

- GST is supported by a sophisticated tech backbone, housed by the GST Network (GSTN), an entity jointly owned by the Centre and states.
- The Nilekani-led task force recommended setting up of a PDS network (PDSN)
- PDSN would track movement of rations, register beneficiaries, issue ration cards, handle grievances and generate analytics.
- Such a platform should incorporate principles such as inclusion, privacy, security, transparency, and accountability.

4. Learning from the shortcomings and challenges of the GST rollout.

- Delay in GST refunds led to cash-flow issues. Similar delays in receiving food rations could be catastrophic
- **Compliance burden for MSMEs during GST implementation. Likewise, PDS dealers need to be brought on board with adequate training**

Did You Know?

- Portable welfare benefits mean that a citizen should be able to access welfare benefits irrespective of where she is in the country.
- In the case of food rations, the idea was first mooted by a Nandan Nilekani-led task force in 2011.
- 45.36 crore people or 37% of the population is that of migrant labourers.

Discuss: Cooperative Federalism and Competitive Federalism

Energising the MSME Sector through entire gamut of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package'

(Topic: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors)

In the package announcement, the definition of micro manufacturing and services unit was increased to Rs. 1 crore of investment and Rs. 5 crore of turnovers. The limit of small unit was increased to Rs. 10 crore of investment and Rs 50 crore of turnovers. Similarly, the limit of a medium unit was increased to Rs 20 crore of investment and Rs. 100 crore of turnovers.

- It was decided to further increase the limit for medium manufacturing and service units. Now it will be Rs. 50 crore of investment and Rs. 250 crore of turnovers.
- It has also been decided that the turnover with respect to exports will not be counted in the limits of turnover for any category of MSME units whether micro, small or medium. This is yet another step towards ease of doing business. This will help in attracting investments and creating more jobs in the MSME sector.
- Approval for provisioning of Rs 20,000 crore as subordinate debt to provide equity support to the stressed MSMEs. This will benefit 2 lakh stressed MSMEs.