the mandatory inspection list.

Shram Suvidha Portal

- It is a unified web portal 'Shram Suvidha Portal', to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws and ease compliance. It caters to **four major organisations under the Ministry namely**;
  - Office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central);
  - Directorate General of Mines Safety;
  - Employees' Provident Fund Organisation;
  - Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

Common Registration

- Facility for Common Registration under five Central Labour Acts has been developed on e-Biz portal of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. **The Acts covered under this include**:
  - The Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952;
  - The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.
  - The Building & Other Construction Workers (RECS) Act, 1996;
  - The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970;
  - The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RECS) Act, 1979.

Labour Codes

- These initiatives to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws include governance reforms through use of technology and also legislative reforms by simplifying, **rationalising and amalgamating the existing labour laws into four labour codes.**

Draft Small Factory Bill

- The Bill provides for regulation of working and service conditions of workers in small manufacturing units employing less than 40 workers. The Bill amalgamates, simplifies and rationalizes the provisions of **six Labour Laws at one place for these small factories**.

Social Security

Employees' State Insurance Corporation

To provide medical care and cash benefits in case of sickness, maternity and employment injuries, the Employees' State Insurance Act was enacted in 1948.**Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is implementing the ESI Scheme introduced since 1952.**

Achievements are as follows

- Health Reforms includes online availability of Electronic Health Record of ESI Beneficiaries (insured persons and their family members);
- **Abhiyan Indradhanush**: ensuring the change of bed sheet according to VIBGYOR pattern during the week i.e. to be changed every day;
- medical Helpline No. 1800 11 3839for emergency and seeking guidance from casualty/emergency of ESIC hospitals;
- special OPD for senior citizens and differently abled persons in ESC hospitals, in the afternoon.

Digital India e-initiatives of ESIC

- **e-biz Platform:** ESIC was the first organization of Central government, to integrate its services (Registration of Employers through e-biz portal of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion DIPP) to promote ease of business and curb transaction costs..
- **e-Pehchan**: A process of establishing the **identity of the insured person through Adhaar** number has been set up by seeding Adhaar number to the insurance number.
- **Incorporation of Government Directives**: Various Government Directives regarding GeM, E-Office etc., either have been incorporated or are in the process of incorporation, adaptation and adoption.
- **Mobile App for IPs:** IPs (Insured person) have been provided with a Mobile app 'Ask An Appointment' (AAA+) to enable them to book an appointment with the doctors online prior to actually making a visit to the hospital.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

- The Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act,1952 provides for Provident Fund, Pension Scheme and Insurance Fund in factories/establishments employing twenty or more employees in industries mentioned in Schedule-I to the Act. The following **three schemes framed are**: **Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952; Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976**.
- The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952provides **for Provident Fund, Pension Scheme and Insurance Fund in factories/establishments employing twenty or more employees in industries mentioned in Schedule to the Act.** The Government of India through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) administers the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF&MP) Act, 1952.

Universal Account Number

It provides automatic portability of Provident Fund account on change of employment if the employee has activated his UAN by seeding his Know Your Customer details (through the employer).

Child Labour

- Considering the magnitude and nature of the problem, the government is following a robust multi-generation scheme. It comprises statutory and legislative measures, rescue and rehabilitation, universal elementary education along with social protection and poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes.

Legislative Action Plan

- Under the Legislative Action Plan, the Child Labour (Prohibition &Regulation) Act, was enacted in 1986. As per the provisions of the Act, **the employment of children below the age of 14 years was prohibited in 18 occupations and 65 processes**. Then **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016cameinto force from 2016**. The Amendment includes:
  - **Complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years** of age in all occupations and processes; **linking the age of the prohibition of employment with the age for free and compulsory education under Right to Education Act, 2009**;
  - Prohibition on employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes
  - Stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act; and project-based action plan in the areas of high concentration of child labour.

Bonded Labour

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

With a view to supplementing the efforts of the state governments; a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched in 1978. Under the Scheme, state governments are provided Central assistance on matching grants (50:50) basis for the rehabilitation of bonded labour. The said Plan Scheme was drastically modified in 2000 to provide for 100 per cent assistance for conducting district wise surveys for identification of bonded labour, awareness generation activities, and evaluatory studies.

Wages and Bonus

- **The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 :** The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 was enacted to safeguard the interests of the workers mostly in the unorganised sector. Under the provision of the Act, **both the Central and state governments** are the appropriate governments to fix, revise, review and enforce the payment of minimum wages to workers in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. **There are 45 scheduled employments in the Central and as many as 1697 in the state sphere.**
- In order to protect the **minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government has introduced Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) linked to Consumer Price Index**.
- In order to have a uniform wage structure and to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, **a concept of National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW) was mooted on the basis of the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in 1991**.
- **Payment of Wages :** The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 ensures timely payment of wages and that no unauthorised deductions are made from the wages of the workers. **Section 6 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 was amended in 2017** to enable making payment of **wages in cash or by cheque or by crediting in the bank account of the employee.**
- **Payment of Bonus :** The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 has been amended to revise the statutory eligibility limit under Section 2 (13) from ₹ 10,000/- to ₹ 21,000/- per month and the calculation ceiling under Section 12 from ₹ 3,500/- to ₹ 7,000/- or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, as fixed by the appropriate Government, whichever is higher.

Skill Development

- As opposed to developed countries, where the percentage of skilled workforce is between 60 and 90 per cent of the total workforce, India records an abysmal 4.69 per cent of workforce with formal vocational skills.
- There is a need for **speedy reorganization of the ecosystem of skill development and entrepreneurship promotion in the country to suit the needs of the industry and enable decent quality of life to its population**.
- In view of this and recognising the urgency of all concerned stakeholders in this field, a separate ministry was created in 2014, namely, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. This Ministry is responsible for coordination of all skill development efforts, removal of disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower, building the vocational and technical training framework, skill up-gradation, building of new skills, and innovative thinking not only for existing jobs but also jobs that are to be created.

National Skill Development Mission

- The National Skill Development Mission was launched in 2015 on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day. It aims to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high-powered decision-making framework.
- It consists of a three-tier institutional structure, where the cascading functions of the bodies consist of providing policy directives and guidance, reviewing and monitoring overall progress, and actual implementation in line with Mission objectives. The Mission will also run select sub-missions in high priority areas. At the outset, **seven sub-missions have been proposed in the following areas**: (i) Institutional Training, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Convergence, (iv) Trainers, (v) Overseas Employment, (vi) Sustainable Livelihoods, (vii) Leveraging Public Infrastructure.

National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- The first National Policy on Skill Development (NPSD) was notified in 2009.The NPSD 2009 laid out the broad framework as well as objectives and outcomes for the skilling landscape in the country**.**
  - Moreover, the 2009 policy itself provided for review every five years to align the policy framework with the emerging trends in the national and international milieu. **Accordingly, the new National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was notified 2015which replaces the policy of 2009.**
  - The skill component of the policy addresses key issues in the skill landscape: low aspirational value, non-integration with formal education, lack of focus on outcomes, quality of training infrastructure and trainers, among others.
  - The policy aims to align supply with demand, bridge existing skill gaps, promote industry engagement, operationalise a quality assurance framework, leverage technology and promote apprenticeship to tackle the identified issues. It also aims to promote equitable skilling opportunities for socially/ geographically marginalised and disadvantaged groups as well as women.

Schemes and Initiatives

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**

  PMKVY is the flagship outcome-based skill training scheme of this Ministry. The objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of youth to take up outcome based skill training to become employable and earn their livelihood.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK)**

  The PMKK envisages to: create benchmark institutions that demonstrate aspirational value for competency-based skill development training at district level to ensure wider reach of programme focus on elements of quality, sustainability and connect with stakeholders in skills delivery process; transform from a mandate driven footloose model to a sustainable institutional model.

Schemes for Entrepreneurship

- **Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana**

  This Scheme aims at creating an enabling eco-system for entrepreneurship promotion among youth through entrepreneurship education and training, advocacy, easy access to entrepreneurship support network and promotion of social entrepreneurship. The specific objectives of the scheme are as follows:

  - educate and equip potential and early stage entrepreneurs;
  - connect entrepreneurs through networks of peers, mentors, incubators, funding and business services; support entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship Hubs (EHubs) and catalyze a culture shift to support aspiring entrepreneurs**.**

Udaan

The Special Industry Initiative (SII) for Jammu and Kashmir is funded by Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. The programme is a part of the overall initiative for addressing economic issues in the state and is focused on providing skills and job opportunities to the youth. Simultaneously, the aim is also to provide exposure to corporate India towards the rich talent pool available there.

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7 Mass Communication

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through the mass communication media consisting of **radio, television, films, press and print publications, advertising and traditional modes of communication** such as dance and drama, plays an effective role in helping people to have access to free flow of information.

- The Ministry is divided into **four wings** i.e., the Information Wing, the Broadcasting Wing, the Films Wing and the Integrated Finance Wing. The Ministry functions through its 21 media units/ attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and PSUs.

- **The Information Wing** handles policy matters of the **print and press media** and publicity requirements of the Government. This Wing also looks after the general administration of the Ministry.
- **The Broadcasting Wing** handles matters relating to the electronic media and the regulation of the content of private TV channels as well as the programme matters of **All India Radio and Doordarshan** and operation of cable television and community radio, etc. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC), which is a subordinate office, functions under the administrative control of this Division.
- **The Film Wing** handles matters relating to the **film sector.** It is involved in the production and distribution of documentary films, development and promotional activities relating to the film industry including training, organization of film festivals, import and export regulations, etc. The Integrated Finance Wing looks after the financial aspects of the Ministry

Prasar Bharati

- Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is the **public service broadcaster** in the country, with **Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan** as its two constituents.
- It came into existence on November 23, 1997, with a mandate to organize and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced development of broadcasting on radio and television.

The major objectives of the **Prasar Bharati Corporation** as laid out in the **Prasar Bharati Act,**1990 are as follows:

- To uphold the **unity and integrity** of the country and the values enshrined in the Constitution.
- To promote **national integration**.
- To **safeguard citizens' rights** to be **informed** on all matters of **public interest** by presenting a **fair and balanced flow of information.**
- To pay special attention to the **fields of education and spread of literacy, agriculture, rural development, environment, health & family welfare and science & technology**.
- To create awareness about **women's issues** and take special steps to protect the **interests of children, aged and other vulnerable sections** of the society.

- To provide **adequate coverage** to diverse cultures, sports and games and youth affairs.
- To promote **social justice, safeguarding the rights of working classes, minorities and tribal communities**.
- To promote **research and expand** broadcasting faculties & development in broadcast technology.

All India Radio

- After the invention of Radio and the starting of broadcasting in the western countries, broadcasting by private Radio Clubs started in a few cities in India like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.
- The first radio programme was broadcast by the Radio Club of Bombay in June, 1923.
- It was followed by the setting up of a Broadcasting Service that began broadcasting on July 23, 1927 on an experimental basis at Mumbai and Kolkata simultaneously under an agreement between the Government of India and a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company Ltd.

Three-tier Broadcasting System

- AIR has **a three-tier system** of broadcasting. These three levels of programmes are the National, Regional and Local each having distinct audiences.
- **National programmes** are broadcast from Delhi for relay by the Capital, Regional and Local Radio Stations. Some of these are the National Programme of Talks and Features in **Hindi and English**, the National Programmes of Drama and Music.
- The **National** Channel of All India Radio located in Delhi broadcasted programmes which were heard on Medium Wave and also on Short Wave. Started on 18th May 1988, this channel worked as a night service from 6.50 PM to 6.10 AM the next morning. Broadcasting in Hindi, Urdu and English, the programme composition of the channel had been designed to make it representative of the cultural mosaic and ethos of the country. **It has been closed on January, 2019.**
- **Local** Radio is relatively a newer concept of broadcasting in India. Local radio stations serve small communities, showcase local culture and broadcast area specific programmes for the benefit of the community. The transmission is in the **FM mode**. The programming is flexible and spontaneous and the stations function as the mouth piece of the local community. At present there are **86 Local Stations spread across the country.**

Mann Ki Baat

- For Mann Ki Baat programme, **live webcasting** is done on website news on **air.nic.in.**
- **Special window and page** is created for the purpose.

National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimeda

- National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia (NABM) (Programme) hitherto known as **Staff Training Institute (Programme**) is the apex training institute of Prasar Bharati.
- It is responsible for **training of in-service Programme and Administrative personnel** working at various stations of AIR and Doordarshan.

Doordarshan

- From an experimental service begun at Delhi in **September 1959,** Doordarshan (DD) over the years has grown tremendously to become one of the leading TV organizations of the world.
- Over the years, it has not only expanded its network throughout length and breadth of the country but also kept pace with new technological developments in the field of TV broadcasting.

- Doordarshan is presently operating 34 satellite channels and has a vast network of 67 studios and 1,416 transmitters of varying power providing TV coverage to about 92 per cent population of the country. In addition, it is providing free-to-air DTH service. "

DD National

- DD National Channel, a public service broadcaster is the **largest terrestrial network** in the world. It covers about 92.0 per cent population and 81.0 per cent land area of the country.
- Being a **Public Service Broadcaster**, the channel continues to make significant contribution to **accelerate socio- economic changes, promote national integration, inculcate a sense of unity and fraternity and stimulate scientific temperament among the people**.

DD News

- DD News is the **only terrestrial-cum-satellite, multi-lingual news channel** of the country.
- The news channel has been successfully discharging its responsibility to give balanced, fair and accurate news without sensationalizing as well as by carrying different shades of opinion.
- DD-News channel was launched in November 2003 by converting DD-Metro into a 24-hours news channel. Its satellite footprint is available across the country.

Press Information Bureau

- The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the **nodal agency** of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on **government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements.**
- It functions as an **interface between the Government and the media** and also provides feedback to the Government on people's reaction as reflected in the media.

Prime Minister's Unit

- PIB has a dedicated unit for the publicity and media support to the Prime Minister's office.
- This unit functions all 365 days of the year on 24X7 basis. The PM Unit compiles a number of reports on all days including holidays for PMO, Cabinet Secretariat and other senior officials of PMO.
- The Unit reaches out extensively to regional/branch offices for ensuring nation-wide publicity efforts, and gathering feedback for perusal of PMO.

Social Media

- With the opening up of the air waves, 24x7 news channels in English, Hindi and other languages have come up in the country. PIB is doing video releases which facilitate more effective projection of the Government's point of view through the electronic media.
- PIB has also expanded its presence on social media, both in terms of engagement, followers and the number of platforms in a big way, despite extremely limited resources.
- **Twitter:** On twitter,PIB'shandle, @pibindia and @pibhindi have nearly 1.47 million+followers and 42,000+followers respectively.
- **New Platforms:** PIB has also expanded its presence to three more platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Vine.

International Film Festival of India

- The **Press Information Bureau was part of the IFFI 2017** to facilitate dissemination of Festival related information to media at the venue in Goa.

- It provided favourable and encouraging work environment and facilitated participation of the media persons in the festival.
- A total of 419 media persons were accredited through online registration process for the coverage of the Festival.

⊙ News Agencies

■ Press Trust of India

- **India's largest news agency**, Press Trust of India (PTI) is a **non-profit sharing cooperative** owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers.
- Founded in August, 1947, PTI began functioning from 1949. It offers its news services in **English and Hindi languages.**
- **Bhasha** is the Hindi language news service of the agency.

■ United News of India

- United News of India (UNI) was incorporated under the **Companies Act, 1956** in December, 1959 and started functioning effectively from 1961.
- In the past five decades, UNI has grown into a major news organisation in India and, with its vibrant presence, provided the much-needed spirit of competition in the vital areas of news gathering and dissemination.

■ Press Council of India

- The Press Council of India is a **statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority** mandated by the **Parliament** for the twin objective of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India exercising equal quasi judicial functions over the authorities as well the press person.
- It comprises of a **Chairman and 28 members**. While the Chairman has, by convention, been a **sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India,** of the 28 members, **20 represent various segments of the Press and eight overseeing the readers' interest, are representatives of the two Houses of Parliament** (3 Lok Sabha and 2 Rajya Sabha) and **premier literary and legal bodies of the country** i.e. University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Akademi.
- The Council has its **own funds** for performance of its functions under the Act that comprises the fee collected by it from newspapers, other receipts and also **Grants in-Aid** by from the Central Government.
- The Council discharges its functions primarily through adjudications on complaint cases received by it, either against the Press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the Press for interference with its freedom.
- Where the Council is satisfied, after inquiry, that a newspaper or a news agency has offended against the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, the Council may warn, admonish or censure them or disapprove of their conduct.

■ Publications Division

- Publications Division is among the **premier publishing organisations** of the Government of India involved in **production, sale and distribution** of popular books and journals on matters of national importance.
- **Established in 1941**, it is mandated to bring out books and journals highlighting subjects of **national importance and India's rich cultural heritage including children's literature**.

- Publications Division enjoys credibility among the publishers and is well recognised for the authenticity of content and affordable price of publications.

⊙ Film Division

■ International Film Festival of India

- **The 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI),** organized jointly by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Government of Goa, successfully concluded on **November 28, 2019**, after nine days of film screenings, master classes, discussions and other events.
- The nine-day long festival of quality cinema concluded with the Indian premiere of **Italian film 'Marghe and Her Mother'.**
- Various prestigious awards including **Golden Peacock, Silver Peacock, Lifetime Achievement Award were conferred during the festival**

■ National Film Awards

- The National Film Awards, the **highest awards in the field of cinema** continue to underline cinematic excellence.
- The National Awards along with cinema's highest honour, the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, are presented by the **President of India.**
- To commemorate the release of the **first Indian Feature Film, Raja Harishchandra** on 3rd May 1913, it has been decided to confer the National Film Awards on **3rd May of every year**.
- Accordingly, 65th National Film Awards were given away for 2017.

■ 65th National Film Awards

- The award for Best Feature Film was bagged by **'Village Rockstars' (Assamese) directed by Rima Das**.
- The award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment was given to **'Bahubali 2 The Conclusion' (Telugu) directed by S.S.Rajamouli..**
- The Best Actor award was presented to **Ridhi Sen for the film 'Nagarkirtan' (Bengali**) and Best Actress **to late Sridevi for the film 'Mom' (Hindi).**
- The **best Book on Cinema award** was given to **'Matmagi Manipur: The First Feature Film '**written by **Bobby Wahengbam** while **Giridhar Jha** was awarded the **best Film Critic.**
- The prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2017** was awarded posthumously to veteran **actor Vinod Khanna** for his commendable contribution to Indian cinema.

■ Film and Television Institute of India

- The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in 1960. Following the addition of Television wing in 1974, the Institute was **re-designated as Film and Television Institute of India. The Institute became a Society in October, 1974** under the **Registration of Societies Act, 1860.**
- The Society consists of eminent personalities connected with film, television, communication, culture, alumni of institute and ex-officio government members.
- The Institute is governed by a **Governing Council**, headed by a Chairman. The academic policies and plans of the Institute are formulated by the Academic Council.
- The matters involving finance are **controlled by the Standing Finance Committee**. The Institute consists of two Wings, **the Film wing and the TV Wing**, and offers courses in both Film and Television.

- The Three-year Diploma Courses lead to a Post Graduate Diploma in **Film Direction, cinematography, Audiography and Film Editing.** The Institute also offers a **two-year post** graduate diploma course in acting, a two-year post graduate course in art direction and production design, and one-year post graduate certificate course.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

- The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), registered as a society under the **Societies Registration Act**, 1860 came into existence in 1965.
- The Institute was established with the basic objective of undertaking **teaching, training and research in the area of mass communication**.

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8

Planning

Planning in India derives its objectives and social premises from the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution. Public and private sectors are viewed as complementary. The private sector covers, besides organized industry, small-scale industries, agriculture, trade and housing, construction and related areas. Individual efforts and private initiatives are considered necessary and desirable in the national endeavour for development with optimum voluntary cooperation.

Erstwhile Planning Commission

The Planning Commission was set up in March, 1950 in pursuance of declared objectives of the Government to promote **a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community.**

- **First Plan:** Keeping in view the large-scale import of food grains in 1951 and inflationary pressures on the economy, the First Plan (1951-56) accorded the **highest priority to agriculture including irrigation and power projects.** It aimed at increasing the rate of investment from five to about seven per cent of the national income**.**
- **Second Plan:** The Second Five-Year Plan (**1956-57 to 1960-61**) sought to promote a pattern of development, which would ultimately lead to the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society in India.

Aims were

- an increase of 25 per cent in the national income;
- rapid industrialization with particular emphasis on the
- development of basic and heavy industries;
- large expansion of employment opportunities;
- reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power

- **Third Plan :** The Third Plan **(1961-62 to 1965-66**) aimed at securing a marked advance towards self-sustaining growth.

Its objectives:

- Secure an increase in the national income of over five per cent per annum and at the same time ensure a pattern of investment which could sustain this rate of growth in the subsequent Plan periods;

- **Achieve self-sufficiency in food grains** and increase agricultural production to meet the requirements of industry and exports;
- **expand basic industries like steel, chemicals, fuel and power and establish** machine building capacity so that the requirements of further industrialization could be met within a period of about 10 years mainly from the country's own resources;
- fully utilize the manpower resources of the country and ensure a substantial expansion in employment opportunities
- Establish progressively **greater equality of opportunity and bring about reduction in disparities** of income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power

- **Fourth Plan :** The Fourth Plan (1969-74) aimed at accelerating the **tempo of development of reducing fluctuations in agricultural production as well as the impact of uncertainties of foreign aid.** The Plan laid particular emphasis on improving the conditions of the less privileged and weaker sections especially through provision of employment and education.
- **Fifth Plan:** The Fifth Plan **(1974-79**) was formulated against **the backdrop of severe inflationary pressures.**

The Major Objectives:

- **To achieve self-reliance and adopt measures for raising the consumption standard of people living below the poverty line.**
- To **bring inflation under control and to achieve stability in the economic situation**

- **Sixth Plan:** Removal of poverty was the foremost objective of the Sixth Plan (1980-85).The strategy adopted was to **move simultaneously towards strengthening the infrastructure for both agriculture and industry.**
- **Seventh Plan:** The Seventh Plan (1985-90) **emphasized policies and programmes, which aimed at rapid growth in food grains production, increased employment opportunities and productivity within the framework of basic tenets of planning, namely, growth, modernization, self-reliance and social justice**.

To reduce **unemployment and consequently**, the incidence of poverty, special programmes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana were launched in addition to the existing programmes. Due recognition was accorded to the role, small-scale and food processing industries could play in this regard.

- **Eighth Plan:** The **Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97**) was launched immediately after the initiation of structural adjustment policies and macro stabilization policies ,which were necessitated by the worsening Balance of Payments positions and the position of inflation during 1990-91.

Some of the salient features of economic performance during the Eighth Five-Year Plan indicate, among other things: (a) a faster economic growth, (b) a faster growth of the manufacturing sector and agriculture and allied sectors, (c) significant growth rates in exports and imports, improvement in trade and current account deficit and a significant reduction in the Central Government's fiscal deficit

- **Ninth Plan :** The Ninth Plan **(1997-2002**) was launched in the fiftieth year of India's Independence. The Plan aimed at achieving a targeted GDP growth rate of sevenper cent per annum and there was emphasis on the seven identified Basic Minimum Services (BMS) with additional Central Assistance earmarked for these services with a view to obtaining a complete coverage of the population in a time-bound manner**.**

Its objective:

- priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generate adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty;
- accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices;
- ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society;
- providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter, and connectivity to all in a time-bound manner;
- containing the growth rate of population;
- ensuring mobilization and participation of people at all levels;
- empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development;
- promoting and developing people's participatory institutions like Panchayati Raj Institution, cooperatives and self-help groups;

- **Tenth Plan:** The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07) was approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December, 2002. The Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) of the economy was expected to come down to about 3.6 as against 4.5 during the Ninth Plan. This decline in ICOR was achieved mainly through better **utilization of existing capacities and suitable sectorial allocation of capital and its efficient utilization.**

Objectives

- harnessing the benefits of growth to improve the quality of life of the people by setting of the following key targets:
  - Reduction in the poverty ratio from 26 per cent to 21 per cent, by 2007;
  - decadal population growth to reduce from 21.3 per cent in 1991- 2001 to 16.2 per cent in 2001-11; growth in gainful employment, at least, to keep pace with addition to the labour force;
  - all children to be in school by 2003 and all children to complete five years of schooling by 2007;
  - reducing gender gaps in literacy and wage rates by 50 percent;
  - literacy rate to increase from 65 per cent in 1999-2000, to 75 per cent in 2007;
  - Providing potable drinking water to all villages;
  - Increase in forest/tree cover from 19 per cent in 1999-2000, to 25 per cent in 2007; and cleaning of major polluted river stretches.

- **Eleventh Plan:** The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) provided a comprehensive strategy for inclusive development, building on the growing strength of the economy, while also addressing weaknesses that have surfaced.
- **Twelfth Plan:** The Twelfth Plan fully recognized that the objective of development is broad-based improvement in the economic and social conditions of our people. However, **rapid growth of GDP was an essential requirement for achieving this objective.** Twelfth Plan envisaged that the current

slowdown in GDP growth can be reversed through strong corrective action, including especially an expansion in investment with a corresponding increase in savings to keep inflationary pressures under control.

Atal Innovation Mission

It is a flagship initiative of the Central Government, set up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country**.** It is also envisaged as an umbrella innovation organization that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between central, state and sectoral innovation schemes incentivizing establishment of an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, and SME industry / corporate levels.

Mentor India

The Mentor India programme launched by AIM is a path-breaking initiative to catalyse the academia–industry partnerships. Under it, more than 3,200 mentors from all over the country belonging to various industry sectors have been assigned to work with 1800+ ATLs on a continuous basis.

Atal Incubation Centres

Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) and Established Incubation Centres are incubation spaces intended to provide incubation facilities to innovative start-ups like capital equipment and operating facilities along with sectoral experts for mentoring, business planning support, access to seed capital, industry partnerships, training and other critical components.

Atal New India Challenge

Atal New India Challenge (ANIC), which is an initiative by Atal Innovation Mission aimed at supporting innovators to create products/ solutions based on advanced technologies in areas of national importance and social relevance through a grant-based mechanism. AIM is working with separate ministries on this programme –Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs – to identify areas of importance and attract innovations in them.

⊙ NITI Aayog

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) came into existence in 2015 replacing the Planning Commission which was established in1950. The NITI Aayog is the successor to the Planning Commission. The new institution is envisaged to be a catalyst to the developmental process; nurturing an overall enabling environment, through a holistic approach to development going beyond the limited sphere of the public sector and Government of India**.**

Objective

The new institution is envisaged to be a catalyst to the developmental process; nurturing an overall enabling environment, through a holistic approach to development going beyond the limited sphere of the Public Sector and Government of India.

- An **empowered role of States as equal partners in national development**;
  - Operationalizing the principle of Cooperative Federalism.;
  - A knowledge hub of internal as well as external resources; serving as repository of good governance best practices, and a Think Tank offering domain knowledge as well as strategic expertise to all levels of government.;
  - A collaborative platform facilitating implementation; by monitoring progress, plugging gaps and bringing together the various ministries at the Centre and in states, in the joint pursuit of developmental goals

- The institution **provides the central and state governments with relevant strategic and technical advice** across the spectrum on key policy elements.
  - These include matters of national and international importance on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country and from other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue- based support.
  - It endeavours to inform of the best practices developed in one or more states or in other parts of the world to all states for possible adoption.
  - It fosters cooperative federalism through structured support and policy guidance to the states on a continuous basis
- The institution designs strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitors their progress and their efficacy regularly.
- NITI Aayog actively monitors and evaluates the implementation of programme sand initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the prospects of success of the latter.

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9 Rural Development

INDIA has been a **welfare state** since independence and the primary objective of all governmental endeavours has been the welfare of its people. The policies and programmes have been designed with the aim of **alleviation of rural poverty** which has been one of the primary objectives of **planned development** in India.

- It was realized that a **sustainable strategy** of poverty alleviation has to be based on increasing the **productive employment opportunities** in the process of growth itself.
- Elimination of **poverty, ignorance, diseases and inequality of opportunities** and providing a **better and higher quality** of life were the basic premise upon which all the plans and blue-prints of development were built.
- Rural development implies both the **economic betterment** of people as well as greater **social transformation.** In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for **economic development**, **increased participation** of people in the rural development programmers, **decentralization** of planning, **better enforcement** of land reforms and **greater access to credit** are envisaged.
- Initially, main thrust for development was laid on **agriculture, industry, communication, education, health and allied sectors** but later on it was realized that accelerated development can be provided only if governmental efforts were adequately supplemented by **direct and indirect involvement** of people at the grassroots level.

Major Programmes for Rural Development

The following major programmes are being operated by the **Ministry of Rural Development**:

Rural Employment

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a **rights based wage employment programme** implemented in rural areas of the country.
- This programme aims at **enhancing livelihood security** by providing up to **one hundred days** of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Objectives of the Scheme are:

- Providing up to **one hundred days** of **unskilled manual work** as a guaranteed employment in a **financial year to every household** in rural areas as per demand
- Strengthening the **livelihood resource base of the poor.**
- **Pro-actively** ensuring social inclusion.

- **Ensure empowerment to women**
- **Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.**

- To streamline the fund flow mechanism and bring down delay in payment of wages, the Ministry of Rural Development has implemented **National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 21 states and 1 union territory**.
- This process **reduces the delay in allocation of funds for payment** of wages to the states and removes parking of funds at various level.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission

- It aims at mobilizing **all rural poor household** into Self Help Groups (SHGs) in a phased manner and also aims at supporting **all women SHGs of the poor**, including those promoted by other **state agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).**
- The Mission provides them long term support to attain appreciable **increase in incomes** over a period of time to **improve their quality** of life and come out of **abject poverty**.

Key components of the NRLM:

- **Promoting Institutions** of Poor
- **Training, Capacity Building and Skill Building**
- Community Investment Support Fund
- National Special Fund Support for Convergence under DAY-NRLP
- Infrastructure creation and Marketing Support
- **Sensitive Support Structures**
- **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana** (MKSP)
- **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana**

Rural Self Employment Training Institute

- The government has decided to set up one **Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI)** in **each district** of the country.
- RSETIs are **bank lead initiative** with the **active support of state government**.
- The Government of India provides **one time infrastructure support of Rs.1 crore** besides reimbursing the **cost of training rural poor candidates**, the state government provides land free of cost or at nominal charges and the banks are responsible for day to day functioning of the RSETI.
- The core strength of the RSETI lies in its **short term training** and **long term hand-holding** to the rural entrepreneurs for setting up **micro enterprises**. Currently, **583 RSETIs** are functioning in the country.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- To give better rural connectivity, GOI as a part of poverty reduction strategy launched the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY**) in December, 2000 as a **centrally sponsored scheme** to assist the states, though rural roads are in the state list as per the Constitution.
- The primary objective of Scheme is to **provide connectivity** by way of an **all-weather road** (with necessary culverts and cross-drainage

Objectives of the Scheme:

- To **connect eligible unconnected habitations** as per core-network with a population of 250 persons and above.
- The programme envisages **single all weather connectivity**.
- To ensure **full farm-to-market connectivity**, the programme also provides for the **upgradation of the existing "Through Routes"** and **major rural links** to prescribed standards, though it is not central to the programme.

structures, which is operable throughout the year), to the eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 500 Persons (as per 2001census) and above in plain areas.

- In respect of **'Special Category States'** (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), **the desert areas, the tribal** (Schedule V) areas and **88 selected tribal and backward districts**, the objective is to **connect eligible unconnected habitations** as per **Core-Network** with a population of 250 persons and above (census 2001).

Rural Housing

- The rural housing scheme **Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY**) implemented by **Ministry of Rural Development,** aimed at **providing houses to families below the poverty line (BPL) in rural areas** has since inception provided assistance for construction of 360 lakh houses.
- In the context of Government's priority for **"Housing for All"** by 2022, the rural housing scheme **Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)** has been restructured to **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G),** which came into effect from **2016-17**.

The main features of the scheme of PMAY-G include:

- **Providing assistance for construction of 1 crore** houses in rural areas over the period of 3 years from 2016-17 to 2018-19.
- Identification of beneficiaries based on the **Socio-Economic and Caste Census** (SECC 2011) data covering households that are **houseless or living in houses** with **kutcha walls and kutcha roof with two rooms or less** after **excluding households falling under the automatic exclusion category.**
- Setting up of **national technical support agency at national level** to provide technical support to the implementing agencies and to the beneficiaries in taking up construction of houses and help in achieving the target set under the project.

National Social Assistance Programme

- NSAP is a **social assistance programme** for **poor BPL households** for the **aged, widows, disable** and also include provision for one time assistance in the case of death of the **primary bread earner** in a BPL family.
- Allocation of funds for implementation of the scheme of NSAP was under the budget heads of **Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs** till 2013-14.
- Funds were released in a **combined manner** for all the schemes under NSAP to the states and UTs by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs respectively from their budget heads.
- There is **no provision of a state share**.
- This is done to ensure that all the beneficiaries are provided with a **uniform minimum assistance.**
- States may contribute from their own resources to enhance the assistance.

At present, NSAP comprises:

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme**
- **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme**
- **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme National Family Benefi t Scheme (NFBS) and**
- **Annapurna.**

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

- DDU-GKY is a critical component of **the National Skill Development Policy**, and has an ambitious agenda, to benchmark wage placement-linked skill programmes to global standards and requirements."
- DDU-GKY is a pioneer in standards-led **delivery of skilling in India**, the first to notify standard operating procedures for training, and the first **to introduce IT solutions for skilling**, including mandatory tablets for trainees, **Aadhar-linked biometric information** on attendance, and **geo-tagged time-stamped** record of training centres and classes.

- **Aajeevika Skills** was announced as DDU-GKY with a focus on providing opportunities through skilling for rural poor youth in domestic and global jobs.
- To ensure **rural poor youth are skilled** in market relevant trades and **job-relevant competencies;**
- To ensure **regular and sustainable employment** to its beneficiaries, and consistent career progression through upskilling; and
- To ensure **independent assessment** and **globally acceptable certification** of its beneficiaries.
- **Key features** of the scheme:
  - DDU-GKY follows **3 tier implementation** architecture **in PPP mode**, with the national unit responsible for policy, central investments and technical support; SRLMs/State Skills Missions are responsible for state investments, implementation and monitoring controls; and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), both public and private training partners with a legacy in skill training, responsible for mobilization, training and placements.
  - The focus of this programme is on the **rural youth from poor families**, in the age group of **15 to 35 years**, belonging to:
    - MGNREGA worker household in which household members have together completed 15 days of work;
    - RSBY household;
    - Antyodaya Anna Yojana card household;
    - BPL PDS card households;
    - NRLM-SHG household; and
    - Household covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011.
  - Full social inclusion of candidates is ensured by the mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups—50 per cent allocation to SC/ST groups, 15 per cent to minorities, 33 per cent for women and 3 per cent for persons with disabilities.
  - Placement in wage employment is mandated for a minimum of **70 per cent** of all successful candidates, with a **minimum salary of Rs. 6,000 per month** or the **minimum wages**, whichever is higher.
  - The programme promotes **Make in India**, through **pro-active partnership** with industry through **multi-pronged engagement** - champion employer policy, captive employer policy and industrial internship policy.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

- The goal of **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana** (SAGY) is to translate this comprehensive and organic vision of Mahatma Gandhi into reality, keeping in view the present context.
- Far beyond **mere infrastructure development**, SAGY aims at **instilling certain values in the villages and their people** so that they get transformed into models for other. "
- These values include: **adopting people's participating as an end in itself**, ensuring **the involvement of all sections of society in all aspects related to the life of village, especially in decision-making related to governance.**
- **Salient Features of the Scheme:**
  - **Village Development Plan:**
    - The Gram Panchayats adopted under SAGY prepared Village Development Plans (VDP) containing **prioritized time-bound activities** to achieve **holistic progress** of the village, through convergence of resources.
    - Gram Panchayats have very **systematically** taken development approach by involving Gram Sabha and they have prepared **comprehensive VDP** for their development.

- In order to keep track of the progress of projects listed in the VDP, a **Tracking Template** has been developed and the progress is monitored online.

◆ **Panchayat Darpan:**

- The Ministry has developed a **35 point impact monitoring tool** to gauge the impact of SAGY in the GPs.
- Progress is measured through outcome indicators broadly covering **basic amenities, education, health, sanitation, livelihood, women empowerment, financial inclusion, food security, social security and e-governance.**
- Many Gram Panchayats have ensured **100 per cent immunization**, strengthening of PDS system, providing benefits of social security schemes and many others.

⊙ Land Reforms

■ Watershed Management Programme

- Population pressures and demands on land and water and the increasing degradation of these resources are affecting the stability and resilience of our ecosystem and environment.
- The expansion of human settlements and infrastructure and intensification of agriculture and allied activities and their expansion into marginal areas and fragile ecosystems, emphasize the need for integrated planning and management of land and water resources.
- A watershed is a **topographically delineated area** that is drained by a stream system. It includes **physical and hydrological natural resources.**
- Management of a watershed entails the rational utilization of land and water resources for optimum productivity, with minimum hazards to human settlements.
- Watershed management is the **process of guiding and organizing land use** and **use of other natural resources in a watershed.**
- Embedded in this approach is the recognition of the inter-relationships between land use, soil and water conservation and the linkages between uplands and downstream areas.
- Watershed development is a **multi-disciplinary field**, for sustainable natural resource management. Watershed development activities also contribute towards **mitigation and adaptation to global warming.**

■ Watershed Development

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yoiana (PMKSY) was launched in 2015- 16 by amalgamating ongoing schemes of three ministries viz. **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programmed (AIBP) and PMKSY (WR) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD and GR); Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the Micro Irrigation component of On Farm Water Management (OFWM) oil National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW).**
- The activities undertaken inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset-less persons, etc.
- In 2015-16, the IWMP was amalgamated as the **Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).**
- No further watershed development projects have been sanctioned from 2015-16 onwards.
- At present, the principal emphasis is on qualitative and timely implementation and completion of the ongoing watershed development projects.

■ Natural Land Reforms Modernization

- The scheme of National Land Reforms Modernization Programme (NLRMP) has been renamed as **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)** and is being implemented **since 2008**.
- Under it, 27 states/ UTs have computerized the registration of records (RoR) of land in their respective areas, 19 states/UTs have stopped manual issue of RoRs and 22 states/UTs have uploaded in their websites.
- Besides, 25 states/UTs have done computerization of Registration and 11 states/UTs have done integration of land records with registration.

⊙ Panchayati Raj

➤ **Constitutional Mandate**

- **Part IX** of the Constitution of India provides for setting up of three tiers of Panchayats (only two tiers in case of states of union territories having population less than 2 million):
- **gram panchayats** at village level;
- **district panchayats** at district level; and
- **intermediate panchayats** at sub-district level in between gram panchayats and district panchayats.

➤ It also provides for gram sabha (general assembly of registered voters who reside in the area of gram panchayat) as a forum for **direct participation of villagers in local governance**.

➤ The Constitution India has **fixed five year term** for these panchayats and has made provision for the **reservation of seats for women and marginalized sections** (scheduled castes and scheduled tribes) of Indian society.

➤ While **reservation of schedule castes (SCs) & scheduled tribes (STs)** is in proportion to their share in population, that for women is **at least 33.33 per cent.**

➤ However, many states have increased the reservation of seats **and chairperson posts for women in panchayats to 50 per cent**.

➤ The Constitution of India also stipulates direct elections of all members of panchayats. For conducting these elections, all states are mandated to constitute a state election commission.

➤ Also it is compulsory for states to constitute a **State Finance Commission** every **fifth year** for recommending principles for division of financial resources between state and local governments (both urban and rural).

➤ Within this broad framework, as **local government is a state subject**, State legislatures have a critical role in determining various aspects of panchayati raj in their states.

➤ States are keys as far as **devolution of powers** to panchayats is concerned. The Constitution envisaged that Panchayats will function as institutions of local government and prepare plans and **implement schemes for economic development and social justice**, but leaves the precise devolution of powers and authority to panchayats to the states.

■ Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan

- To improve the functioning of PRIs the MoPR has been implementing the **Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyaan** to addresses the major constraints of **inadequate devolution of powers, lack of manpower, inadequate infrastructure and limited capacity** in the effective functioning of Panchayats by providing man-power, infrastructure, training and promotion of devolution of power to Panchayats and put in place **structures of accountability**.

■ Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- The **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan** (RGGA) will focus on **capacity building of Panchayati Raj** Institutions for convergent action to deliver basic services and achieve development goals.

- Under RGSA comprehensive efforts will be made to **support and enhance** the **capacity building and training facilities** for all stakeholders with particular thrust on the aspects of **Gram Panchayat Development Plan.**

■ E-Panchayat

- E-Panchayat was identified as one of the **27 Mission Mode Projects** under the **National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)** formulated in 2006.

⊙ Recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission

- Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award for the period 2015-20 grants to the tune of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crore are being devolved to Gram Panchayats in the country constituted under **Part IX** of the Constitution.
- The FFC has **not recommended grants to Non-Part IX areas under Schedule VI in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam, the areas in the hill districts of Manipur, rural areas of Nagaland and Mizoram.**

⊙ Drinking Water and Sanitation

The **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** is the nodal Ministry for the **overall policy, planning, funding and coordination of the flagship programmes** of the Government of India viz., the **National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for rural** drinking water supply and the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)] for sanitation** in the country.

■ Swachch Bharat Abhiyan

- The concept of **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** is to pave access for **every person to sanitation** facilities including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, village cleanliness and safe and adequate drinking water supply.
- The programme is implemented by the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**.
- The Abhiyan aims **to 'triple the growth percentage of toilets from present 39 per cent to 100 per cent by 2019'.**
- As part of Swachh Bharat, priority is being given to **build toilets for boys and girls in all schools of the country.**
- To strengthen **delivery mechanism** in sanitation in rural areas some of the important measures have been proposed:
  - Signing MoU with states, on water and sanitation for implementation of both water and sanitation, with interchangeability of funds between water and sanitation so that idle funds do not lie in states and targets are not starved of funds in either of the two sectors;
  - Release to states with '**Just in Time' concept**, to be adopted by Centre to avoid extra cost of funds to Government of India;
  - Enable a system of small loans through agencies like NABARD, SIDBI (or banks through priority sector lending without collateral) to those households for the construction of toilets which are eligible for incentives or need funds to construct better toilets maybe with bathing space;
  - Developing a **Block Level cadre of sanitation coordinators** who shall be the main support to Gram Panchayats (GP) in disseminating information and strengthening capacity in sanitation activities;
  - Identifying a **Swachchata Doot (messenger) for each GP in the country**, equipping him with skills on sanitation and giving him performance linked incentives; and
  - **Intensive monitoring at the household level** shall be taken up through the **MIS of the Ministry,** as already name of each household has been collected by Ministry of Drinking Water

Supply through baseline data recently. Besides senior officers of Centre and state should directly talk to the Sarpanches on telephone to get feedback.

■ Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

- **The main objectives of the SBM(G) are:**
  - Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation;
  - Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019; and
  - Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.

■ Swachhata Pakhwada

- **Swachhata Pakhwada** was started in **April 2016** with the objective of bringing a **fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata** by engaging GoI ministries and departments in their jurisdiction.
- An **annual calendar** is pre-circulated among the ministries to help them plan for the **Pakhwada activities**.

■ Namami Gange

- Namami Gange Programme is an initiative of **Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR),** comprising making villages on the bank of river Ganga ODF and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management are being implemented by MDWS.
- **All 4470 villages** located across 52 districts of **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal** has since been made ODF by MDWS with active help of state governments.
- Now the Ministry has taken up **24 villages on the bank of river Ganga** to transform them as Ganga Grams in coordination with NMCG.
- Further, in order to strengthen the **Ganga Gram initiative** and to give a focused reinforcement in making Ganga Swachhta Sammelan **a Jan Andolan,** MDWS organized **Ganga Chaupal in 2018** and in continuation to this; **Ganga Gram Swachhta Sammelans** were organized.

■ Swachhta Action Plan

- SAP, a first of its kind **inter-ministerial programme for Swachhta**, is a concrete realization of the vision that swachhta is everyone's business.
- All Union ministries/departments have started to work for its realization in a significant manner with appropriate budget provisions.

■ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission

- The National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) have been converged and named as **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY**). The scope of NULM has been enhanced to cover all statutory towns and it has been renamed as DAY-NULM.
- The primary target of DAY-NULM is **urban poor, including urban homeless and particular emphasis is laid on mobilisation of vulnerable sections of urban population such as SCs, STs, minorities, female headed households, persons with disabilities, destitute, migrant labourers,** and especially vulnerable occupational groups such as **street vendors, rag pickers, domestic workers, beggars, construction workers, etc.**
- Activities under DAY-NULM are directed also at **providing shelters equipped with essential services to urban homeless in a phased manner.**

- Moreover, the Mission addresses livelihood concerns of urban street vendors by facilitating access to **suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security and skills** for accessing emerging market opportunities.

DAY-NULM has following components:

- **Social Mobilization and Institution Development (SM&ID):** NULM envisages mobilisation of urban poor households into thrift and credit-based Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations/ collectives.
- **Employment through Skills Training and Placement (EST&P):** NULM will focus on providing assistance for skill development/upgrading of the urban poor to enhance their capacity for self employment or better salaried employment.
- **Self-employment Programme (SEP):** This component will focus on financial assistance to individuals/groups of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures/micro enterprises, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions.
- **Support to Urban Street Vendors:** This component will cover development of vendors market, credit enablement of vendors, socio-economic survey of street vendors, skill development and micro enterprises development and convergence with social assistance under various schemes of the Government.
- **Innovative & Special Projects (I&SP):** It will focus on the promotion of novel initiatives in the form of innovative projects. These initiatives may be in the nature of pioneering efforts, aimed at catalysing sustainable approaches to urban livelihoods through Public- Private-Community Partnership (PPCP)

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10 Scientific & Technological Developments

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) functions as the **nodal agency to connect science and technology sector to Government verticals**. DST provides the largest extramural research and development support in the country to strengthen national S&T capacity and capability through a competitive mode to scientists cutting across institutions and disciplines.

Some of the important domains in which the Department devotes its attention are:

- **Strengthening the pool of scientists and technologists** for carrying out globally competitive R&D in cutting edge areas of science;
- **Nurturing R&D institutions and building infrastructural facilities** for enhancing global ranking of India in scientific research;
- **Support for the establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanisms** for partnerships for promoting science;
- **Deploying technology through national missions**; developing capacity of institutions and industry for technology commercialization for solving national challenges; and
- **Providing S&T inputs to society** for its socio-economic benefits; and policy formulation for S&T sector.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

- The new **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy unveiled in 2013** includes a thrust for innovations in science and technology sector.
- STI policy reveals an aspiration to gain global competitiveness and link science sector to the developmental agenda of the country. **Science, research and innovation system for high technology led path for India** (SRISHTI) is the main policy goal.
- **Integration of science, research and innovation systems and emergence of India** as one of the top five of six knowledge powers in science are expressed aspirations of the new STI policy. To translate this vision into action, the Department has **already established a dedicated Policy Research Cell**.
- Five policy research centers in academic institutions have been established to develop and design new programmes and action plans for implementation in science, technology and innovation sector in the country.

Science and Engineering Research

- The research and development in frontier areas of science and engineering has received an overwhelming support with the establishment of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).
- **Several new initiatives have been launched by the Board** recently to reverse the brain drain at different stages of scientific careers.

- **Teachers' Associates for Research Excellence (TARE) Mobility Scheme**
  - The Scheme launched in 2016-17 aims to facilitate mobility of faculty members working in a regular capacity in state universities/colleges/academic institutions such as IITs, IISc, IISERs, national labs, etc., located nearer to the institution where the faculty member is working.
  - This would bring in our research stream the latent or dormant scientific manpower with modest investment and improve the potential for research and teaching in two tier institutions.
  - Provision of fellowship amount of ₹5,000 per month, contingency grant of ₹5 lakh per annum and overhead for a period of 3 years has been made.
- **Early Career Research Awards (ECRA):**
  - For young faculty for setting up laboratory facilities for quick launching of research by new faculty.
  - Around 300 candidates will be supported annually under ECRA.

Attracting Young Talent

- **Innovation in science pursuit for inspired research (INSPIRE)** is an ongoing initiative for attracting talent for science and research.
- **INSPIRE awards are provided to students in the age group of 10-15** and Science camps are organised to provide opportunity to **class XI students pursuing science to interact with the science icons from India and abroad** including Nobel Laureates.
- **INSPIRE faculty awards are provided to post-doctoral researchers in the age group of 27-32 years** through contractual and tenure positions for 5 years in basic and applied sciences.

Opportunities for Women Scientists

- Department of Science and Technology launched several initiatives for women in science under its flagship scheme namely **KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)**.
- Through this unique initiative, DST provides opportunity to **women scientists who had break in their career**, primarily due to family reasons.

Nano Science and Technology

- **National Mission of Nano Science and Technology**- an umbrella programme - was **launched in 2007 to promote R&D** in this emerging area of research in a comprehensive fashion.
- The **main objectives of the nano mission** are –
  - Basic research promotion.
  - Research infrastructure development.
  - Nano-application and technology development.
  - Human resource development.
  - International collaboration.
  - Orchestrating national dialogues.

Climate Change

- **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem** (NMSHE) and **National Mission for Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change** (NMSKCC) launched under National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) are under implementation by the Department.

- Himalayas Climate Change Portal was launched to make the knowledge on himalayas readily available for the end users and community.

■ National Initiative for Developing & Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)

- National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) has been evolved as an umbrella scheme for a **seamless innovation ecosystem booster**.
- The specific components of NIDHI are:
  - **Promotion and Acceleration of Young and Aspiring innovators & Startups** (PRAYAS) – Support from Idea to Prototype;
  - **Entrepreneur in Residence** (EIR) - Support system to reduce risk;
  - **Startup-NIDHI through Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres** (IEDCs) in academic institutions for encouraging students to promote start-ups; and
  - **Start-up Centre in collaboration with MHRD**— inculcating a spirit of entrepreneurship in National Institutions of Higher Learning.
  - **Technology Business Incubator** (TBI) - converting innovations to startups;
  - **Seed Support Sytem** (SSS) - providing early stage investment;
  - **Centres of Excellence** (COE) - a world class facility to help startups go global and/or scale up.

⊙ MANAK

- **MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge):** To widen the base of the innovation pyramid by cultural intervention, ideas relevant to the national needs are to be invited from 10 lakh school students in any language.

⊙ Survey of India

- Survey of India (SOI), the **national survey and mapping organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology**, was set up in 1767.
- In its assigned roleas the **National Principal Mapping Agency, Survey of India** bears a special responsibility to ensure that the country's domain is explored and mapped suitably to provide base maps for expeditious and integrated development and ensure that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress, prosperity and security of the country.

Survey Training Institute, Hyderabad established under UNDP assistance is a premier institution for training in various disciplines of surveying and mapping to the trainees sponsored by the Department, other state/ central government organisations and neighbouring countries.

- It has also been called upon extensively to deploy its expertise in the field of geodetic and geophysical surveys, study of seismicity and seismotectonics, glaciology, participation in **Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica** and projects related to digital cartography and digital photogrammetry, etc., to provide basic data to keep pace with Science and Technology Department.
- It also undertakes large scale surveys for various developmental projects including hydro-electric, irrigation, command area, canal area, cantt. area schemes, etc. The Department is responsible to fix the external boundary of India, their depiction on mapspublished in the country and also advise on the demarcation of inter-state boundaries.
- The **Survey of India also provides support to other countries**. **Under UN mandate, Survey of India also provides support to countries in Asia-Pacific region** for capacity building in spatial data infrastructures.

- Keeping in view a new **National Map Policy announced in May, 2005, Open Series Maps based on UTM projection and WGS-84 datum** which is compatible with the coordinate system of GPS, used in all activities of surveying and mapping, are being published for users community.
- Defence Series Maps based on-**Lambert Conformal Conic Projection and WGS-84 datum** are being published for defence forces which are declared as classified.

NATMO - National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)

- While Survey of India meets the national needs in cartography, some specialised thematic maps required to meet the needs of the specific users are taken care of by the **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) operating under the Department.**
- It also concentrates its attention in a number of areas to integrate resource maps with other relevant socio-economic data and represent them in spatial forms, useful for developmental planning.
- **NATMO is trying to develop the technology of reverse printing for NATMO maps** on experimental basis. It is also trying to introduce the technique of using metallic colours in map printing.

CSIR - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, (CSIR) **constituted in 1942** is an autonomous body which is known for its cutting edge R&D knowledge base in diverse S&T areas.
- It **covers a wide spectrum of science and technology**—from radio and space physics, oceanography, earth sciences, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology.
- CSIR is the **nation's custodian for measurement standards** of mass, distance, time, temperature, current, etc. CSIR has created and is the **custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library** (TKDL). It maintains **Microbial Type Culture Collection (MTCC) and Gene Bank**.

Atomic Energy

- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), **established in 1954** is engaged in the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry, and basic research.
- Some of its objectives are:
  - **Increasing the share of nuclear power** through deployment of indigenous and other proven technologies.
  - **Developing fast breeder reactors and thorium reactors** with associated fuel cycle facilities;
  - **Building and operation of research reactors** for production of radio-isotopes and carrying out radiation technology applications in the field of medicine, agriculture and industry;
  - **Developing advanced technologies** such as accelerators, lasers and encourage transfer of technology to industry; and
  - **Support to basic research in nuclear energy and related** frontier areas of science, interaction with universities and academic institutions, support to R&D projects having a bearing on DAE's programmes and international cooperation in related areas of research; and contribution to national security.
  - **DAE has wide ranging capabilities in uranium mining and mineral procesing**, and is self-suficient in the production of heavy water, zirconium alloy components and other materials and supplies, for pressurised heavy water reactor.
- **The Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad manufactures fuel assemblies** for pressurised heavy water reactors, boiling water reactors and fast breeder reactor.

Heavy Water Board

- The Heavy Water Board has contributed successfully to the first stage of Nuclear Power Programme by producing heavy water for all Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors in a cost effective manner enabling the department to provide nuclear power at an affordable cost to common man.
- Presently, the Board is not only self-sufficient in meeting the domestic demand of heavy water, but is also geared upto supply heavy water for the future PHWRs and AHWRs as per the envisioned nuclear power programme of DAE.
- Over a period of time, HWB has emerged as the largest global producer and a trusted supplier of this strategic material.

Solvent Technology

- In the area of solvents, both the industrial facilities at HWP, Baroda and Talcher for production of TBP (Tributyl Phosphate) and D2EHPA have performed very well enabling HWB to meet the entire requirement of NFC, NRB and all other units of DAE.

Boron Enrichment

- In consonance with the material input r**equired for second stage of NPP based on FBRs, HWB,** with its decades of experience of handling isotope separation process, took up development, demonstration and deployment of indigenous technologies for production of enriched boron.
- HWB has now acquired comprehensive capability in this area achieving enrichment levels beyond 95 percent in multiple chemical forms.

Sodium

- Sodium is another important input for FBRs, used as coolant in the reactor.
- **Networking with the Indian R&D organizations,** HWB has developed indigenous and safer closed electrolytic cell technology for production of nuclear grade sodium.

Mineral Exploration and Mining

- **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)** continued the accelerated pace of exploration activities by integrated, multi- disciplinary methodology and judicious utilisation of manpower with a focussed approach on augmentation of uranium, thorium and rare metals.
- This resulted in the **augmentation of additional uranium oxide (U3O8) reserve** of over 15,775 tonnes in **Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Jharkhand**.

Health Safety and Environment

- Review of safety of operating stations was carried out on a regular basis.
- **An online thoron monitoring network** was installed and made operational at PRTRF at Trombay to monitor the thoron gas concentration at various locations in the facility.
- **All the plants of Heavy Water Board are certified for ISO Quality Management System**, **Environmental Management System and OSHA System**. The overall safety standards of heavy water plants were far better than similar chemical industries in the country.

Fast Breeder Reactors

- For the **second stage of the Nuclear Power Generation Programme**, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) is pursuing development of sodium cooled fast breeder reactors and associated fuel cycle technologies.
- **Breeder reactors produce more fuel than they consume**.

- The **Fast Reactor Programme of IGCAR** is supported by its research and development endeavour in a range of disciplines such as reactor engineering, metallurgy, materials science, instrumentation, safety, etc.
- The **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), operating at Kalpakkam** for over 25 years, also caters to technology development related to fast reactors.

Thorium Based Reactors

- Nuclear power employing closed fuel cycle is the only sustainable option for meeting a major part of the world energy demand.
- World resources of thorium are larger than those of uranium.
- The **Indian Nuclear Power Programme Stage-3** aims at using thorium as fuel for power generation on a commercial scale.
- In the thorium fuel cycle, **Thorium 232 is transmuted into the fissile isotope Uranium 233 which is a nuclear fuel**.
- As a part of this programme, BARC has been developing a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR).
- **Fuelled by thorium** and using **light water as coolant** and **heavy water as moderator**, this reactor will have several advanced passive safety features.

Kalpakkam Mini (Kamini) Reactor

- Kamini reactor was operated successfully **for neutron radiography of various pyro devices for Department of Space**.
- High temperature fission chambers required for neutron flux measurement of PFBR were successfully tested.

Advanced Technologies

- The research centres of DAE are **engaged in developing advanced technologies** such as accelerators, lasers, advanced materials, robotics, supercomputers, instrumentation and others.
- **BARC, RRCAT, VECC and BRIT are also engaged in the development of radiation technologies** and their applications for better crop varieties, techniques for crops protection, radiation based post-harvest technologies, techniques for radio-diagnosis and radiotherapy of diseases particularly cancer, technologies for safe drinking water, better environment and industrial growth.

Research Reactors

- Dhruva operated at rated power of 100 MWt at a high safety level and availability factor.
- A number of researchers from across the country utilized the neutron beam facility of the UGC-DAE Consortium for scientific research.

Robotics

- A **robot base frameless stereotactic system developed at BARC** for performing neurosurgery which is accuracy and patient comfort level and comfortable to frame the system.
- **It automates the frameless sterotaxy** using a high precision robot (Parallel mechanism base robot)

Cryogenics

- **Cryogenic system consisting of cryogen distribution line for liquid Helium and liquid nitrogen and sub-atmospheric vacuum** jacketed lines for helium, warm helium lines between

the helium buffer tanks and compressor and a 500 watt helium liquefier is being set up water super conducting electron and heavy ions linacs at VECC.

■ Radioisotopes & Radiation Technology

- **DAE has been playing a significant role in the development and applications of various radioisotopes** in healthcare, industry, agriculture and research. India is one of the leading countries in the isotope technology today as a result of the consistent efforts of DAE.
- Radioisotopes are produced in the **Dhruva Research Reactor at Trombay**, accelerator at Kolkata and the various nuclear power plants of NPCIL , a wide variety of radioisotopes for medical, industrial and research applications were produced and supplied by BARC.
- The **Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT)** produced and supplied a wide range of radioisotope products, and radiation technology equipment for medical and industrial uses.

■ Nuclear Agriculture

- The **Nuclear Agriculture Programme of DAE** focuses on the use of radiation technology for the development of high yielding crop seeds, radiation processing of food items, fertilizer and pesticide-related studies, and other areas.
- These technologies are **benefiting Indian farmers and traders**.

⊙ Organizations Related to Atomic Energy

■ Homi Bhabha National Institute

- The Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) accredited as a **deemed university by Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD)** completed ten years of its existence.
- HBNI continued its academic programmes by **offering various courses with its eight Boards of Studies** namely as Chemical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Strategic Studies and Undergraduate Studies.
- Degrees and diplomas including Ph.D were awarded to students.
- HBNI continued to strengthen its linkages with premier research and academic institutes in the country and abroad.

■ Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

- The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is a government-owned corporation based in Mumbai in the state of Maharashtra.
- It is **wholly owned by the Central Government** and is responsible for the generation of nuclear power for electricity.
- NPCIL is administered by the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India (DAE).

■ Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.

- Uranium Corporation of India (UCIL) is a **centrally owned Public Sector Undertaking (PSU),** under the Department of Atomic Energy **for uranium mining and uranium processing**.
- The corporation was **founded in 1967** and is responsible for the mining and milling of uranium ore in India.
- The firm operates mines at Jadugora, Bhatin, Narwapahar, Turamdih and Banduhurang.

Indian Space Programme

- Indian Space Programme Space activities in the country were initiated with the **setting up of Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) in 1962**.
- In the same year, work on **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) near Thiruvananthapuram was also started**.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in August, 1969**.
- Government of India constituted the space commission and **established the Department of Space (DOS) in 1972** and **brought ISRO under DOS in 1972**.
- Commission formulates the policies and oversees the implementation of the Indian space programme to promote the development and application of space science and technology for the socio-economic benefit of the country.
- **DOS implements these programmes through, mainly**, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL), North Eastern-Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC) and Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL).
- Antrix Corporation, established in 1992 as a **government owned company, markets the space products and services**.

The period March 2016 - June 2017 witnessed numerous achievements of the Indian Space programme.

- Twelve launch vehicle missions were successfully accomplished that included seven PSLVs, two GSLV-Mk II and one GSLV-MKIII from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR), Sriharikota while the ten ISRO satellites, four student satellites and 152 foreign satellites were launched by these missions.
- Communication satellites **GSAT-17 and GSAT-18** were also successfully launched from French Guiana.
- **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) had the unique distinction of launching 104 satellites** in a single mission while also demonstrating its capability to place satellites in two different orbits in a single mission. ISRO also demonstrated new technologies in the launch vehicle programme.
- **Reusable Launch Vehicle**-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) and SCRAMJET Engine Technology Demonstrator had their successful maiden test flights.
- This apart, the **launch of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle- Mark II (GSLV- Mk II)** became the third consecutively successful launch of GSLV carrying the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS).

Chandrayaan-2 Mission

- India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, **GSLV MkIII-M 1, successfully launched Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft** into its planned orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) and an apogee (farthest point to earth) of 45,475 km.
- The launch took place from the second launch pad **at Satish Dhawan Space Centre** SHAR, Sriharikota.
- This mission was a highly complex mission, which represented a significant technological leap compared to the previous missions of ISRO.
- It comprised an **orbiter, lander and rover** to explore the unexplored south Pole of the moon.
- The mission was **designed to expand the lunar scientific knowledge through detailed study** of topography, seismography, mineral identification and distribution, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics of top soil and composition of the tenuous lunar atmosphere, leading to a new understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon.

Achievements in the Field of Space

- **Six launch vehicle missions were successfully accomplished**.
- The successful launch of **GSLV-MkIII D2,** the second developmental flight of India's most powerful launch vehicle was the highlight of 2018.

- Successful launch of **GSLV-F11 and four PSLV launches from Satish Dhawan Space Centre** were also accomplished.
- **ISRO could place five Indian satellites into the orbits**.
- These included one earth observation satellite, three communication satellites and one navigation satellite. **Pad Abort Test**, which was conducted in July 2018 was one the major milestones in proving critical technologies for Gaganyaan.
- In all **ISRO accomplished 13 missions**, which includes six launch vehicle missions, six satellite missions and one technology demonstrator, Pad Abort test.

■ Space Applications and Disaster Management Support (DMS) Programme

- The societal services **offered by INSAT/GSAT satellites in the area of tele-education** and telemedicine were continued during the year.
- Remote sensing applications projects at national, state and local levels are being carried out through well-established multi-pronged implementation architecture of **National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) in the country**.
- **Indian remote satellite constellation** helped in agricultural crops inventory, agricultural drought, forest fire, landslides and earthquake monitoring, gas pipeline monitoring, groundwater prospects mapping, inventory, monitoring of glacial lakes, water bodies and satellite aided search and rescue.
- The **Disaster Management Support (DMS) Programme of ISRO** is continuing to provide space based inputs for the effective management of disasters in the country.
- The **Decision Support Centre (DMSDSC), established at National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC),** is engaged in monitoring of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, forest fires, etc.

Space Commerce

- Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of the Department of Space, is marketing the Indian space products and services in the global market.
- Under commercial contracts with Antrix, 209 international customer satellites have been successfully launched by PSLV so far.

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

- Towards capacity building in human resources and to meet the growing demands of the Indian Space Programme, the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), a deemed university, was established at Thiruvananthapuram in 2007.

- **National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM)** continued to provide disaster related inputs for states/UTs with multi-scale geo-spatial database.
- **IRSO is a signatory of the International Charter for 'Space and Major Disasters'**, which aims at providing a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to users affected by disasters.

■ Space Science and Planetary Research

- **Mars Orbiter mission** mum which is India's first interplanetary space craft mission and successfully completed 3 years in its Orbit around the mass and still continues to provide vital information on regular basis.
- Astrosat India's first multi wavelength observatory, completed 2 years in Orbit. **The satellite is not being operated as a 'Observatory',** in which observational time is allocated based on the proposals received from interested researchers and scientist in the country through ISRO's Announcement of Opportunity (AO).

Earth Sciences

- Earth system sciences deals with all the **five components of the earth system**, viz:
  - Atmosphere,
  - Hydrosphere,
  - Cryosphere,
  - Lithosphere, and
  - Biosphere and their complex interaction.
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) holistically addresses all the aspects relating the earth system science** for providing weather, climate, ocean, coastal state, hydrological and seismological services.
- The services include **forecasts and warnings for various natural disasters**.
- The services provided are being **effectively used by different agencies and state governments for saving human lives and minimizing damages** due to natural disasters.

Earth System Science Organization

- The Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) operates as an **executive arm of the MoES for its policies and programmes**. It provides overall direction for the centres/units and reviews the implementation of the programmes.
- The ESSO was **established in 2007 as a virtual organization**, bringing all meteorological and ocean development activities under one umbrella, recognizing the importance of strong coupling among various components of the earth viz., atmosphere, oceans, cryo-sphere and geo-sphere.
- It has **four major branches of earth sciences**, viz.:
  - ocean science and technology
  - atmospheric and climate science
  - geo-science and technology and
  - polar science and cryo-sphere.
- The sole purpose of the endeavour was **to address holistically various aspects relating to earth processes for understanding the variability of earth system**.
- ESSO is **also responsible for development of technology towards the exploration and exploitation of marine resources** in a sustainable way for the socio-economic benefit of the society by taking into account the global developments in the field of marine environment.

Atmospheric and Climate Research

- A high resolution **global deterministic weather prediction model** was commissioned for generating operational weather forecasts at a horizontal resolution of 12 km.
- With this, **MoES has attained the same capability as USA** in using high resolution weather prediction models.

Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services

- The Ministry in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provides the Agromet Advisory Services (AAS)** for the benefit of farmers.
- Farmers make use of these services for planning the operations like **sowing, irrigation, application of fertilizer and pesticide, harvest and protection of crops** from weather disasters.

Forecasts for Heat and Cold Waves

- To provide adequate warnings about heat waves and associated health hazards, **MoES for the first time started issuing forecasts for heat waves over the country**.
- A **Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS)** for short and medium range prediction at 12 km using 21 members of the model was commissioned in 2018.
- A new early warning system of air quality in Delhi was **developed in collaboration with National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA**. The system will assimilate data from around 36 monitoring stations and satellite data on stubble burning and dust storms. These warning services were **provided to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).**
- India Meteorological Department and Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) launched a **web portal dedicated exclusively to the energy sector**.
- The **Mumbai Weather Live Mobile App** was developed by collating ground weather observations recorded by IMD and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.

Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science

- Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART), has been put in place for the **period 2017-18 to 2019-20**.
- Implementation of O-SMART will **help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14**, which aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development.

Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services

- Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services (ACROSS) pertains to the **atmospheric science programmes of the Ministry**. Its objective is to provide reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society.
- It will be **implemented by the Ministry through its institutes** namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).
- The scheme will **provide improved weather, climate and ocean forecast and services**, thereby ensuring transfer of commensurate benefits to the various services like public weather service, disaster management, agro-meteorological services, aviation services, environmental monitoring services, hydro-meteorological services, climate services, tourism, pilgrimage, power generation, water management, sports and adventure, etc.
- **Some of the major augmentation efforts**:
  - the commissioning of the S**-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Goa,**
  - indigenously developed **GPS based pilot-sonde at New Delhi**,
  - **indigenously developed Drishti Runway Visibility Range** (RVR)/Automatic Weather Observing System (AWOS) systems at 8 airports,
  - a new **Meteorological Observatory at Meteorological Centre Amravati** (capital of Andhra Pradesh)
  - **A new Cyclone Warning Centre also was established at Thiruvananthapuram**, Kerala from October 2018 to provide cyclone alerts and warnings for of Kerala and Karnataka.
  - **A mobile App named "DAMINI"** has been developed to disseminate the information on lightning to the public.

Ocean Services: Technology and Observations

Potential Fishery Zone (PFZ) Advisories

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) provides PFZ advisories to 2.75 lakh fishermen **on a daily basis to help them to easily locate the areas of abundant fish in the ocean**.

Ocean State Forecasts

- Ocean state forecasts (forecasts of waves, currents, sea surface temperature, etc.) to fisher folk, shipping industry, oil and natural gas industry, navy, coast guard and other stakeholders have improved considerably during the last three years.
- The ocean state forecasts were **also provided before and during the launch day of Re-usable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD)** of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The ocean forecast services were **extended to two other Indian Ocean Rim Countries, namelySri Lanka and Seychelles** on various parameters, viz., winds, waves, currents and temperature in map form served under the umbrella of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for Afro-Asian Region.

Tsunami Warning System

- The Indian Tsunami Warning System established by **the Ministry at the Indian Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad has been recognized as the Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RSTP) for the Indian Ocean region by UNESCO** to provide warning to countries of the Indian Ocean.
- The **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)** kept the watch of all tsunami genic earthquakes in and around the Indian Ocean and issued appropriate messages in the event of any threats from potential tsunamis.

Open Cage Culture

- Large scale fish production **through mariculture** is a viable alternative to cope up with the ever increasing demand for fish proteins.
- An open Sea cage culture mooring system was **designed and developed for commercially important marine fishes suitable for Indian sea condition** to meet this demand with the available Marine Engineering and biological expertise.
- The **open sea cage culture seems to be ideal for alternative livelihood option for the coastal fishers**, helps generate considerable employment opportunities in the country and to meet the fish food production target of the nation.

Remotely Operated Vehicles

- **Indigenously developed 500m depth rated shallow water/polar remotely operated vehicle** (PROVe) was successfully deployed, **in the Andaman coral islands**.
- The vehicle was successfully maneuvered in the undulating reef terrain **to record high quality under water visuals of coral reef biodiversity** with spectral irradiance.

Polar and Cryosphere Research (PACER)

- **National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research** (NCAOR), Goa established a high altitude research station **in Himalaya called Himansh** (literally meaning, a slice of ice), situated above 13,500 ft(>4000 m) at a remote region **in Spiti Himachal Pradesh**.

■ Seismology and Geo-science Research (SAGE)

- The national seismological network **consisting of 115 observatories** has been functioning smoothly.
- **Scientific deep drilling in Koyna which started in 2016** is aimed at setting up of borehole observatory (s) at depth for directly measuring the in-situ physical properties of the rocks, pore-fluid pressure, hydrological parameters, temperature and other parameters of an intra-plate, **active fault zone in the near field of earthquakes—before, during and after their occurrence.**

■ Research, Education and Training Outreach Programme

- Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT) Programme is a scheme that **provides support to academic/research organizations in various sectors of earth system sciences** including technology development.
- The main objectives of this programmeare:
  - **to support various, R&D activities** in the thrust areas of different components of earth system sciences that are theme and need based;
  - **to provide training and create awareness** amongst the public, students, academicians and user communities about the various fields of earth system science.

⊙ Biotechnology

- Realising the tremendous potential of biotechnology in improving human and animal health and productivity, enhancing agricultural activity and government set up a multi agency board namely **National Biotechnology Board (NBTB) way back in 1982** with participation of DST, UGC, ICMR and CSIR to promote activities in biotechnology.
- Subsequently, the **National Board was upgraded to a fulfledged Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1986**.
- **India has the second-highest number of US Food and Drug administration (USFDA)-approved plants, after the USA**.
- To infuse momentum in the growth of Biotechnology sector in the country, **DBT has formulated the National Biotechnology Development Strategy** in consultation with the various stakeholders.
- The strategy emphasizes on the **need for building a skilled workforce and leadership through specialized training programmes for professionals** to facllitate technology competence, creating new career options for students aimed at motivating young minds towards biotechnology, supporting faculty improvement programme for continuous improvement and attracting skills for imbibing scientists and post docs. alliances.
- The **focus of the strategy is also on nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship** to embed translational capacity in all major research centres and institutes, provide support for business incubation, technology validation and scale-up infrastructure; promote public – private partnership and setting up of bioclusters.

⊙ Industrial and Entrepreneurship Development

- Under Industrial and Entrepreneurship Development schemes, the **Department supported translational research and public private partnership programme** including bio-incubators and biotech parks.

■ Biotechnology Parks and Incubators

- The **Department of Biotechnology promotes biotech research and helps to translate research into products and services**.

- One of the means by which development of new commercial products is to be achieved through the **setting up the biotechnology parks, where facilities for technology incubation, technology demonstration and pilot plant studies are provided** for accelerated commercial development of biotechnology.
- The Department in partnership with state governments/ state government organisations/ central government organisations has **established biotechnology parks and incubators in different parts of the country** to facilitate biotech product development, entrepreneurship, research and innovation.

■ Bangalore Life Science Cluster for Multi-scale Basic and Applied Research in Biological Sciences (B-Life) Bengaluru

- It **promotes research and technology development** through generation of ideas, sharing resources and infrastructure amongst the partnering institutes.
- The clusters are **engaged in establishment of innovative institutional model for cutting-edge scientific research**, where existing centres of excellence are used for the development of new centres with challenging new mandates.

■ NCR Biotech Science Cluster

- This cluster is **established by involving five autonomous institutes of DBT** (NII, NIPGR, NBRC, THSTI and RCB).
- The Cluster is **supporting discovery driven research in biology and developments of novel technologies** and facilitation of public-private partnerships through biotech business incubators and parks.

⊙ Public Sector Undertakings

■ Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a **not-for-profit, Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology** (DBT),
- It is set up as an **Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise** to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.
- **BIRAC is a new industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives**, be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive.

■ Bharat Immunologicals & Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL)

- BIBCOL is a **leading biotechnology company based in Uttar Pradesh**, currently manufactures and produces a range of pharmaceutical products such as **Oral Polio Vaccines (OPV Vaccine), zinc tablet and diarrheal management kit, etc**.
- Its mission is to save the lives of millions of children from **avoidable disability, through polio vaccination**.

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Transport

Transport plays vital role in sustainable economic growth of country. Our transport system consists of rail, road, coastal shipping, air transport etc. Transport sector showed growth over the years both in spread of network and in output of the system. The Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways are responsible for the formation and implementation of policies and programmes for the development of various modes of transport.

⊙ Railways

- The Railways in India provide the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers.
- It provides transport of public and makes possible the conduct of business, pilgrimage and education.
- It has bound the economic life of the country and helped in accelerating the development of industry and agriculture.
- First steam engine train in 1853, ran between Mumbai to Thane, a distance of 34 kms. From then Indian Railways have grown into a vast network of 7,216 stations spread over a route length of 66,687 km. It has played a vital role in the economic, industrial and social development of the country.
  - **Research and Development:** The Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) at Lucknow is the R&D wing of Indian Railways. RDSO has developed a new design of wider and heavier pre-stressed concrete sleeper RT-8527 to achieve higher frame resistance against bucking, higher rubber pad life.
  - **Railway Finance:** Railway Budget was being presented separately to Parliament since 1924. The Railways had its own 16 demands for grants, which also used to be considered and passed by the Parliament separately. The Government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the general Budget from 2017-18. The unified budget will bring the affairs of the Railways to centre stage and present a holistic picture of the financial position of the Government. This merger would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and waterways. Instead of the erstwhile scheme of sixteen demands for grants, the Ministry of Finance introduced one demand for grant for the Ministry of Railways.

■ Major Indian Railway Zones, Headquarters and their Divisions

Zonal Railways	Headquarters
Central	Mumbai
Eastern	Kolkata
East Coast	Bhubaneshwar

Zonal Railways	Headquarters
East Central	Hajipur
Northern	New Delhi
North Central	Allahabad
North Eastern	Gorakhpur
Northeast Frontier	Maligaon (Guwahati)
North Western	Jaipur
Southern	Chennai
South Central	Secunderabad
South Eastern	Kolkata
South East Central Railway	Bilaspur
South Western Railway	Hubli
Western	Mumbai
West Central Railway	Jabalpur
Metro Railway	Kolkata

⊙ Roads

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was formed in 2009** by bifurcating the erstwhile Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways into two independent ministries. Road transport is a critical infrastructure for economic development of a country.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the apex body** for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to road transport and transport research.
- The NHDP was mainly being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.
- **Some of the major National Highways constructed under this programme include Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) connecting 4 major metropolitan** cities viz., Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata, North South & East West Corridors (NS-EW) connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Porbandar with a spur from Salem to Cochin, road connectivity of major ports of the country to national highways.
- The remaining works under NHDP have now been **subsumed under the Ministry's new flagship programme - Bharatmala.**

■ Development and Maintenance of National Highways

- The Government is implementing National Highways Development Project (NHDP), the **largest Highways Project ever undertaken in the country since 2000**.
- The NHDP is mainly being **implemented by National Highways Authority of India** (NHAI) and **National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.** (NHIDCL).

Bharatmala Pariyojana

- The Ministry has taken up detailed review of NHs network with a view to develop the road connectivity to border areas, development of coastal roads including road connectivity for **non-major ports, improvement in the efficiency of national corridors, development of economic corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes along with integration with Sagarmala, etc.,** under Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- The network identified under the Pariyojana has been further optimized to improve connectivity across key economic centres through discussions with all stakeholders.

Setu Bharatam

- In order to **ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic**, the Ministry has envisaged a plan for replacement of level crossing on national highways by **Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs)** under a scheme known as Setu Bharatam.

Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana

- This project envisages development of easy access to the four prominent Dhams, namely, **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath**, situated in Uttarakhand.
- These four Dhams are prominent pilgrimage centres. The project entails development of 889 km of roads with configuration of **two-lane with paved shoulders**.

National Highways Authority of India

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up **under the NHAI Act, 1988**.
- It has been entrusted with National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which along with other minor projects.

National Highways Development Project

- The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to **upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in the country** to a higher standard. The project was started in 1998.
- This project is **managed by NHAI under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways**. The NHDP has been **subsumed in the ongoing Bharatmala project**.

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation

- The **NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry** that exclusively carries out the task of construction/ up-grading/widening of national highways in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries in order to promote regional connectively with neighbouring countries on a sustainable basis.

Indian Academy of Highway Engineers

- Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) is a **registered society under the administrative control of the Ministry**.
- It is a **collaborative body of both central and state governments** and was set up in 1983 with the objective of fulfilling the long felt need for training of highway engineers in the country, both at the entry level and during the service period.

National Registry of Vehicle and License Records

- In order to usher in transformational improvements in this sector, the Ministry has put in place several policies for citizens. **Transport Mission Mode Project has successfully automated RTO operations, set up a consolidated transport databas**e.
- The salient aspects of this Mission Mode Project are two flagship applications - **Vahan and Sarathi**. While **Vahan** consolidates vehicle registration, taxation, permit, fitness and associated services across the country, **Sarathi** looks after the driving license, learner licence, driving schools and related activities.
- The database is integrated with Aadhaar for biometric authentication and eKYC, integration with digilocker. This allows use of **virtual documents like driving license, registration certificates, permits, etc., as authorized soft copy**.

Major Initiatives

- **Road Safety:** The Government has approved a National Road Safety Policy so as to minimize road accidents. The important schemes on road safety operated by the Ministry include publicity measures and awareness campaign on road safety, Scheme for **Setting up Institutes for Driving Training, Refresher Training of Drivers in Unorganized Sector and Human Resource Development, National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS),** setting up of inspection and certification centres and road safety and pollution testing equipment and programme implementation.
- **e-tolling:** In order to remove traffic bottleneck at toll plazas and ensure seamless movement of vehicles and hassle-free collection of toll, the Government has implemented a nationwide **Electronic Toll Collection based on passive Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).**
- **National Green Highways Project:** In order to develop eco-friendly highways, the **Green Highways (Plantation Transplantation Beautification and Maintenance) Policy** was firmed up in 2016. The Policy aims to develop eco-friendly National Highways with the participation of community, farmers, NGOs and private sector.

Shipping

The Ministry of Shipping was formed in 2009. The Ministry of Shipping encompasses within its fold shipping and port sectors which also include shipbuilding and ship repair, major ports and inland water transport.

- **Maritime Development:** India has a long coastline of about 7,517 km, spread on the western and eastern shelves of the mainland and also along the Islands. There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports. Approximately 95 per cent of the country's trade by volume and 68 per cent by value is moved through maritime transport.
- **Sagarmala Programme:** To harness the coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes, the Government of India has embarked on the ambitious Sagarmala Programme to promote port-led development in the country.
- **Ship Building:** Global recession in the shipbuilding industry has affected the financial position of a number of yards, especially in the private sector. The Indian shipbuilding industry has continued to concentrate on defence, coastal and inland vessels. The fleet expansion plans of Indian Navy and the vessels for the Indian Coast Guard are the two prime segments which were targeted by the Indian shipyards. A shipbuilding subsidy scheme was in existence to promote Indian Shipbuilding industry for Central PSU Shipyards since 1971. The scheme was extended to all Indian shipyards in October 2002. This policy which provided shipbuilding subsidy gave a boost to the Indian shipbuilding Industry.
- **Ship Recycling:** India has 25-30 per cent share in the global ship recycling industry. Ship recycling is carried out mainly at Alang-Sosiya in Gujarat. Started in February, 1983, Alang-Sosiya is the largest ship recycling yard in the world.

Major Ports

- There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports along India's Coastline which is about 7517 km. The 6 major ports Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar (Ennore), Chennai and V.O. Chidamananar are on the east coast and the other major ports viz., Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Sheva, Navi Mumbai) and Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla) are on the west coast.
- The major ports are under the direct administrative control of the Central Government and fall in Union List 7th Schedule of Constitution. Ports other than the major ones are under jurisdiction of the respective maritime state government and fall in Concurrent List.
- **Kolkata Port:** It is the only riverine major port in the country having been in existence for about 138 years. The port has twin dock systems viz., Kolkata Dock System on the eastern bank and Haldia Dock Complex on the western bank of river Hooghly.
- **Paradip Port:** It is one of the major ports in India. Government of India took over the management of the port from the state government in 1965. The Government of India declared Paradip Port Trust (PPT) as the eighth major port the country 1966 making it the first major port in the east coast commissioned in independent India.
- **New Mangalore Port:** It was declared as the ninth major port in 1974 inaugurated in 1975. The port has 16 berths and one single point mooring.
- **Cochin Port:** The modern port of Cochin was developed during the period 1920-1940 with efforts of Sir Robert Bristow. Cochin Port is strategically located on the South-West Coast of India and at a commanding position at the cross-roads of the East-West Ocean trade. It is a natural gateway to the vast industrial and agricultural produce markets of the South-West India.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port:** Constructed in the mid 1980's and commissioned in 1989, Jawaharlal Nehru Port has come a long way by becoming a world-class international container handling port. It is a trendsetter in port development in India through new initiatives like private sector participation.
- **Mumbai Port:** It is a fully integrated multi-purpose port handling container, dry bulk, liquid bulk and break bulk cargo.
- **Chennai Port:** It is an all-weather artificial harbour with one outer harbour and one inner harbour with a wet dock and a boat basin with round the clock navigation facilities.
- **Mormugao Port:** It is situated on the west coast of India, is more than a century old port. It has modern infrastructure capable of handling a wide variety of cargo. It is a natural harbour protected by a breakwater and also by a mole.
- **V.O. Chidambarnar Port (Tuticorin):** It is located strategically close to the east-west international sea routes on the south eastern coast of India at latitude 80°45'N and longitude 78°13'E. located in the Gulf of Mannar, with Sri Lanka on the south east and the large land mass of India on the west.
- **Deendayal Port (Kandla):** It was established in 1950 as a central government project and Union Government took over Kandla for its development as a major port.
- **Visakhapatnam Port:** Port of Visakhapatnam, a natural harbour, was opened to commercial shipping in 1933.
- **Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore):**Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), the 12th major port under the Ministry of Shipping was commissioned in 2001, primarily as a coal port dedicated to handling thermal coal requirements of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB).

Inland Water Transport

- India has one of the longest navigable and inland water networks. However, cargo transport through these inland waterways is, presently less than 1 per cent of the total cargo movement in the country.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was constituted in 1986, for the development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation. 111 inland waterways have been declared as 'National Waterways' under the National Waterways Act, 2016.

- **Director General of Shipping, Mumbai:** The Directorate General of Shipping, an attached office of the Ministry of Shipping, was established in 1949 for administering the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 on all matters relating to shipping policy and legislation, implementation of various international conventions relating to safety, prevention of pollution and other mandatory regulations of the international maritime organizations, promotion of maritime education and training, examination and certification, supervision of other subordinate offices for their effective functioning etc.
- **Shipping Corporation of India Limited:** The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) was formed in 1961 by amalgamation of Eastern Shipping Corporation and Western Shipping Corporation through Shipping Corporation Amalgamation Order 1961. The amalgamation envisaged better co-ordination of policies, greater economy and efficiencies of operations between the two companies. Sailing through for five decades, SCI continues to be the country's premier Shipping Line, owning a fleet of 70 vessels.
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited:** Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), located in Kochi in Kerala is one of the largest shipyards in the country which can build ships upto 1,10,000 DWT and repair ships upto 1,25,000 DWT. It is the only yard which has regularly undertaken dry dock repairs of the aircraft carriers of Indian Navy.
- **Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.:** Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL), Kolkata became a Central Public Sector undertaking in 1984.
- **JalMarg Vikas Project:** It is being implemented by IWAI for the capacity augmentation of National Waterway I on the Haldia – Varanasi stretch of Ganga – Bhagirathi – Hoogly river system with the assistance from World Bank.
- **Indian Maritime University:** It was set up in 2008 in Chennai with campuses at Chennai, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam as a central university.
- **Dredging Corporation of India:** Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. (DCIL) was formed in 1976 to provide integrated dredging and related marine services for promoting the country's national and international maritime trade, beach nourishment, reclamation, inland dredging, environmental protection and ultimately to become a global player, in the field of dredging. Located strategically on the eastern seaboard of India at Visakhapatnam, DCI helps ensure continuous availability of the desired depths in the shipping channels of the major and minor ports, navy, fishing harbours and other maritime organizations.

⊙ Civil Aviation

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for formulation of national policies and programmes for the development and regulation of the civil aviation sector in the country. It is responsible for the administration of the Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and various other legislations pertaining to the aviation sector in the country.
- Ministry provides guidance to the organisation in the implementation of policy guidelines, monitors and evaluates their activities and also provides their interface with the Parliament.

■ National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016

- It aims at **creating an ecosystem that will push the growth of the civil aviation sector**, which in turn, would promote tourism, increase employment and lead to a balanced regional growth.
- The Policy aims to take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient, enhance ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance and promote the entire aviation sector chain in a harmonized manner covering cargo, MRO, general aviation, aerospace manufacturing and skill development.

Regional Connectivity Scheme

- The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN was **envisaged in National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016** with the twin objective of **promoting balanced regional growth and making flying affordable for masses**.
- The Scheme, which will be in **operation for a period of 10 years**, envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through revival of existing air strips and airports.

Air Sewa

- Air Sewa is an **initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched in 2016** to offer people a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience.
- It includes a mechanism for **grievance redressal, back-office operations for grievance handling** flight status/schedule information, airport Information and FAQS.
- Air Sewa initiative has integrated various stakeholders in aviation sector with whom an air traveler has to interact during the air travel.

FDI Liberalization

- Government of India has raised the FDI limit for 49 to 100 per cent in scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services, **FDI in scheduled airlines upto 49 percent permitted under automatic route** and FDI beyond 49 percent through Government approval.
- **For NRIs, 100 percent FDI will continue to he allowed under automatic route**.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is an **attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation** and is headed by Director General (Civil Aviation).
- DGCA is primarily responsible for **regulation of air transport services to/from/within India** and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards.

Bureau of Civil Aviation

- The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) was initially set up as a cell in the DGCA in 1978, to **coordinate, monitor, inspect and train personnel in Civil Aviation Security matters**.
- It was reorganized into an independent Department in 1987.
- BCAS is the **regulator for civil aviation security in the country** and is responsible for laying down the standards for pre-embarkation security and anti-sabotage measures in respect of civil flights and ensuring their compliance through regular inspections and security audits.

GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):

- GAGAN is an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision approach requirements in Civil Aviation and it is being **implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO**.

Air India

- Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Air India Ltd. and Indian Airlines, a new company viz., **National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was incorporated**. Consequently post-merger, **the new entity is known as "Air India"** and the appointed date of the merger is 1 April 2007.
- The **"Maharaja" is retained as its mascot**.

- **Air-India Charters Limited (AICL)** operates a low cost airline under the brand name "Air India Express". Launched in 2005 with a fleet of 3 leased B737-800 aircraft, it operated from 3 stations in Kerala to 5 stations in the Gulf.
- **Alliance Air operates air services in the North East Region** under an MoU with the North Eastern Council (NEC). It also operates flights between Agatti and the mainland under an undertaking of grant of **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) by the Lakshadweep Administration**.

Pawan Hans Limited

- Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) was incorporated in October, 1985 (under the name of 'Helicopter Corporation of India Limited') as a **government company under the Companies Act**.
- Primary objective is **providing helicopter support services to the oil sector in offshore exploration, operate in hilly and inaccessible areas and make available charter flights** for promotion of travel and tourism.
- Pawan Hans has emerged as **one of Asia's largest helicopter operators**. Pawan Hans has been providing helicopter **support for offshore operation of ONGC** for carrying its men and vital supplies round the clock to drilling rigs situated in Bombay off-shore platforms.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi

- The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) was set up at Fursatganj, Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh) to bring about a **quantum improvement in the standards of flying and ground training of commercial pilots** in the country.

Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University:

- Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) is a **Central University** under the administrative control of **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- The university has been **established by the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Act, 2013**. It is situated at Fursatganj, Raebareli, Dist. Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The University has been envisaged as the premier institution for higher learning within the aviation milieu aimed at providing cutting edge and critical training and research to enhance the aviation industry within India.
- The university awards **diploma, degree and post graduate degrees** in the field of civil aviation.

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12 Water Resources

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation **lays down policies and programmes for development and regulation of the water resources of the country**. The Ministry has been **renamed Ministry of Jal Shakti with two departments**—Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

National Water Policy

- The **National Water Policy, 2012** was adopted to conserve, develop and better manage water resources in the country.
- Some of the **important recommendations of National Water Policy 2012** are:
  - Emphasis on the need for a national water framework law.
  - Comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
  - Evolving a system of benchmarks for water uses for different purposes to ensure efficient use of water.
  - Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in each state; and
  - Incentivizing recycle and reuse of water.
- **The Policy also lays emphasis on:**
  - Community participation in management of water resources projects and services;
  - Incentivizing water saving in irrigation through methods like aligning cropping pattern with natural resource endowments, micro irrigation, automated irrigation operation, evaporation transpiration reduction, etc;
  - Undertaking conservation of rivers, river corridors, water bodies and infrastructure in a scientifically planned manner through community participation; and
  - Arresting declining ground water levels in over-exploited areas.

National Water Mission

- National Water Mission is **one of the missions under NAPCC**.
- The main objective of the National Water Mission is **"conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within states through integrated water resources development and management"**.
- The **five identified goals of the mission** are:
  - Comprehensive water database in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resource;

- Promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation;
- Focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas;
- Increasing water use efficiency by 20 per cent, and
- Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.

➤ **Activities**:

- an independent web portal of NWM was launched to provide all the information related to water resources, organizations and their activities at a single point.
- A comprehensive water data base in public domain : India – WRIS (Water resources information system) has been developed by Central Water Commission.

■ NWM Web Portal

- An **independent Web Portal of NWM was launched**. The portal aims at providing all the information relating to water resources, organisations and their activities on different aspects of water resources at one point.
- **Assessment of Impact of Climate Change on water resources:** NWM has identified eight river basins (Mahanadi, Mahi, Luni, Tapi, Sutlej, Sabarmati, Subarnarekha and western flowing rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari) for study of impact of climate change in association with research institutes like IITs, NITs, IISc. and NIH under the R & D scheme of the Ministry.

⊙ National Mission for Clean Ganga

➤ The Ganga basin is the **most populous in the world**. It accounts for 28 per cent of India's water resources, holds about 26 per cent of India's land mass and hosts 43 per cent of the population. The main stem of the river traverses **5 major states namely, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.**

➤ There have been previous attempts to clean the river, with mixed results. **The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) was launched in 1985** and extended to two phases (GAP I & GAP II) over more than two decades.

➤ **In 2015, the "Namami Gange" - Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission programme was launched.**

➤ In 2016, through the **River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order 2016, NGRBA has been replaced with a National Ganga Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga as an authority**. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has also been converted in to an authority.

Jal Manthan

⊙ Jal Manthan is an initiative of this Ministry for wider consultations among various stakeholders for churning out new ideas and tangible solutions to various water sector issues.

⊙ The focus of Jal Manthan is to refine policies of the Ministry to make them more people friendly and responsive to the needs of the states.

⊙ It provides various stakeholders an opportunity to highlight their concerns and impediments being faced by them in effective implementation of schemes related to water resources.

⊙ Jal Kranti Abhiyan

➤ **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation** celebrated Jal Kranti Abhiyan during the year 2015-16 to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement.

➤ The **objectives of Jal Kranti Abhiyan include**:

- Strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies in the water security and development schemes (e.g. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM).
- Encouraging the adoption/utilization of traditional knowledge in water resources conservation and its management.
- Enhancing livelihood security through water security in rural areas.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched with an **aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area** under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- The **objectives of the scheme** include:
  - Achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub district level water use plans).
  - Enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet Ko Pani).
  - Enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (more crop per drop).
  - Enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices.
  - Promote extension activities relating to water harvesting, water management and crop alignment for farmers and grass root level field functionaries.
  - Attract greater private investments in precision irrigation.
  - Major and medium irrigation/ multipurpose irrigation (MMI) projects are being funded under PMKSY-AIBP and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM) projects are being funded under PMKSY - Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

- The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was **launched in 1996-97 to provide central assistance to major/medium irrigation projects in the country**, with the objective to accelerate implementation of such projects which were beyond resource capability of the states or were in advanced stage of completion.
- **Priority was given to those projects which were started in pre-Fifth and Fifth Plan period** and also to those which were benefitting tribal and drought prone areas.
- From1999-2000 onwards, **Central Loan Assistance under AIBP was also extended to minor surface irrigation projects of special category states**.

Command Area Development and Water Management

- The **Centrally Sponsored** Command Area Development (CAD) programme was **launched in 1974-75 for development of adequate delivery system of irrigation waterup to farmers' field** with an objective to enhance water use efficiency and production and productivity of crops per unit of land and water for improving socio-economic condition of farmers.
- The programme envisages **integration of all activities relating to irrigated agriculture** in a coordinated manner with multi-disciplinary team under a Command Area Development Authority.
- The programme was **restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) Programme in 2004**.

- The Programme is being **implemented pari-passu with Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the XII Five Year Plan**.
- The programme is under implementation **as a sub-component of Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) component** of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - from 2015-16 onwards.
- The Command Area Development and Water Management wing of the Ministry coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Command Area Development Programme at the national level.
- The activities covered under CAD component are broadly categorized as 'Structural' and 'Non-Structural' interventions.
- To promote water use efficiency in irrigation, **financial assistance is provided to the states for development of infrastructure for micro-irrigation** to facilitate use of sprinkler / drip irrigation as an alternative to construction of field channels. At least 10 per cent CCA of each project is to be covered under micro-irrigation.
- The devices - such as sprinkler/ rain gun/ drip sets, etc. -needed to be installed by individual farmers below farm outlets **are not part of the micro-irrigation infrastructure**.

Flood Management

Flood Management Programme

- During the XI Plan, **government launched Flood Management Programme for providing central assistance to the state governments** for undertaking the works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing, restoration of damaged flood management works and anti-sea erosion works.
- Another new scheme **Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)** has been proposed with merged components from the **existing Flood Management Programme (FMP) and River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA) schemes**.

River Management Activities related to Border Areas

- This **central sector scheme** is in place since 2014 to cover the major works/schemes during the XII Plan.
- It has the following components:
  - **hydrological observations and flood forecasting on common border rivers with neighbouring countries**: flood forecasting on rivers common to India and Nepal; flood forecasting on rivers common to India and Nepal has been in operation with currently 46 meteorological/hydrometeorological sites in the Nepalese territory;
  - **hydrological observations on rivers originating in Bhutan:** this comprehensive scheme for establishment of flood forecasting network on rivers common to India and Bhutan is also in operation for transmission of real time data to control rooms in India. The cost of operation and maintenance of these sites in Bhutan is borne by India.
  - **joint observations on rivers common to India and Bangladesh and cooperation with neighbouring countries:** during lean season (January to May), the Ganga/Ganges waters is being shared at Farakka with Bangladesh, as per the provisions of the Treaty signed between the two countries in 1996.

Ganga Flood Control Commission

- With the objective to effectively tackle critical and chronic flood problems in the Ganga Basin, Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) **was set up in 1972**.
- Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), a **subordinate office of this Ministry** with its headquarters at Patna, was also created in 1972 to act as the secretariat and executive limb of GFCB and to deal with the floods and its management in Ganga Basin states.

- **There are 11 states in Ganga Basin**, namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and NCT Delhi.

⊙ Central Ground Water Board

■ Ground Water Development

- **Highly intensive development of ground water in certain areas in the country has resulted in over - exploitation** leading to decline in ground water levels, whereas in some other areas ground water is still sub- optimally developed, leaving scope for future extraction.
- CGWB **carries out periodic assessment of ground water resources** jointly with the state ground water departments.

■ Aquifier Mapping and Formulation of Aquifier Management Plan

- In the XII Plan, **CGWB has taken up the National Project on Aquifier Management (NAQUIM)** to facilitate identification, delineation, characterization and effective management of aquifiers to ensure sustainability of ground water resources.
- **The major activities envisaged under the project include** compilation of existing data, data gap analysis, generation of additional data for preparation of aquifier map and formulation of aquifier management plans.

■ Central Ground Water Authority

- **Central Ground Water Board was constituted as Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** in 1997 for regulation and control of ground water management and development in the country.
- It has been **entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and controlling ground water development and management** in the country and issuing necessary directives for the purpose.
- **The Authority performs the following functions:** exercise of powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all the matters referred to in the said Act; to resort to penal provisions contained in the said Act; to regulate and control, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose.

■ Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training and Research Institute

- The Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training and Research Institute (RGNGWTRI) is the **training arm of Central Ground Water Board** and is located at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- **RGNGWTRI is implementing a three tier (national level, state and block level) training programme** keeping in view the requirements of the National Project on Aquifer Management. RGNGWTRI is also mandated to carry out research in the field of ground water.

⊙ Central Water Commission

- Central Water Commission (CWC) is headed by a Chairman, with the status of an ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India.
- The work of the Commission is divided among 3 wings namely, **Designs and Research Wing (D&R), Water Planning and Projects Wing (WP&P) and River Management Wing (RM).**
- **CWC and ISRO jointly developed Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) in 2010.**

Functions of CWC

- **The main functions of CWC include:**
  - **to carry out techno-economic appraisal** of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects proposed by the state governments;
  - **to collect, compile, publish and analyse the hydrological and hydro-meteorological data** relating to major rivers in the country, consisting of rainfall, runoff and temperature, etc.;
  - **to collect, maintain and publish statistical data relating to water resources** and its utilization including quality of water throughout the country;
  - **to provide flood forecasting services** to all major flood prone inter-state river basins of the country;
  - **to undertake construction work of any river valley development scheme** on behalf of the Government of India or state government concerned;
  - **to impart training to in-service engineers** from central and state organizations in various aspects of water resource development;
  - **to promote modern data collection techniques** such as remote sensing technology for water resources development, flood forecasting and development of related computer software;
  - **to carry out morphological studies** to assess river behaviour, bank erosion/coastal erosion problems and advise the central and state governments on all such matters.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)

- It is the **World Bank assisted project** with the provision of rehabilitation of about 225 large dams in the **seven participating states** (namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand) along with institutional strengthening component for participating states and Central Water Commission.
- It has become effective from 2012 for implementation over a period of six-years.
- The Dam Safety Organisation, CWC has received ISO 9001:2008 certification for its quality management systems from the Bureau of Indian Standards in 2015.
- Central Water Commission also received "**CBIP Award 2016" for promoting health and safety of large dams under DRIP.**

Central Soil and Materials Research Station

- Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), New Delhi, is a **premier organization in the country dealing with the field explorations, laboratory investigations, and basic and applied research** in the field of geotechnical engineering and civil engineering materials, particularly for construction of river valley projects and safety evaluation of existing dams.

Farakka Barrage Project

- Farakka Barrage Project with **headquarters at Farakka in Murshidabad** district of West Bengal is a subordinate office **under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**.
- The **Farakka Barrage Project Authority was set up in 1961** with the mandate to execute and thereafter operate and maintain the Farakka Barrage Project Complex comprising Farakka Barrage, Jangipur Barrage, Feeder Canal, Navigation Lock and associated structures.

Upper Yamuna River Board

- Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) is a **subordinate office under this Ministry**. The Board was constituted in 1994 with **Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and National Capital Territory of Delhi as its measure**.

- It consists of **Member, Central Water Commission and one nominee each from** Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- The **main function of the Board** is to:
  - regulate the allocation of available flows amongst the beneficiary states and also monitoring the return flows;
  - monitoring conserving and upgrading the quality of surface and ground water;
  - maintaining hydro-meteorological data for the basin;
  - over viewing plans for watershed management;
  - monitoring and reviewing the progress of all projects upto and including Okhla barrage.

Brahmaputra Board

- Brahmaputra Board, **an autonomous statutory body was set up and started functioning in 1982**.
- The jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board includes **both Brahmaputra and Barak valley** and covers **all the states of North Eastern Region, Sikkim and Northern part of West Bengal** falling under Brahmaputra basin.
- The major functions of the Board are to **carry out survey and investigation and to prepare Master Plan** for control of flood, bank erosion and improvement of drainage congestion, development and utilization of water resources of the Brahmaputra and Barak River system for irrigation, hydro power, navigation and for other beneficial purposes.

Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal Award

- The Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal (NWDT) was **constituted in 1969** to adjudicate upon the water dispute pertaining to river Narmada.
- The tribunal has ordered **setting up of machinery for implementing its directions and decisions**.
- Accordingly, the Central Government framed the **Narmada Water Scheme inter- alia constituting the Narmada Control Authority (NCA).**

Indo-Bangladesh Water Resources Cooperation

- An **Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)** is **functioning since 1972** with a view to maintain liaison in order to ensure most effective joint efforts in maximizing the benefits from common river systems.
- A Treaty was **signed by the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh in 1996** for the sharing of Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka during the lean season.
- As per the Treaty, **the Ganga/Ganges waters is being shared at Farakka (which is the last control structure on river in India) during lean period**, from 1st January to 31st May every year, on 10-daily basis as per the formula provided in the Treaty. **The validity of Treaty is 30 years**.

Indus Waters Treaty

- Under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, India and Pakistan have each created a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters.
- Each Commissioner is the representative of his government and serves as a regular channel of communication on all matters relating to implementation of the Treaty.
- The two Commissioners together form the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC).

National Water Development Agency

- The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) **was established in 1982 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860** to study the feasibility of the links under peninsular component of National Perspective Plan.
- The **NWDA is fully funded by the Government of India through grant-in-aid**. Subsequently in 1990-91, NWDA Society resolved to take up the studies of the Himalayan component also.
- The **Agency functions with the following main objectives**:
  - To carry out detailed surveys and investigations of possible reservoir sites and interconnecting links in order to establish feasibility of the proposal of peninsular rivers development and Himalayan rivers development components forming part of the National Perspective for Water Resources Development.
  - To prepare feasibility report of the various components of the scheme relating to peninsular rivers development and Himalayan rivers development.
  - To prepare pre-feasibility/feasibility/detailed project reports of the intra-state links as may be proposed by the states

National Institute of Hydrology

- The National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), established in 1978 as an **autonomous organization under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation** (Government of India), is a **premier R&D institute in the country** to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate basic, applied and strategic research on all aspects of hydrology and water resources development.
- The Institute has its **headquarters at Roorkee** (Uttarakhand).
- The **objectives of the Institute** are:
  - to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate systematic and scientific work on all aspects of hydrology;
  - to cooperate and collaborate with other national and international organizations in the field of hydrology;
  - to establish and maintain a research and reference library in pursuance of the objectives of the society and equip the same with books, reviews, magazines and other relevant publications; and
  - to do all other such things as it may consider necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives for which the Institute has been established.

Wapcos (Water & Power Consultancy Services) Limited

- WAPCOS Limited is a **"MINI RATNA-I" Public Sector Enterprise** under the aegis of this Ministry.
- Incorporated in 1969 under the Companies Act, 1956, WAPCOS has been **providing consultancy services in all facets of water resources, power and infrastructure sectors** in India and abroad.

North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management

- The North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) was**established at Tezpur, Assam by North Eastern Council (NEC), in 1989**. The Institute is under the **administrative control of this Ministry**.
- The main objective of the Institute is to p**rovide capacity building, undertake research and provide technical services to the line departments** in order to improve agricultural production and socio-economic status of the people in north east.

Minor Irrigation and Water Bodies Census

- A **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, Rationalization of Minor Irrigation Statistics (RMIS) was launched in 1987-88 in the Ministry of Water Resources, with cent per cent assistance to the states/UTs.
- During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, **the RMIS scheme was converted as one of the components of the Central Sector Scheme - Development of Water Resources Information System (DWRIS).**
- In 2017-18, the scheme was **renamed as "Irrigation Census"** and brought under the umbrella scheme,' Prime Minister's KrishiSinchaiYojana and other Schemes'.
- The main objective of the Irrigation Census scheme is **to build up a comprehensive and reliable database in the Minor Irrigation (MI) sector for effective planningand policymaking**.

Under it, **each state/UT has identified a nodal department** for compilation of minor irrigation statistics for the entire state/UT.

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13 Welfare

In 1985-86, the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare was bifurcated into the Department of Women and Child Development and the Department of Welfare. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) was bifurcated into two Departments which are, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

⊙ Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

- The Constitution contains several provisions in the nature of safeguards for the Scheduled Castes.
- The following two Acts specifically aim at curbing (i) untouchability and (ii) atrocities against SCs and STs, and are therefore very important for the Scheduled Castes:
  - The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and
  - The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

⊙ Protection of Civil Rights

- In pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted. Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in the year 1976 as the "Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955".
- Rules under this Act, viz "The Protection of Civil Rights Rules, 1977" were notified in 1977.
- The Act extends to the whole of India and provides punishment for the practice of untouchability. It is implemented by the respective state governments and union territory administrations.

■ Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

- The **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** (The PoA Act) came into force in 1990.
- This legislation aims at **preventing commission of offences by persons other than scheduled castes and scheduled tribes** against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- Comprehensive Rules under this Act, titled **"Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995** were notified in the year 1995, which, inter-alia, provide norms for relief and rehabilitation. These Rules had not been amended thereafter.

■ Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act:

- Despite the deterrent provisions made in the **PoA (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 Act**, continuing atrocities **against the members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)** had been a cause of concern.

- High incidence of **occurrences of offences** against members of SCs and STs also indicated that the **deterrent effect of the PoA Act** was not adequately felt by the accused.
- It was, therefore, considered appropriate to strengthen the Act and make the relevant provisions of the Act more effective. Based on the consultation process with all the stakeholders, amendments in the PoA Act were proposed to broadly cover **five areas.**
- A new chapter relating to **"Rights of Victims and Witnesses"** is inserted. Certain duties and responsibilities are imposed upon the State for making necessary arrangement for protection of victims, their defendants and witnesses.

■ National Commission for Scheduled Castes

- The National Commission for SCs and STs (NCSC) which was set up under **Article 383** of the Constitution in **1990** was bifurcated into two Commissions namely, **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after the 89th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2003.**
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is responsible for **monitoring the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes** and also to **review issues** concerning their welfare.

⊙ Educational Empowerment

■ Pre-Matric Scholarship:

- This is a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- The scheme was started in **1977-78.**
- Initially, it covered **only hostellers**. Subsequently, in 1991 **day-scholars** were also brought within the purview of the scheme.
- Under the scheme financial assistance is provided for pre-matric education to children of the following target groups, viz: (i) **scavengers of dry latrines**, (ii) **tanners,** (iii) **flayers**, and (iv) **waste pickers."**

■ Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC Students:

- The scheme has been **introduced in 2012.**
- The Scheme is **centrally sponsored scheme** and implemented by the state governments and union territory administrations, which provides **100 per cent assistance** from Government of India for expenditure under the Scheme.

■ National Overseas Scholarship for SCs:

- The Scheme provides **for fees** charged by institutions as per actual, monthly maintenance allowance, passage visa fee and insurance premium etc. annual contingency allowance, incidental journey allowance.
- **Only two children** of the same parents/guardians are eligible to get benefit under the Scheme.
- The prospective awardees should **not be more than 35 years of age.**
- The total number of awards (maximum) to be given each year is **100 and 30 per cent of the awards have been earmarked for women candidates.**
- Financial assistance under the Scheme is provided for a **maximum period of 4 years for Ph.D** and **3 years for Masters programme**.

■ Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana:

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide **hostel facilities** to **SC boys and girls** studying in **middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities**.
- The state governments/union territory administrations and the central and state universities/ institutions are eligible for **central assistance**, both for fresh construction of **hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities** while NGOs and Deemed Universities in the private sector can avail the benefit **only for expansion** of their existing hostel facilities.

■ Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Students:

The scheme provides financial assistance to Scheduled Caste students for pursuing research studies leading **to M. Phil, Ph.D**, and **equivalent research degree** in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions.

⊙ Special Central Assistance

■ Scheduled Castes Sub Plan:

- Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a **central sector scheme**, started in 1980, under which **100 per cent grant** is given to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP).
- The main objective is **to give a thrust to family oriented schemes** of **economic development** of SCs below the poverty line.

■ Scheduled Castes Development Corporations:

- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for participating in the equity share of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) in the **ratio of 49:51 (central/state)** was introduced in 1979.
- At present, SCDCs are functioning in **27 states/UTs**.
- The main functions of such corporations are identification of **eligible SC families** and motivating them to undertake **economic development schemes**, sponsoring the schemes to financial institutions for credit support, **providing financial assistance** in the form of margin money at **low rate of interest and subsidy** in order to reduce the repayment liability and providing necessary tie up with other poverty alleviation programmes.

■ National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation:

- The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up in **February, 1989 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (formerly Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956).**
- The broad objective of NSFDC is to provide **financial assistance** in the form of **concessional loans** to scheduled castes families, and **skill-cum-entrepreneurial training** to the youth of the target group, **living below double the poverty line** for their economic development.

■ Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes:

- Government announced the setting up of a Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes in **2014.**
- This was **to promote entrepreneurship** among the scheduled castes and to provide concessional finance to them.

■ Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes:

In 2014, the government announced that a **sum of Rs. 200 crore** will be allocated towards **credit enhancement facility for young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to scheduled castes.**

Welfare of Persons with Disabilities

- The Constitution of India through its Preamble, inter-alia seeks to secure to all its citizens; justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity.
- Part-III of the Constitution provides for a set of six Fundamental Rights to all the citizens (and in a few cases to non-citizens also).
- All these rights are also available to the Persons with Disabilities even though no specific mention of such persons appear in this Part of the Constitution.
- Article 41: Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases, provides: "The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want. "
- Besides, Eleventh Schedule to Article 243-G and Twelfth Schedule to Article 243-W, which pertain to the powers and responsibilities of the Panchayats and Municipalities respectively with respect to implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice, include welfare and safeguarding the interests of Persons with Disabilities among other weaker sections of the society.

Persons with Disability

- Section 2 (t) of The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, defines as a person **suffering from not less than 40 percent of any disability as certified by a medical authority**.

The disability being:

- Blindness, low vision, leprosy cured, hearing impairment, loco-motor disability, mental illness, mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy or a combination of any two or more of (g), (h) and (i) (Section 2 (i) of the PwD Act, 1995 read along with Section 2(j) of The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999).

Mental Health Act

- Mental illness has been recognized as **one of the disabilities** under **The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**.
- The treatment and care of the mentally ill persons are governed by The Mental Health Act, 1987. The Act is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Persons with Disabilities Act

- A comprehensive law, namely, **The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995** was enacted and enforced in February, 1996.
- The law deals with both **prevention and promotion aspects** of the rehabilitation such as **education, employment and vocational training, creation of barrier-free environment, provision of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, institutional services and supportive social security measures** like unemployment allowance and grievance redressal machinery both at the **Central and state Level.**
- **National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities** is a **statutory body**. The main objectives of the Trust are to **enable and empower** persons with these disabilities to **live independently** as fully as possible, to extend support to **registered organisations providing need-based services** and to evolve procedure for appointment of legal guardians for persons with disabilities requiring such protection.

Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

- The Chief Commissioner is an important statutory functionary, appointed under Section 57 of The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

- The functions and duties of the Chief Commissioner include coordinating the work of State Commissioners for persons with disabilities, monitoring of utilisation of funds disbursed by the central government, taking steps to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities.
- The Chief Commissioner can also take suo moto notice of non-implementation of any rule, law, etc. meant for persons with disabilities and is vested with the powers of a civil court relating to summoning of witness, discovery, requistioning and production of any document, etc.

Rehabilitation Council

- The Rehabilitation Council of India is a statutory body set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992.
- The Council is responsible for regulating the training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of rehabilitation and special education.

Its functions include:

- **standardisation and regulation** of training courses at different levels in all the training institutions throughout the country,
- recognition of institutions/universities running training courses in the area of rehabilitation of the disabled within and outside the country on a reciprocal basis,
- **promotion of research** in rehabilitation and special education
- maintenance of a **central rehabilitation** register for professionals possessing the recognised rehabilitation qualifications in the area of rehabilitation, and
- **encouragement of continuing rehabilitation education programmes** in collaboration with organisations working in the area of disability.

National Institutes

- In order to effectively deal with the **multi-dimensional problem** of the disabled population, the following National Institutes/apex level Institutes have been set-up in each major area of disability;
  - National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun,
  - National Institute for Orthopedically Handicapped, Kolkata,
  - Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai,
  - National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad,
  - National Institute of Rehabilitaion Training and Research, Cuttack etc.

Economic Development

- The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is an **apex-level financial institution** for extending **credit facilities** to persons with disabilities for their economic development.

Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase of Appliances

- Under the scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of AIDs and Appliances assistance is given for procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, standard aids and appliances that can promote their **physical, social and psychological rehabilitation** by reducing the impact of disability and enhance their economic potential.

- The scheme is implemented through agencies like **voluntary organisations, National Institutes under the Ministry, ALIMCO, Zilla Panchayats, DRDAs, etc.**
- The implementing agencies are provided grant-in-aid for purchase, fabrication and distribution of aids and appliances.
- The scheme also includes under its **ambit medical/surgical correction** and intervention that may be essential prior to fitment of aids and appliances.

⊙ Tribal Affairs

■ Development of Scheduled Tribes:

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** was set up **in 1999** after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of **providing more focused approach** on the **integrated socio economic development** of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most **underprivileged of the society**, in a coordinated and planned manner.

■ Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas:

- The **Fifth Schedule under Article 244 (1)** of Constitution defines **"Scheduled Areas"** as such areas as the President may by Order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of the state.
- The **Sixth Schedule under Article 244 (2)** of the Constitution relates to those areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as **"Tribal Areas"** and provides for **District Councils and/or Regional Councils for such Areas**.
- These Councils have been conferred with wide **ranging legislative, judicial and executive powers.**
- The Fifth Schedule Areas: **The criteria** for declaring any area as a "**Scheduled Area**" under the Fifth Schedule are:
  - Preponderance of tribal population;
  - Compactness and reasonable size of the area;
  - A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk; and
  - Economic backwardness of the area as compared to neighbouring areas.

■ Procedure for Declaration as ST:

- The term scheduled tribes is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 366(25) as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under **Article 342** to be scheduled tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.
- Only those communities who have been declared as such by the **President** through an initial public notifiation will be considered as scheduled tribes.

■ Scheduling and De-Scheduling of Tribes:

- The criteria generally adopted for specification of a community as a scheduled tribe are:
  - indications of primitive traits;
  - distinctive culture;
  - shyness of contact with the community at large; and
  - geographical isolation, i.e., backwardness.

Ascertaining ST Status:

- Where a person claims to belong to a scheduled tribe by birth, it should be verified:
  - that the person and his parents actually belong to the community claimed;
  - that the community is included in the Presidential Order specifying the scheduled tribes in relation to the concerned state;
  - that the person belongs to that state and the area within that state in respect of which the community has been scheduled;
  - he may profess any religion;
  - that he or his parents/grandparents, etc., should be permanent resident of the state/UT on the date of notifi cation of the Presidential Order applicable in his case;
  - a person who is temporarily away from his permanent place of residence at the time of the notification of the Presidential Order applicable in his case, say for example to earn a living or seek education, etc. can also be regarded as a Scheduled Tribe, if his tribe has been specified in that order in relation to his home state/union territory;
  - in the case of persons born after the date of notification of the relevant Presidential Order, the place of residence for the purpose of acquiring Scheduled Tribe status, is the place of permanent abode of their parents at the time of the notification of the Presidential Order under which they claim to belong to such a tribe. This does not apply to the STs of the Lakshadweep Islands for whom there is a requirement of being born in the Union Territories in order to be eligible for ST status.

Tribal Sub Plan

- The present Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy was initially developed by an Expert Committee set up by the **Ministry of Education and Social Welfare** in 1972 for rapid **socio-economic development** of tribal people and was adopted for the first time in the **Fifth Five Year Plan**.
- The Sub-Plan should:
  - identify the problems and need of tribal people and critical gaps in their development;
  - identify all available resources for TSP;
  - prepare a broad policy framework for development;
  - define a suitable administrative strategy for its implementation; and
  - specify the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation.

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), was set up in 1987 as a **national level apex body** under the **Multi State Cooperative Societies Act**, **1984 (MSCS Act, 1984)**
- After the enactment of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (MSCS Act, 2002) TRIFED is deemed to be registered under the latter Act and is also listed in the Second Schedule to the Act as a National Cooperative Society.
- The bye-laws of TRIFED were revised in April, 2003 in tune with the new **Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002** read with the Multi State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2002.
- Under its revised mandate TRIFED has stopped bulk procurement in **Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) from Tribals.**
- TRIFED now functions as a **'market developer'** for tribal products and as **'service provider'** to its member federations.

■ Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana:

- The central government launched an approach, namely**, "VanbandhuKalyan Yojana" (VKY)** with a view to **translate the available resource** into overall development of tribal population with an **outcome-based orientation**.
- The VKY has been adopted as a **strategic process**. It aims at creating enabling environment for need based and outcome oriented holistic development of tribal people.
- This process envisages ensuring that all the intended **benefits of goods and services** under various programmes/schemes of central as well as state governments actually reach the target groups by **convergence of resources** through **appropriate institutional mechanism**.

⊙ Welfare of Other Backward Classes

- The Second Backward Classes Commission (commonly known as Mandal Commission), constituted under Article 340, submitted its Report in 1980.
- In the light of this report, the Government of India provided **27 per cent reservation** in **central government posts** for persons belonging to **the socially and economically backward** classes, (also referred to as "Other Backward Classes" or OBCs).
- The Government of India in 1993 reserved **27 per cent of vacancies in civil posts and services** under the **Central Government**, to be filled through direct recruitment in favour of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

■ Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs:

- In this scheme, the expenditure is shared between centre and state **in 50:50 ratio.**
- The aim of this Scheme is to **motivate children of OBCs** studying at **pre-matric stage**.

■ Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs:

- The objective of the scheme is to **provide financial assistance** to the OBC students studying at **post-matriculation or post-secondary stage** to enable them to complete their education.

■ Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls:

- This Scheme aims at providing **hostel facilities** to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, **especially from rural areas**, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

■ National Fellowship for OBC Students:

- Assistance for Skill Development of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)/ De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)/ Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).
- The aim of the scheme is to involve the voluntary sector to improve **educational and socio-economic conditions of the target group** i.e., OBCs/DNTs/EBCs, with a view to upgrade skill to enable them to start income generating activities on their own or get gainfully employed in some sector or the other. "

■ Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans:

- The objective of the scheme is to award **interest subsidy to meritorious students** belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) so as to provide them **better opportunities** for **higher education abroad** and enhance their employability.
- Out of the total outlay for a year, a **minimum of 50 per cent amount** is earmarked for interest subsidy to the **girl students**.

■ Post-Matric Scholarship to the EBC Students

- This is a **centrally sponsored scheme** being implemented through the **state government and UT administrations.**
- The objective of the scheme is to provide **financial assistance to the EBC students** studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage.
- The income ceiling of parents/guardians for eligibility is **₹ 1.00 lakh per annum** (including self income, if employed).

■ Dr. Ambedkar Scholarship for DNTs

- This is a **centrally sponsored scheme** launched from 2014-15 for the welfare of those DNT students who are not covered under **SC, ST or OBC**.
- The income ceiling for eligibility is **₹ 2.00 lakh per annum**.
- This scheme is implemented through state governments/UT administrations.
- The expenditure is shared **between centre and state in 75:25 ratio**.

■ Nanaji Deshmukh Scheme of Construction of Hostels

- This is a **centrally sponsored scheme** launched from 2014-15 being implemented through state governments/UT administrations/central universities.
- The Scheme aims at **providing hostel facilities** to those DNT students **who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC,** to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

⊙ Social Defence

■ National Policy for Older Persons:

- The existing National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was **announced in 1999** to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the **well-being of the older persons**.
- The **primary objectives** were: to encourage individuals to make provision for their own as well as their spouse's old age; to encourage families to take care of their older family members; to enable and support voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family; to provide adequate healthcare facility to the elderly; to promote research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly; etc.

■ National Council for Older Persons:

- The government has reconstituted National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) to advise and aid the government on developing policies and programmes for older persons.
- It provides feedback to the government on the implementation of the national policy on older persons and the specific initiatives for older persons.
- The NCOP is the **highest body to advise and coordinate** with the government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged.

⊙ Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, was enacted, inter alia, to curb **drug abuse.**
- Section 71 of the Act (Power of Government to establish centres for identification, treatment, etc of addicts and for supply of narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances) provides that "The Government may, in its discretion, establish as many centers as it thinks fit for identification, treatment, education,

after-care, rehabilitation, social reintegration of addicts and for supply, subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed, by the concerned Government of any narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to the addicts registered with the Government and to others where such supply is a medical necessity.

Minorities

- Six religious communities viz., **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jain**s have been notified as minorities as per provisions under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities:

- The Prime Minister's new **15-Point Programme** for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in 2006. The objectives of the programme are:
  - **enhancing opportunities** for education,
  - ensuring an **equitable share** for minorities in economic activities and employment,
  - through existing and new schemes, **enhanced credit support for self-employment** and recruitment to state and central government jobs.
  - **improving the living condition of minorities** by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes, and
  - prevention and control of **communal disharmony and violence**.

Maulana Azad National Fellowship:

- The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme for minority students was launched in **2009 as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS).**
- It is implemented through **University Grants Commission** (UGC) and cent per cent **central assistance is provided under the Scheme.**
- The objective of the Scheme is to provide **five year fellowships** in the form of **financial assistance** to students from minority communities, notified by the central government to pursue higher studies such as **M.Phil and Ph.D courses.**
- The fellowship **covers all universities/institutions** recognized by the UGC. The Fellowship is awarded to research scholars pursuing regular and full time M.Phil and Ph.D courses.
- In order to qualify for the award of JRF/SRF, the UGC norms would be applicable at pre-M.Phil and pre-Ph.D stage, respectively, including **the minimum score of 55 per cent at post graduate level 30 per cent of the fellowships have been earmarked for female candidates**.
- In case there is shortage of female candidates, the fellowship can be passed on to male candidates of the same minority community.

Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme

- The "Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to miniority communities was launched in **2007** .

Nai Udaan

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide **financial support** to the minority candidates **clearing prelims** conducted by **Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions** to adquately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the state governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the civil services by giving direct financial support to candidates.

■ Padho Pardes

- The objective of the Scheme is to **award interest subsidy** to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employbility. The interest subsidy under the Scheme shall be available to the eligible students **only once, either for masters or Ph D**

■ Nai Roshni

- This Ministry implements an exclusive scheme **'Nai Roshni'** for leadership development of **minority women** with an aim to empower and instill **confidence** in them by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. It is implemented through **empanelled non-governmental organizations**

⊙ National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities

■ Constitutional Safeguards for Linguistic Minorities

Under the Constitution of India, certain safeguards have been granted to the religious and linguistic minorities.

- **Article 29 and 30** of the Constitution seek to protect the interests of minorities and recognize their right to conserve their distinct language, script or culture and to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 347** makes provision for Presidential direction for official recognition of any language spoken by a substantial proportion to the populations of a state or any part thereof for such purpose as the President may specify.
- **Article 350** gives the right to submit representation for redressal of grievances to any authority of the Union or a state in any of the languages used in the Union/States.
- **Article 350A** provides for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- **Article 350B** provides for a Special Officer designated as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

■ Durgah Khwaja Saheb Act

- It is an Act to make provision for the **proper administration of Dargah** and Endowment of the Dargah Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishty (R.A.).
- Under this central Act, the administration, control and management of the Dargah Endowment has been vested in a representative committee known as the Dargah Committee appointed by the central government.
- The Dargah of Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chishti at Ajmer in Rajasthan is a Waqf of international fame. It is being administered under the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955.
- With the help of the Government of India, the **Ministry of Urban Development** and with the active involvement of **the government of Rajasthan** through local administration, the Dargah Committee is implementing a scheme of providing lodging facilities for lakhs of pilgrims who visit the holy Dargah during the annual Urs.
- The facility was earlier named **"Vishram Sthali and has been renamed "Gharib Nawaz Mehmankhana"**
- The infrastructure is meant to provide facilities/ amenities to the zaireen of Dargah Khwaja Sahab.

Women & Child Development

- The development of women and children is of paramount importance and sets the pace for overall development.
- A separate Ministry of Women and Child Development came into existence **from 2006** with the prime intention of addressing gaps in state action for women and children and for promoting **interministerial and inter-sectoral** convergence to create gender equitable and child centred legislation, policies and programmes.
- The Ministry has the main responsibility to advance the **rights and concerns of women** and **children** and to promote their **survival, protection, development and participation in a holistic manner.**
- The Ministry has a vision of empowered women living with dignity and contributing as equal partners in development in an environment free from violence and discrimination and well nurtured children with full opportunities for growth and development in a safe and protective environment.
- Its mission for children is to ensure **development, care and protection** through cross-cutting policies and programmes, spread awareness about their rights, facilitate access to learning, nutrition, institutional and legislative support for enabling them to grow and develop to their full potential.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Government announced Pan India implementation of maternity benefit programme to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- PMMVY is a centrally sponsored scheme under which the grant-in-aid is being released to States/ UTs in cost sharing ratio between the centre and the states and UTs with legislature as 60:40, for north-eastern states and Himalayan states it will be 90:10 and 100 per cent for union territories without legislature.
- The scheme envisages providing cash incentive amounting to Rs. 5,000/-directly to the bank/post office account of PW and LM in DBT mode during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions.

Poshan Abhiyaan

- Poshan Abhiyaan is a flagship programme of **Ministry of Women and Child Development** which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS).
- It focuses to lay emphasis on the **first 1000 days of the child**,which includes the **nine months of pregnancy, six months of exclusive breastfeeding and the period from 6 months to 2 years** to ensure focused interventions on **addressing undernutrition.**
- Besides increasing the birth weight, it will help reduce **both Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortaility Rate (MMR).**
- Additional one year of sustained intervention (till the age of 3 years) would ensure that the gains of the **first 1000 days** are consolidated.
- Attention is also given on children in the age group of **3-6 years** for their overall development through the platform of the **Anganwadi Services**.

Reservation for Women in Police Force

- The WCD Ministry has been working along with the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to improve overall police responsiveness to gender sensitive cases and to bring visibility to more women and strengthen gender sensitivity in police force.

- An advisory has been issued to all state governments to increase representation of women in police to **33 per cent** of the total strength.
- As a result, reservation has been extended in **14 states/union territories**.

■ Gender Budgeting Initiatives

- Gender Budgeting (GB) is a powerful tool for **achieving gender mainstreaming** so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men.
- It is not an accounting exercise alone but an ongoing process of keeping a gender perspective at various steps of **budget planning, allocation, implementation, impact/outcome assessment, review and audit.**
- To institutionalize such budgeting in the country, the setting up of **Gender Budgeting Cells** (GBCs) in all ministries/departments was mandated by the Ministry of Finance in 2007.
- The **MWCD as the nodal agency** for gender budgeting is undertaking several initiatives for taking it forward at the national and state levels.
- 57 central ministries and departments have set up GBCs which are expected to serve as a focal point for coordinating gender budgeting initiatives, both intra- and inter-ministerial.
- **21 states and union territories have designated Gender Budgeting nodal centres**.

■ Extending Maternity Leave Duration

- The WCD Ministry has been working to **extend the maternity leave** period for working women to seven months to enable them to provide exclusive breastfeeding to **children for six months after child birth** and complementary foods thereafter to help reduce incidence of malnutrition.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out suitable amendments in the Act, which are as follows:
  - enhancement of maternity leave under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from **existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks;**
  - extension of **maternity benefit to adopting mothers and commissioning mothers**;
  - establishment of **crèche facility** within the office/factory premises.

⊙ Children's Issues

■ Missing/Trafficked/Runaway Children Khoya-Paya Portal:

- In order to bring citizen participation for protecting children, a new citizen based portal **KhoyaPaya** was launched in **2015** which enables posting of information of missing and sighted children.
- It also provides facility for matching the two databases - **missing and sighted children.**

■ Expansion of Childline:

- This Childline is a **nation-wide initiative** for rescuing and assisting children in distress conditions. Over the years, CHILDLINE (1098 helpline number) has been extended to 412 locations from 316 cities and will be expanded to another 100 cities soon.

■ POCSO e-Box

- Children are often unable to complain about sexual abuse because it is usually done by someone known to them.
- In order to provide them with a safe and anonymous mode of making a complaint, an internet based facility, **e-Box, has been provided**.

- Here, a child or anyone on his/her behalf can file a complaint with minimal details. As soon as the complaint is filed, a trained counsellor immediately contacts the child and provides assistance.
- The counsellor also registers a formal complaint on behalf of the child wherever required. POCSO e-box launched in August, 2016, has received and handled 300 complaints.

Juvenile Justice:

- **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016** (JJ Model Rules, 2016) was notified thereby repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2007 (JJ Rules, 2007).
- The JJ Model Rules, 2016 are based on the philosophy that **children need to be reformed and reintegrated into society.**

Scheme for Adolescent Girls

- Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) was introduced in the year **2010-11** and is operational in **205 selected districts** across the country.
- It aims at all-round development of **adolescent girls of 11-18 years** on pilot basis.
- The scheme has two major components **- nutrition and non-nutrition**.

Junk Food Guidelines:

- Junk Food Guidelines have been developed and forwarded to **MHRD and MoHFW for implementation.**
- MHRD has requested **all CBSE affiliated schools** to follow them.
- MHRD has been requested to issue an advisory to all the states/ UTs accordingly.
- It has also been suggested in the guidelines that vendors/ street vendors should not be permitted to sell these foods during school timings in a **vicinity of 200 meters from any school.**
- The guidelines also provide a list of **suitable food items** to be offered in the school canteen.

Major Initiatives of Food and Nutrition Board

- Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) under MWCD is in process of setting up of **4 food testing Laboratories** viz., central laboratory at Faridabad and 3 regional food testing laboratories at Mumbai.
- **Chennai and Kolkata** for analyzing **the food and nutritional supplements** for Food Safety and Quality to ensure Nutritional and Feeding Norms for Supplementary Nutrition in ICDS Scheme.
- MWCD, taking note of the widely prevalent deficiencies of **iron, vitamin-A, Iodine and other micro nutrients in the population**, particularly among women and children, has taken the initiative towards addressing this issue through **Fortification of Foods.**
- In this regard, a comprehensive regulation on Fortification of Foods namely 'Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 was operationalized which sets the standards for fortification of major staple foods namely, **wheat flour, rice, milk, edible oil and salt.**
- A logo for fortified foods has also been launched.

National Plan of Action for Children:

- The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), 2016 is based on the principles embedded in the **National Policy for Children, 2013**.
- The Action Plan has four key priority areas; **survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection; and participation.**

- The NPAC seeks to ensure **convergence of ongoing programmes** and initiation of new programmes so as to focus on objectives through **well-defined strategies** and activities to achieve desired level of outcome for children.

National Creche Scheme

- The National Creche Scheme is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme through the states/UTs from 2017 to provide **day-care facilities to children of working mothers and other deserving women.**
- The fund sharing pattern for all recurring components of the scheme is— (i) for states: **60:30:10 amongst centre, states and organisations/institutions running the crèches**; (ii) for North Eastern Region states and Himalayan states: **80:10:10 amongst centre,states and organisations/ institutions running the creches**; (iii) for UTs**: 90:10 between Centre & organisations/ institutions running the creches.**

National Early Childhood Care and Education

- Ministry launched the National Early Childhood Care and Education (NECCE) Policy in **2013.**
- The Policy lays down the way forward for a **comprehensive approach** towards ensuring a sound foundation for **survival, growth and development of child** with focus on **care and early learning.**
- It recognises the synergistic and interdependent relationship between the **health, nutrition, psycho-social and emotional needs of the child.**
- This would add impetus to the policy activities mentioned in the **revised service package of ICDS.**
- The National ECCE council has been recognised as **a national level organisation** under the Ministry as notified by the Government of India, for providing systems of **training, curriculum framework, standards and related activities; and promoting action research** with an aim to improve the field of early childhood care and education.
- The main objective of the Council is to embed the concept and practice for holistic and integrated development with requisite quality for young children in the **age group of 0-6 years.**

Enrolment of Children below Six Years Under Aadhaar

- The Aadhaar Act has been notified **conferring legal status** upon the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to issue Aadhaar to residents of India including children below five years.
- UIDAI has advised WCD department of states/UTs to get on-boarded as Registrar for Aadhaar enrolment **of children below five years.**
- The services under the **Anganwadi Services** are delivered through Anganwadi Centres to the target group of children (0-6 years) and these children are more easily accessible at the Anganwadi Centres.
- It has been impressed upon the states/UTs to set up Aadhaar Enrolment Camps to ensure that every child beneficiary has Aadhaar.
- Thereafter, states/ UTs have been asked for organizing Aadhaar Enrolment Camps at least twice a year in every Anganwadi to ensure that every new child beneficiary joining AWC has Aadhaar.

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14

Youth Affairs & Sports

The youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India is one of the **youngest nations in the world**, with about 65 per cent of the population under 35 years of age. The youth in the age group of **15-29 years comprise 27.5 per cent** of the population. It is estimated that by the **year 2020**, the population of India would have a **median age of 28** years only.

- This **'demographic dividend'** offers a great opportunity. In order to capture this demographic dividend, it is essential that the economy has the ability to support the increase in the labour force and the youth have the appropriate education, skills, health awareness and other enablers to productively contribute to the economy.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** functions under the overall guidance of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports.

National Youth Policy, 2014

- The **National Youth Policy, 2014** (NYP-2014) was launched in 2014, replacing the erstwhile National Youth Policy, 2003.
- NYP-2014 has been finalised after extensive consultations with all the stakeholders.
- The Policy defines **'youth'** as persons in the age-group of **15-29 years**.
- The objectives and priority areas identified under the NYP-2014 have been given in Table below:

Objectives	Priority Areas
1. Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development.	1. Education 2. Employment and skill development 3. Entrepreneurship
2. Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges.	4. Health and healthy lifestyle 5. Sports
3. Instill social values and promote community service to build national ownership. 4. Facilitate participation and civic engagement at levels of governance.	6. Promotion of social values 7. Community engagement 8. Participation in politics and governance 9. Youth engagement
5. Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged and marginalised youth.	10. Inclusion 11. Social Justic

Schemes for Youth

Schemes under Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

- **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan** (NYKS), launched in 1972, is one of the largest youth organisations in the world.
- NYKS has presence in **623 districts** through **Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs).**
- The objective of the Programme is to develop the **personality and leadership qualities** of the youth and to engage them in **nation-building activities**.
- The areas of focus of the NYKS activities include **literacy and education, health and family welfare, sanitation and cleanliness, environment conservation, awareness on social issues, women empowerment, rural development, skill development and self-employment, entrepreneurship development, civic education, disaster relief and rehabilitation**, etc.
- The youth associated with Nehru Yuva Kendras are not only **socially aware and motivated** but are also inclined towards **social development work** through voluntary efforts.
- All the programmes of NYKS are implemented in close coordination with/ active involvement of state governments, elected local bodies and various development departments/ agencies.

National Youth Corps

- The Scheme of **National Youth Corps** (NYC) was launched in the country during **2010-11**.
- The earlier schemes, namely, National Service Volunteer Scheme (NSVS) and Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana (RSY) were subsumed in the National Youth Corps (NYC) Scheme.
- The NYC Scheme is being implemented through NYKS.
- Under the Scheme, youth in the **age-group of 18-25 years** are engaged as volunteers to serve up to maximum two years in nation-building activities. The minimum qualification for NYC volunteers is **Class-X passed**.
- NYKS provides them **skill development training** so that they can get some employment after their term with NYKS ends.
- Normally, **two NYC volunteers** are deployed in **every block**. They act as an extended arm of NYKS in the block and play an active role in implementation of various programmes and initiatives of NYKS.

National Service Scheme

- National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.
- An NSS volunteer places **the 'community' before 'self'**.
- The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and the motto of NSS is **"Not Me, But You".**
- **'Education through Service'** is the purpose of the NSS. "

Objectives of NSS

NSS aims at developing the following qualities/competencies among the volunteers:

- To understand the community in which the NSS volunteers work and to understand themselves in relation to their community;
- To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem solving exercise;
- To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility;
- To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems;
- To gain skills in mobilizing community participation;
- To acquire leadership qualities and democratic values;
- To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and
- To practice national integration and social harmony.
- NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'.

National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

- National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) is **an "Umbrella Scheme"** of the Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Government/ non-Government organisations for taking up activities **for youth and adolescent development**.
- The Scheme is operational since April 1, 2008.
- The assistance under NPYAD is provided under **five major components** which are:
  - **Youth leadership and personality development training**;
  - Promotion of **national integration** (National Integration Camps, Inter State youth exchange programmes, youth festivals, multi-cultural activities, etc.);
  - **Promotion of adventure**;
  - Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards;
  - Development and empowerment of adolescents (life skills education, counseling, career guidance, etc.); and
  - Technical and resource development (research and studies on youth issues, documentation, seminars/workshops).

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an **'Institute of National Importance'** under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**
- The RGNIYD was set up in 1993 as a society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1975** and was conferred the status of **'Deemed to be University' under 'De-novo' category in 2008**, by the **Ministry of Human Resources Development.**
- The institute functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at post graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development and conducting training/ capacity building programmes in youth development, besides the extension and outreach initiatives across the country.

Youth Hostels

- Youth Hostels are built to **promote youth travel** and to enable the young people to experience the **rich cultural heritage** of the country.
- Youth hostels are located in areas of **historical and cultural value**, in **educational centres**, in **tourist destinations**, etc. Youth hostels provide good accommodation for the youth at reasonable rates.
- The construction of the youth hostels is a **joint venture of the central and state governments.**

Sports

National Sports Policy 2001

National Sports Policy, 2001 envisages mainly broad basing and promotion of excellence in sports. The salient features of the National Sports Policy 2001 are:

- Broad basing of sports and achievement of excellence;
- Up-gradation and development of infrastructure;
- Support to National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;
- Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;
- Incentives to promote sports;
- Enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth;
- Involvement of corporate sector in sports promotion; and
- Promotion of sports mindedness among the public at large.

Khelo India

- It has been formed after merger of **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).**
- Objectives
  - Mass participation of youth in annual sports competitions through a structured competition.
  - Identification of talent.
  - Guidance and nurturing of the talent through existing sports academies and new set up either by the Central Government or State Government or in PPP mode.
  - Creation of Sports Infrastructure at mofussil, Tehsil, District, State levels, etc.

Incentive Schemes for Sports persons

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports also implements various schemes to give incentives to sports persons to take up sports as given below.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

- The scheme was launched in the year **1991-92** with the objective of **honouring sportspersons** to enhance their general status and to give them **greater dignity and place of honour in society.**
- Under this scheme, an amount of **Rs. 7.5 lakh is given as award for the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson** over a period of **four years** immediately preceding the year in which award is to be given.
- **For 2019,**this award has been conferred upon **Shri Vimal Kumar for badminton**, **Shri Sandeep Gupta for table tennis and Shri Mohinder Singh Dhillon for athletics.**

■ Arjuna Award

- The award was instituted in **1961**. To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have not only good performance consistently for the previous four years at the international level with excellence for the year for which Award is recommended, but should have also shown qualities **of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.**
- The awardee is given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of **Rs. 5 lakh.**
- For 2019,18 sportspersons were given the award in various disciplines.

■ Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievements in Sports and Games

- This award was **instituted in 2002**. This award is given to honour those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career.
- The awardee is given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of **Rs. 5 lakh.**
- For 2019,this award was given to **three sportspersons**

■ Dronacharaya Award

- This award was instituted in **1985** to honour **eminent coaches** who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions.
- The awardee is given a **statuette of Guru Dronacharaya,** a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash prize of Rs**. five lakh.**
- For 2019, **five persons** received the honour in various disciplines.

■ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar

- With a view to recognizing the contribution made to sports development by entities other than sportspersons and coaches, Government has instituted a new award titled **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar from the year 2009.**
- It has four categories, namely: **'Identification and nurturing of budding/young talent', 'Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility', 'Employment of sports persons and sports welfare measures' and 'Sports for Development'**.
- The award consists of a **citation and a trophy** in each of the above mentioned categories. **There is no cash award.**

⊙ Scheme of Sports to Meritorious Sportspersons

- This scheme was launched in **1994**.
- Those sportspersons, who are **Indian citizens** and have won **gold, silver and bronze** medals in **Olympic Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Paralympics Games,** have attained the **age of 30 years** and have **retired** from active sports career, are eligible for **life pension** under this Scheme.

■ Pandit Deendayal Upadhay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons

- The National Welfare Fund for sports-persons was set up in **March, 1982** with a view to assisting outstanding **sportspersons of yesteryears**, living in indigent circumstances who had won glory for the country in sports. It has been renamed as **Pandit Deendayal Upadhay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons.**
- Assistance from the Fund is given in the form of lump sum **financial assistance**, ex-gratia to sportspersons or their families in case of sustaining a fatal injury during training for, or participation

in, an international competition; sportsperson sustaining injury other than a fatal injury, families of sportspersons living in indigent circumstances, for medical treatment of sportspersons, and for sports promoters (referees, coaches and umpires) living in indigent circumstances.

- Assistance is provided to those whose monthly income from all sources is less than Rs. **2,00,000 per annum**. The fund is managed and operated by a **Committee with the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports as the Chairperson.**

■ Scheme of Assistance for Anti-Doping Activities

- Doping is the deliberate or inadvertent use by sportspersons of a substance or method banned by **Medical Commission of International Olympic Committee/ World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in pursuit of gold and glory.**
- The Government of India became one of the **members of the Foundation Board of WADA** constituted for ensuring concerted effort to check doping.

■ National Anti-Doping Agency

- This agency is the **national organization** responsible for **promoting, coordinating, and monitoring** the doping control programme in sports in the country.
- The Anti-Doping rules of NADA are compliant with the **Anti-Doping Code of WADA.**

■ National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)

- It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- This is responsible for testing dope samples and conducting advance research on the subject by maintaining close association with the WADA and WADA accredited laboratories.
- NDTL achieved WADA accreditation in September 2008.

NDTL has state-of-the-art facilities for both **routine and research activities**. Apart from human dope testing, it has diversified in the area of **horse dope testing and proficiency testing programme in the field of drugs.**

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