INSTA PT 2021 EXCLUSIVE

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

JUNE 2020 – MARCH 2021

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Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi

- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi will be **a single non-lapsable reserve fund** for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess.
- The accruals into the PMSSN will be utilised for the flagship schemes of the Health Ministry including **Ayushmann Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and National Health Mission and Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) and also disaster preparedness, and responses during health emergencies.**
- In any financial year, the expenditure on such schemes of the Health Ministry would be initially incurred from the PMSSN and thereafter, from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS).

Significance:
The major benefit will be enhanced access to universal and affordable health care through availability of earmarked resources, while ensuring that the amount does not lapse at the end of financial year.

2. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

As per the latest economic survey:
- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** contributed to improvement in many health outcomes in States that implemented the programme.
- States that joined the PM-JAY, compared to those that did not, experienced greater penetration of health insurance, reduction in infant and child mortality rates, realised improved access and utilisation of family planning services and greater awareness of HIV/AIDS.
- Across all the States, the proportion of households with health insurance increased by 54% for States that implemented PM-JAY while falling by 10% in States that did not.

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

> **'Ayushman CAPF' scheme** was launched recently, extending **the benefit of the central health insurance programme to the personnel of all armed police forces in the country.**
>
> **Key features of the scheme:**
> Under this scheme, around 28 lakh personnel of **CAPF, Assam Rifles and National Security Guard (NSG) and their families** will be covered by**: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (PM-JAY)**

Eligibility:
- No restrictions on family size, age or gender.
- All pre–existing conditions are covered from day one.
- It covers medical procedures such as oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc and up to three days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days post-hospitalisation expenses such as diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

3. National Digital Health Mission

It is a digital health ecosystem under which every Indian citizen will now have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.

- The Mission is expected to **bring efficiency and transparency in healthcare services in the country.**
- The scheme will come under **the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.**

Key features:

1. **It comprises six key building blocks --** HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy and Telemedicine.
2. **The National Health Authority** has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the mission in the country.
3. **The core building blocks** of the mission is that **the health ID, DigiDoctor and Health Facility Registry shall be owned, operated and maintained by the Government of India.**
4. **Private stakeholders** will have an equal opportunity to integrate and create their own products for the market. **The core activities and verifications,** however, remain with the government.
5. Under the Mission, every Indian will get **a Health ID card** that will store all medical details of the person including prescriptions, treatment, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries.
6. The citizens will be able to give their doctors and health providers **one-time access to this data** during visits to the hospital for consultation.

Background:

The ambitious National Digital Health Mission finds its roots in **a 2018 Niti Aayog proposal** to create **a centralised mechanism** to uniquely identify every participating user in **the National Health Stack.**

4. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

Cabinet approves establishment of new **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar** under **the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).**

About PMSSY:

PMSSY was **announced in 2003** with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.

The PMSSY is **implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

It has **two components:**

1. Setting up new AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences)
2. Upgradation of government medical colleges in various states.

The project **cost for upgradation of each medical college institution is shared by the Centre and the state.**

5. Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 launched to expand immunization coverage across the country.

- The focus of IMI 3.0 will be on children and pregnant women who missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IMI 3.0 aimed to reach the unreached population with all the available vaccines under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and thereby accelerate the full immunization and complete immunization coverage of children and pregnant women.

What is Mission Indradhanush?
To **strengthen and re-energize the programme and achieve full immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women** at a rapid pace, the Government of India launched "Mission indradhanush" in **December 2014.**

Mission Indradhanush's Goal:
The ultimate goal is to ensure **full immunization with all available vaccines for children up to two years of age and pregnant women.**

Diseases covered:
It provides **vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i.e.** diphtheria, Whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia, Hemophilus influenza type B infections, Japanese encephalitis (JE), rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and measles-rubella (MR).
- However, Vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B is being provided in selected districts of the country.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI):
To further intensify the immunization programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Intensified Mission (IMI) on October 8, 2017.
With this, the Government of India aims **to reach each and every child up to two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunization programme/UIP.**
- The special drive was to focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure **full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.**

6. Sweet sellers need to display 'best before date', orders FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released guidelines on sale of loose sweets.

As per the new guidelines:
- In **case of non-packaged/ loose sweets,** the container/tray holding sweets at the outlet for sale should **display the 'Best Before Date' of the product mandatorily** with effect from October 1, 2020.
- The **food business operators (FBOs)** might also display the date of manufacturing. It is not mandatory however.

- The FBOs shall decide and display the 'Best Before Date' of sweets depending on the nature of the products and the local conditions.
- **Food safety commissioners** should ensure compliance.

About the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):
It is an **autonomous statutory body** established under **the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).**
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,** Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.

FSS Act, 2006 consolidates various acts & orders that had earlier handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments, such as–
● Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
● Fruit Products Order, 1955
● Meat Food Products Order, 1973
● Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947
● Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1988
● Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992

Ministry of Education

1. Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project

Ministry of Education, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), and World Bank have signed an agreement for the financial support worth Rs 5718 crore towards the implementation of **the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project.**

About the Project:
STARS stands for **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS).**
STARS project would be implemented as a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
It is a project **to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.**
- **Six states are-** Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools, and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.
- The overall focus and components of the STARS project are **aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of Quality Based Learning Outcomes.**
- The STARS project also aims to focus on initiatives of PM e-Vidya, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission and National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Reform initiatives under the project include:
1. Focusing more directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels by providing customized local-level solutions towards school improvement.
2. Addressing demands from stakeholders, especially parents, for greater accountability and inclusion by producing better data to assess the quality of learning; giving special attention to students from vulnerable section.
3. Equipping teachers to manage this transformation by recognizing that teachers are central to achieving better learning outcomes.

4. Investing more in developing India's human capital needs by strengthening foundational learning for children in classes 1 to 3 and preparing them with the cognitive, socio-behavioural and language skills to meet future labour market needs.

Unique components of the project:
Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC):
The project includes a Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) under the National Component which would enable it to be more responsive to any natural, man-made and health disasters.

- It will help the government respond to situations leading to loss of learning such as school closures/infrastructure damage, inadequate facilities and use technology for facilitating remote learning etc.
- The CERC component would facilitate the rapid re-categorization of financing and the utilization of streamlined financing request procedures.

PARAKH:
A major component of the project is the establishment of **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)** as **a National Assessment Centre.**

- Included in **the National Education Policy 2020,** this **autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry** will set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country, most of which currently follow norms set by State governments.
- It will also guide standardised testing to monitor learning outcomes at the State and national levels, according to the NEP.

2. Institutions of Eminence scheme

The **University Grants Commission (UGC) has amended its regulations**, allowing Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) to set up campuses abroad after receiving no objection certificates from the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs.

- The amendments also permit the IOEs to start new off campus centres, **with a maximum of three in five years and not more than one in an academic year.**

What are the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs)?
Institutions of Eminence scheme has been launched **in order to implement the commitment of the Government to empower the Higher Educational Institutions** and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions.

- The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister in his **budget speech of 2016.**
- This will enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians.

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

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

Incentives of the scheme:
- Institutes with IOE tag will be given greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees, course durations and governance structures.
- The public institutions under IOE tag will receive a government grant of ₹1,000 crore, while the private institutions will not get any funding under the scheme.

3. Mid-day meal scheme

The scheme **guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madarsas supported under Samagra Shiksha.**

Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal **at least 200 days in a year.**

> Under article 24, paragraph 2c of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which India is a party, India has committed to yielding "adequate nutritious food" for children.

- It was **launched in the year 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP – NSPE),** a centrally sponsored scheme. **In 2004,** the scheme was relaunched as **the Mid Day Meal Scheme.**

The MDM rules 2015, provide that:
- The place of serving meals to the children shall be school only.
- If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason, **the State Government shall pay food security allowance** by 15th of the succeeding month.
- The meal shall be prepared in accordance with the Mid Day Meal guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.
- Procuring **AGMARK quality items for preparation of midday meals,** tasting of meals by two or three adult members of the school management committee, including at least one teacher, before serving to children.
- The **School Management Committee** mandated under **the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009** shall also monitor implementation of the Mid-day meal Scheme.
- The **State Steering-cum Monitoring Committee (SSMC)** shall oversee the implementation of the scheme including establishment of a mechanism for maintenance of nutritional standards and quality of meals.

Nutritional norms:
1. In terms of **calorie intake,** as per the MDM guidelines, the children in primary schools must be provided with at least 450 calories with 12 grams of protein through MDM while the children in upper primary schools should get 700 calories with 20 grams of protein.
2. The **food intake per meal** by the children of primary classes is 100 grams of food grains, 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables and 5 grams of oils and fats. For the children of upper-primary schools, the mandated breakup is 150 grams of food grains, 30 grams of pulses, 75 grams of vegetables and 7.5 grams of oils and fats.

FOOD NORMS UNDER MID-DAY MEAL
(PER CHILD PER DAY IN GRAMS)

	For Primary Classes	For Upper Primary Classes
Foodgrains	100gms	150gms
Pulses	20gms	30gms
Vegetables	50gms	75gms
Oil and fats	5gms	7.5gms

Financing:
The **cost of the MDMS is shared between the central and state governments.**
- The central government provides free food grains to the states.

- The cost of cooking, infrastructure development, transportation of food grains and payment of honorarium to cooks and helpers is shared by the centre with the state governments.

4. Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan

Launched in 2014.

Aim: to meet the Right to Education Act's mandate that all schools must have separate toilets for boys and girls.

Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) were roped in to implement the program.

- The programme norms require **the CPSEs to build toilets with running water and hand washing facilities.**
- It also requires CPSEs to **maintain the toilets for three to five years** while charging the annual expenses to their **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budgets.**

Why in News?

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) recently submitted a report on the performance of this program.

Key Highlights:

- Public sector units claimed to have constructed 1.4 lakh toilets in government schools as part of a Right to Education project, but almost 40% of those surveyed were found to be non-existent, partially constructed, or unused.
- Over 70% did not have running water facilities in the toilets, while 75% were not being maintained hygienically.
- The objective of providing separate toilets for boys and girls was not fulfilled in 27% of the schools, said the CAG.

5. Scheme for Promotion of academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras are collaborated with their counterparts in Germany to develop new materials for green energy solutions.

- This project has been taken up under **the Scheme for Promotion of academic and Research Collaboration or SPARC.**

What is SPARC?

- The scheme aims at **improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions** by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
- Under this Scheme, **600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years** to facilitate strong research collaboration between Indian research groups with the best in class faculty and renowned research groups in the leading universities of the world, in areas that are at the cutting edge of science or with direct social relevance to the mankind, specifically India.

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is **the National Coordinating Institute** to implement the SPARC programme.

The expected outcomes include:

- tangible results in terms of large quantity of high quality research publications,
- solution to key national and international problems,
- development of niche courses, high quality text books and research monographs,
- imbibing of best practices from top international academicians and researchers,
- strong bilateral co-operation, and
- improved world reputation and ranking of Indian Institutions.

6. Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)

- HEFA **incorporated on 31st May 2017,** is **a joint venture of Ministry of Education, GOI and Canara Bank** with an **agreed equity participation in the ratio of 90.91% and 09.09% respectively.**
- HEFA is registered under **the Companies Act 2013** as a Union Govt company and as **Non–deposit taking NBFC** with RBI.
- **VISION**: To enable India's premier educational institutions to excel and reach the top in global rankings by financing building world class infrastructure including R&D Infra.

Functions:
- It will **mobilize resources from the market by way of equity from individuals / corporates and by issue of bonds** to finance the requirement.
- It provides **financial assistance** for creation of educational infrastructure and R&D in India's premier educational Institutions.
- Encourages **scientific and technological developments by supporting R&D facilities** for conducting high-quality research.
- **Channelises CSR contributions** from companies and donations for various schemes in uplifting higher education.

How HEFA works? What are the advantages?
The **funding under HEFA will replace the current grant assistance by GOI** for infrastructure projects in premier educational institutions.
All the Educational Institutions set up/funded referred by concerned ministries would be eligible for financing their capital expenditure from HEFA.
- HEFA would be able to fund larger basket of institutions as compared to grants approach.
- Top class infrastructure can be created in quick time so that the country realises the potential of its demographic dividend in a faster time frame.

RISE 2022:
"Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022", is a major initiative launched by GOI in the FY 2018-19 budget.
- **HEFA's scope under RISE has been greatly expanded** from initial objective of financing infrastructural needs of select Higher Educational Institutions in India to the extent of Rs. 20,000 crores.
- It is proposed to accelerate the investment in these institutions to Rs.1,00,000 crores over the next 4 years as under

7. Kala Utsav

Kala Utsav is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan,** to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at the secondary stage in the country.

8. Shikshak Parv Initiative

- **Ministry of Education** organizes a webinar on Inclusive and Equitable Education under Shikshak Parv Initiative.
- It was **celebrated from 8th September- 25th September, 2020** to felicitate the Teachers and to take **New Education Policy 2020 forward.**

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

1. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0)

Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) was launched **in 600 districts across all states of India.**

- **Spearheaded by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE),** this phase will focus on new-age and COVID-related skills.

About PMKVY 3.0:

Skill India Mission PMKVY 3.0 envisages training of eight lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021.

- Around 729 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs), empaneled non-PMKK training centres and more than 200 ITIs under Skill India will be rolling out PMKVY 3.0 training **to build a robust pool of skilled professionals.**
- On the basis of the learning gained from **PMKVY 1.0 and PMKVY 2.0**, the Ministry has improved the newer version of the scheme to match the current policy doctrine and energize the skilling ecosystem affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About PMKVY:

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana **(PMKVY), launched in 2015, is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.

- **The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme:** is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 2.0 (PMKVY 2.0) 2016-20

After the successful implementation of pilot PMKVY (2015-16**), PMKVY 2016-20 was launched by scaling up both in terms of Sector and Geography** and by greater alignment with other missions of Government of India like Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat, etc.

Objectives of PMKVY 2016-20

Enable and mobilize a large number of youths to take up industry designed quality skill training, become employable and earn their livelihood.

- Encourage standardisation of the Certification process and put in place the foundation for creating a registry of skills.
- Benefit 10 million youth over the period of four years (2016- 2020).

Skill India Mission

"Skill India Mission" has gained tremendous momentum through launch of its flagship scheme PMKVY to unlock the vision of making India the 'Skill Capital' of the world.

Ministry of Women and Child Development

1. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
The scheme has crossed 1.75 crore eligible women till financial year 2020.

About PMMVY:
It is a Maternity Benefit Programme that is implemented in all the districts of the country in **accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013.**
- Under PMMVY, pregnant women and lactating mothers (PW&LM) receive ₹5,000 on the birth of their first child in three instalments, after fulfilling certain conditionalities.
- They receive *a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three instalments on fulfilling the respective conditionality,* viz. early registration of pregnancy, ante-natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
- It excludes those PW&LM who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.
- The direct benefit cash transfer is to help expectant mothers meet enhanced nutritional requirements as well as to partially compensate them for wage loss during their pregnancy.
- The scheme was announced on December 31, 2016.
- *Funding*: The scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which cost sharing ratio between the Centre and the States & UTs with Legislature is 60:40 while for North-Eastern States & three Himalayan States; it is 90:10. It is 100% Central assistance for Union Territories without Legislature.

The eligible beneficiaries would receive the incentive given under **the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** for Institutional delivery and the incentive received under JSY would be accounted towards maternity benefits so that on an average a woman gets Rs 6000 / - .

2. Poshan Abhiyaan
NITI Aayog has released a review report on Poshan Abhiyaan.

Suggestions made:
- The programme must be stepped up to meet the targets set by the Centre to reduce stunting, wasting and anaemia by 2022.
- Graduate to **a POSHAN-plus strategy** which apart from continued strengthening the four pillars of the Abhiyaan also requires renewed focus on other social determinants in addition to addressing the governance challenges of NHM/ICDS delivery mechanisms.
- Lay as much emphasis on complementary feeding as it does on breastfeeding. This can help avert 60% of the total stunting cases in India.

About Poshan Abhiyaan:
- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched on 8th March, 2018.
- Objectives: The programme through use of technology, a targeted approach and convergence strives to **reduce the level of Stunting, Under-nutrition, Anaemia and Low Birth Weight** in Children from 0-6 years, as also, focus on Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers, thus holistically addressing malnutrition.
- Aims: POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters over the next few years.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per

annum respectively. Although the target to reduce Stunting is at least 2% p.a., Mission would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

3. Rashtriya Poshan Maah

The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah was celebrated during the month of September 2020.

- Every year the Poshan Maah is celebrated under **POSHAN Abhiyaan**, which was launched in 2018.
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development,** being **the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan,** is celebrating the Poshan Maah in convergence with partner Ministries and departments, at National, States/UTs, Districts, and grass root level.
- **The objective of the Poshan Maah** is to encourage Jan Bhagidaari, in order to create a Jan Andolan, for addressing malnutrition amongst young children, and women and to ensure health and nutrition for everyone.

Ministry of Rural Development

1. Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) Scheme

The **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme** has been launched in 10 States and will be rolled out across the country by March 2022.

- Under the scheme, a 14-digit identification number will be issued to every plot of land in the country.
- 14 digits unique ID for each land parcel based on Geo reference coordinate of vertices of international standard and compliance of Electronic Commerce Code Management Association (ECCMA) standard and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards.
- It is being described as "the Aadhaar for land" — a number that would uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud, especially in rural India, where land records are outdated and disputed.
- The identification will be based on the longitude and latitude of the land parcel, and is dependent on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.

Benefits:
The benefits of ULPIN are multitudinous. The single source of information can authenticate the ownership and in turn it can end the dubious ownership. It will help identify the government lands easily and protect land from shabby land transaction.

2. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- The NSAP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development. It came into effect from 15th August,1995.
- It represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the DPSP in **Article 41 of the Constitution** (It directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development).
- It aims **to provide financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.**
- **Coverage:** It currently covers more than three crore people who are below the poverty line (BPL), including about 80 lakh widows, 10 lakh disabled and 2.2 crore elderly.

Presently NSAP comprises of five schemes, namely:

1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).
2. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS).
3. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).
4. National Family Benefit Scheme NFBS).
5. Annapurna.

3. Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

The scheme was introduced as a social measure that **guarantees "the right to work".**
● The key tenet of this social measure and labour law is that **the local government will have to legally provide at least 100 days of wage employment in rural India to enhance their quality of life.**

Key objectives:
1. Generation of paid rural employment of not less than 100 days for each worker who volunteers for unskilled labour.
2. Proactively ensuring social inclusion by strengthening livelihood base of rural poor.
3. Creation of durable assets in rural areas such as wells, ponds, roads and canals.
4. Reduce urban migration from rural areas.
5. Create rural infrastructure by using untapped rural labour.

The following are the eligibility criteria for receiving the benefits under MGNREGA scheme:
1. Must be Citizen of India to seek MGNREGA benefits.
2. Job seeker has completed 18 years of age at the time of application.
3. The applicant must be part of a local household (i.e. application must be made with local Gram Panchayat).
4. Applicant must volunteer for unskilled labour.

Key facts related to the scheme:
1. The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
2. Individual beneficiary-oriented works can be taken up on the cards of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, small or marginal farmers or beneficiaries of land reforms or beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of the Government of India.
3. Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant.
4. Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.
5. Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which lends to accountability and transparency.
6. The Gram Sabha is the principal forum for wage seekers to raise their voices and make demands.
7. It is the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat which approves the shelf of works under MGNREGA and fix their priority.

Role of Gram Sabha:
1. It determines the order of priority of works in the meetings of the Gram Sabha keeping in view potential of the local area, its needs, local resources.
2. Monitor the execution of works within the GP.

Roles of Gram Panchayat:
● Receiving applications for registration
● Verifying registration applications

- Registering households
- Issuing Job Cards (JCs)
- Receiving applications for work
- Issuing dated receipts for these applications for work
- Allotting work within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought in the case of an advance application.
- Identification and planning of works, developing shelf of projects including determination of the order of their priority.

Responsibilities of State Government in MGNREGA:
1. Frame Rules on matters pertaining to State responsibilities under Section 32 of the Act ii) Develop and notify the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for the State.
2. Set up the State Employment Guarantee Council (SEGC).
3. Set up a State level MGNREGA implementation agency/ mission with adequate number of high calibre professionals.
4. Set up a State level MGNREGA social audit agency/directorate with adequate number of people with knowledge on MGNREGA processes and demonstrated commitment to social audit.
5. Establish and operate a State Employment Guarantee Fund (SEGF).

4. Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission

Official name: Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
Implemented by: Ministry of Rural Development.
Mission objective: Organizing the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and continuously nurturing and supporting them to take economic activities so that they come out of abject poverty.

Sub-schemes under DAY-NRLM:
1. Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), enables a trainee to take bank credit and start his/her own Micro-enterprise.
2. Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) for facilitating the rural poor for setting up of micro Enterprises.
3. Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) to facilitate transport facilities in the rural areas which also provides self employment opportunities to the rural poor.

5. Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) and VPRP

With the current Covid-19 situation, **DAY-NRLM** has designed an online training program to train all State Missions across the country on **Village Poverty Reduction Plans (VPRP),** in partnership with **Kudumbashree** (National Resource Organisation), National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad and Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

What are Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)?
GPDP is **conducted from 2nd October to 31st December,** every year across the country, under **the People's Plan Campaign (PPC).**
- Local bodies, across the country are expected to prepare context specific, need based GPDP.
- It brings together both the citizens and their elected representatives in the decentralized planning processes.

What are Village Poverty Reduction Plans (VPRP)?
PPC guidelines and the joint advisory issued by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Rural Development, has **mandated Self Help Groups and their federations under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** to participate in the annual GPDP planning process and prepare **the Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP).**

- VPRP is a comprehensive demand plan which needs to be integrated with the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- The VPRP is presented in the Gram Sabha meetings from Oct. to Dec. every year.

InstaFact:
The **Article 243G of the Constitution** intended to empower the Gram Panchayats (GPs) by enabling the State Governments to devolve powers and authority in respect of all 29 Subjects listed in **the Eleventh Schedule** for local planning and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice.

6. Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

SVEP has made an impressive progress and has extended business support services and capital infusion to 153 blocks of 23 states as of August 2020.

- Around, 2,000 trained cadre of **Community Resource Person-Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP)** are providing services to rural entrepreneurs and as on August 2020, around 100,000 enterprises are supported by them.

What is Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)?
Implemented by **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM),** Ministry of Rural Development, **as a sub-scheme since 2016.**
Focus of the scheme: Providing self-employment opportunities with financial assistance and training in business management and soft skills while creating local community cadres for promotion of enterprises.

- **Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad** is the technical support partner of SVEP.
- SVEP **promotes both individual and group enterprises,** set-up and promote enterprises majorly on manufacturing, trading and service sectors.

Who are community resource persons – enterprise promotion?
The programme seeks to develop pool of community resource persons – enterprise promotion (CRP-EP) who are local and support entrepreneurs setting-up rural enterprises.

- The CRP-EPs are certified and provides business support services to the entrepreneurs.

7. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushlya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

It is a placement linked skill development program which **allows skilling in a PPP mode** and assured placements in regular jobs in an organization not owned by the skilled person.
DDU-GKY is being **undertaken as PPP Project all over the country through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)** registered with the Ministry of Rural Development.

- Further, Guidelines of the scheme mandate State Governments to take up skill training projects with Corporate Social Responsibility funding.
- DDU-GKY Guidelines provide for setting apart 15% of the funds of the funds at for national level beneficiaries from among minority groups.

Beneficiary Eligibility:
- Rural Youth:15 - 35 Yrs
- SC/ST/Women/PVTG/PWD: upto 45 Yrs

8. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)

- The erstwhile rural housing scheme **Indira Awaas yojana (IAY) has been restructured into Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana –Gramin** (PMAY-G) from 01.04.2016.
- **PMAY-G aims** at providing a pucca house, with basic amenities, to all houseless householder and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated house, by 2022.

- **Target**: Construction of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022.

Cost sharing:

- The cost of unit assistance in this scheme is shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90: 10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- **The scheme envisages training of Rural Masons** with the objective of improving workmanship and quality of construction of houses while at the same time, increasing availability of skilled masons and enhancing employability of such masons.

Selection of beneficiaries:
Based on housing deprivation parameters of Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011, subject to 13 point exclusion criteria, followed by Gram Sabha verification.

Ministry of Jal Shakti

1. Grand ICT Challenge

- It was launched by **National Jal Jeevan Mission** in partnership with **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).**
- **Objective**: To create innovative, modular, and cost-effective solution to develop a 'Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System' to be deployed at the village level.
- The mission **focuses on service delivery rather than mere creation of infrastructure.**

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is being implemented in partnership with States for providing Functional Household Tapwater Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024. The programme focuses on service delivery at the household level, i.e. water supply regularly in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality, on long-term basis.

2. Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra

Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra was inaugurated.

What is it?
A tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi,** the **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK)** was first **announced by the Prime Minister on 10th April 2017,** on the occasion of **the centenary celebrations of Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha.**

- It is **an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission.**
- **The installations at RSK will include** audio visual immersive shows, interactive LED panels, hologram boxes, interactive games etc.

Roles and functions of RSK:

1. It will introduce future generations to its successful journey as the world's largest behaviour change campaign.
2. It will showcase the core elements of the mission and anecdotes on the journey of the country from Satyagraha to Swachchagrah.
3. It will impart information, awareness and education on Swachhata (sanitation) and related aspects.

NOTES

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1. Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

Launched by?
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Launched under?
Venture Capital Fund for SCs.

Objectives:
- To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs;
- To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by Department of Science and Technology;
- To support, promote, hand-hold the start-up ideas till they reach commercial stage by providing liberal equity support; and
- To incentivise students with innovative mind-set to take to entrepreneurship with confidence.

Benefits:
- 1,000 SC youth would be identified in the next 4 years with start-up ideas through the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in various higher educational institutions.
- They will be funded @ Rs. 30 lakhs in 3 years as equity funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.
- Successful ventures would further qualify for venture funding of up to Rs. 5 Crore from the Venture Capital Fund for SCs.

Who is eligible for support under ASIIM?
- Youth who have been identified by the TBIs being promoted by Department of Science & Technology.
- Youth who are identified for incubation by reputed private TBIs.
- Students who have been awarded under the Smart India Hackathon or Smart India Hardware Hackathon being conducted by Ministry of Education.
- Innovative ideas focusing on the socio-economic development of the society identified in the TBIs.
- Start-ups nominated and supported by corporates through CSR funds.

What is Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SC)?
- Launched by the Ministry of Social Justice in 2014-15 with a view of developing entrepreneurship amongst the SC/Divyang youth and to enable them to become 'job-givers'.
- The Objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

1. Global Housing Technology Challenge

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation of six Light House Projects (LHPs) as part of Global Housing Technology Challenge – India (GHTC -India) initiative, in six States.

What are Light house projects?
The LHPs are being constructed at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).

● They comprise about 1000 houses at each location along with allied infrastructure facilities.
● These projects will demonstrate and deliver ready to live houses at an expedited pace within twelve months, as compared to conventional brick and mortar construction, and will be more economical, sustainable, of high quality and durability.
● These LHPs demonstrate a variety of technologies, including Prefabricated Sandwich Panel System in LHP at Indore, Monolithic Concrete Construction using Tunnel Formwork etc.

Key features of the Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC) are:
Launched in 2019, the challenge is undertaken under **the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U).**

● GHTC aims to fast-track the construction of affordable housing and meet the target of constructing **1.2 crore houses by 2022.**
● GHTC focuses on identifying and mainstreaming proven demonstrable technologies for lighthouse projects and spotting

Home solution
The Global Housing Technology Challenge is aimed at introducing best technologies to construct houses quickly and at a lower cost
• 6 winners will design and build projects of 1,000 housing units each
• The State and the Centre each will provide assistance of ₹1.5 lakh
• The Centre will give an additional technology grant of ₹2.5 lakh for each house
• Incubation facilities will be provided to develop building technologies with support from four IITs
• The approved technologies will be displayed by Central Public Works Department along with the rates

potential future technologies for incubation and acceleration support through **ASHA (Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators) — India.**

2. Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge

● It is **a challenge for 243 cities to switch over to mechanised cleaning of sewers and septic tanks by April 30, 2021.**
● It aims **to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous' cleaning.**
● The initiative was launched on **the occasion of World Toilet Day (19th November).**

Background:
The **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (2013)** and various **judgements of Hon'ble Supreme Court** expressly prohibit hazardous cleaning, i.e. manual entry into a septic tank or sewer without protective gear and observing operating procedures.

3. PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

Foodtech major Swiggy has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs or MoHUA to bring India's street food vendors on to its online platform.

● The initiative under **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi or PM SVANidhi Scheme** will help these vendors grow their business which was severely hit and are still struggling due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Overview of the scheme:

- It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March 2020.
- The scheme is valid until March 2022.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India** is the technical partner for implementation of this scheme.
- It will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.**

Loans under the scheme:
- Under the scheme, vendors can avail working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within one year.
- On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on six-months basis.
- There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.

Eligibility:
The scheme is applicable to vendors, hawkers, thelewalas, rehriwalas, theliphadwalas in different areas/contexts who supply goods and services. Street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban/rural areas are also included.

4. Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0
Launched by **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**

- CSCAF initiative **intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.**
- The objective of CSCAF is **to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change** while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
- The **Climate Centre for Cities** under **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.

The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely:
1. Energy and Green Buildings.
2. Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity.
3. Mobility and Air Quality.
4. Water Management.
5. Waste Management.

5. ODF+ and ODF++ under Phase 2 of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development tabled its report on the performance of **the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)** in Lok Sabha.

Key observations:
1. Despite the fact that work on three protocols under the next phase of **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban-2)** — **ODF+, ODF++ and Water Plus —** is to be completed by 2024, the ground situation was not matching with the assigned timeline. The progress has been slow.
2. Less than 30 per cent of the cities have been certified as ODF+.
3. The number of ODF++ cities — 411 — means that less than 10 per cent cities are certified as ODF++ so far.

What is ODF+, ODF++?

ODF+ and ODF++ were launched in August 2018 to further scale up and sustain the work undertaken by the cities after achieving the ODF status under **Phase I of the Swachh Bharat Mission — Urban (SBM-Urban).**
Eligibility: Cities that had been certified ODF at least once, on the basis of the ODF protocols, are eligible to declare themselves as SBM-ODF+ & SBM-ODF++.

What do they mean?
ODF+ and ODF++ are aimed towards proper maintenance of toilet facilities and safe collection, conveyance, treatment/disposal of all faecal sludge and sewage.
While **ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene, ODF++ focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management.**

What is water plus?
Announced in August 2019, Water Plus aims **to sustain toilets by treating and reuse of water.** It contributes to the government's focus on water conversation and reuse under **the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and is in alignment with United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goal No 6 on clean water and sanitation.**

Background:
Under Phase 1 of the Swachh Bharat Mission (U), 99 per cent of the cities became ODF, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) had claimed in December 2019.

6. Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2021

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is now in the process of conducting the sixth edition of the Swachh Survekshan (SS) to rank all cities under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) with **Quality Council of India (QCI) as its implementation partner.**
- SS was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation while encouraging large scale citizen participation.
- The first survey was undertaken in 2016 and covered 73 cities; by 2020 the survey had grown to cover 4242 cities.
- The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third party certification, institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities more habitable and sustainable.
- Additionally, the survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition amongst towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens and move towards creating cleaner cities.

Ministry of Finance

1. Saral Jeevan Bima

It is a standard **individual term life insurance product** unveiled by **the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI).**

● This will help customers make an informed choice and reduce mis-selling.

Key features of the product- Saral Jeevan Bima:

1. It will be a non-linked, non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan providing for **payment of the sum assured in lump sum to the nominee in case of the insured's death during the policy term.**
2. **Eligibility**: The plan will be for those in the 18-65 years age group.
3. **Policy term** will be 5-40 years.
4. It allows for a maximum maturity age of 70 years.
5. **Sum assured** will be a minimum of ₹5 lakh and a maximum of ₹25 lakh. Insurers, however, have the option of offering sum assured beyond ₹25 lakh with all other terms and conditions remaining the same.
6. **No restrictions:** The product shall be offered to individuals without restrictions on gender, place of residence, travel, occupation or educational qualifications.
7. **There will be only one exclusion under the policy -** exclusion for suicide.
8. **There will be no maturity benefit.** Neither will there be any surrender value nor can any loan be taken against the product.
9. The policy will also offer **optional Accident Benefit and Permanent Disability Rider.**

TAKING COVER

SUM ASSURED
Minimum: **₹5 lakh**
Maximum: **₹25 lakh**; insurers can offer sum assured beyond ₹25 lakh

POLICY TERM
5-40 years

PREMIUM PAYMENT OPTIONS
Regular, limited for 5 years and 10 years, or in one go

DEATH BENEFIT
FOR REGULAR, LIMITED PREMIUM: 10x of annualised premium, or 105% of all premiums paid as on date of death, or absolute amount assured to be paid on death
FOR SINGLE PREMIUM: 125% of single premium, or absolute amount assured to be paid on death

Why this product? Don't we already have enough insurance products in the market?
There are many term products in the market with varying terms and conditions. But, Customers who cannot devote adequate time and energy to make informed choices find it difficult to select the right product. Therefore, It was felt necessary to introduce a standard, individual life insurance product with simple features and standard terms and conditions.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1. Van Dhan Vikas Kendras initiative

Manipur has emerged as **the Champion state** where the Van Dhan programme has emerged as a major source of employment for the local tribals.

• The initiative *aims to promote Minor Forest Products (MFPs)-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans.*
• It mainstreams the tribal community by *promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level.*

Features of the Scheme:

- 10 SHGs* of 30 tribal gatherers is constituted
- To be trained and provided with working capital
- SHGs will market their products within and across states
- To form clusters to aggregate their stock and link with facility of primary processing in Van Dhan Vikas Kendras
- Involvement of big corporates under PPP** model

*Self Help Groups   **Public Private Partnership

Implementation:

- Implemented through *Ministry of Tribal Affairs* as Nodal Department at the Central Level and *TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.*
- At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to implement at grassroot level.
- *Locally* the Kendras are proposed to be managed by *a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.*
- *Composition*: As per the plan, TRIFED will facilitate establishment of MFP-led multi-purpose Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, a cluster of 10 SHGs comprising of 30 tribal MFP gatherers each, in the tribal areas.
- The North-East is leading the way with 80% of the established VDVKs. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh are other states where the scheme has been adopted with overwhelming results.

> TRIFED, IIT Kanpur and Chhattisgarh MFP Federation E-Launch **"Tech for Tribals" Initiative.**
>
> **What is it?**
> It is a programme by **TRIFED**, in collaboration with **the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** under **the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP)** programme.
> - It aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development through SHGs operating through **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs).**

TRIFED:
It is **the national level cooperative body** mandated to bring about socio-economic development of tribals of the country by institutionalising the trade of **Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP)** collected/cultivated by them.
- It was **established in 1987.**
- It is **under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**

Important Functions:
- It plays the dual role of both a market developer and a service provider, empowering the tribals with knowledge and tools to better their operations in a systematic, scientific manner and also assist them in developing their marketing approach.
- It is involved actively in capacity building of the tribal people through sensitization and the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The organisation also assists them in exploring and creating opportunities to market the developed products in national and international markets on a sustainable basis.

2. Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme

The government has included 14 new minor forest produce items under **the mechanism for marketing of minor forest produce through a minimum support price scheme**.
- Newly included items are Tasar Cocoon, elephant apple dry, bamboo shoot, malkangani seed and wild dry mushroom among others.

About the Scheme:
The Central government had introduced a minimum support price for a selected list of minor produce items through mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support price and development of Value Chain of MFP Scheme **in 2011.**
- It aims to provide a social safety net to these underprivileged forest dwellers, and to aid in their empowerment.

Implementation:

1. The responsibility of purchasing MFP on MSP will be with State designated agencies.
2. To ascertain market price, services of market correspondents would be availed by the designated agencies particularly for major markets trading in MFP.
3. The scheme supports primary value addition as well as provides for supply chain infrastructure like cold storage, warehouses etc.
4. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the Ministry with technical help of TRIFED.

Through **Van Dhan tribal start-ups programme,** a component of the 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP' Scheme, **TRIFED is implementing to generate employment and income generation among the tribal population.**

What is MFP?
● **Section 2(i) of the Forest Rights Act** defines a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants etc.

Ministry of Science and Technology

1. Geospatial data policy
The **Ministry of Science and Technology** has released new guidelines for **the Geo-spatial sector in India, which deregulates existing protocol and liberalises the sector to a more competitive field.**

Under the new guidelines:
● The sector will be deregulated and aspects such as prior approvals for surveying, mapping and building applications based on that have been done away with.
● For Indian entities, there will be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances and licences for the acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including maps.

What is geo-spatial data?
1. Geospatial data is data about objects, events, or phenomena that have a location on the surface of the earth.
2. The location may be static in the short-term, like the location of a road, an earthquake event or dynamic like a moving vehicle or pedestrian, the spread of an infectious disease.
3. Geospatial data combines location information, attribute information (the characteristics of the object, event, or phenomena concerned), and often also temporal information or the time at which the location and attributes exist.

Applications:
1. Geo-spatial data usually involves information of public interest such as roads, localities, rail lines, water bodies, and public amenities.
2. The past decade has seen an increase in the use of geo-spatial data in daily life with various apps such as food delivery apps like Swiggy or Zomato, e-commerce like Amazon or even weather apps.

Ministry of Defence

1. Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 (DAP 2020)

The Cabinet has approved enhanced delegation of financial powers **for capital procurement** to senior officers below the rank of Vice-Chief of armed forces.

Significance:

The delegation of power will help in the modernization of Armed forces.

DAP 2020:

It was unveiled in September 2020.

- The new policy superseded **the Defence Procurement Procedure of 2016 from October 1, 2020.**
- The DAP contains policies and procedures for procurement and acquisition from the capital budget of the MoD in order to modernise the Armed Forces **including the Coast Guard.**

Highlights of the new policy:

1. **Reservations for Indigenous firms:**

The policy reserves several procurement categories for indigenous firms.

DAP 2020 defines **an "Indian vendor"** as a company that is owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens, with foreign direct investment (FDI) not more than 49 per cent.

2. **New Buy (Global–Manufacture in India) category:**

This stipulates indigenisation of at least 50 per cent of the overall contract value of a foreign purchase bought with the intention of subsequently building it in India with technology transfer.

3. **Greater indigenous content:**

It promotes greater indigenous content in arms and equipment of the military procures, including equipment manufactured in India under licence. In most acquisition categories, **DAP-2020 stipulates 10 per cent higher indigenisation than DPP 2016.**

4. **Import embargo list:**

The "import embargo list" of 101 items that the government had promulgated has been specifically incorporated into DAP 2020. (An embargo is a government order that restricts commerce with a specified country or the exchange of specific goods.)

5. **Offset liability:**

The government has decided **not to have an offset clause in procurement of defence equipment** if the deal is done through inter-government agreement (IGA), government-to-government or an ab initio single vendor.

- **The offset clause** requires a foreign vendor to invest a part of the contract value in India.

2. Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC):

What is it? To counter corruption and speed up decision- making in military procurement, the government of India in 2001 decided to set up an integrated DAC. It is headed by the Defence Minister.

Objective: The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces, in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

Functions: The DAC is responsible to give policy guidelines to acquisitions, based on long-term procurement plans. It also clears all acquisitions, which includes both imported and those produced indigenously or under a foreign license.

3. One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme

- OROP implies uniform pension to personal based on rank and length of service, irrespective of the date of retirement.
- The Government had implemented the long pending demand of veterans in November 2015 and **as per the notification, it is to be revised every five years.**
- Armed Forces Personnel who had retired till 30th june 2014 are covered under it.
- The implementation of the scheme was based on recommendation of **the Koshiyari committee.**

NEWSICLE
THE ABC OF OROP
ONE RANK, ONE PENSION SCHEME

WHAT IS OROP
➤ Payment of uniform pension to military personnel retiring in same rank with same length of service, irrespective of date of retirement
➤ Any hike in pension rates to be automatically passed on to past pensioners

| THE NUMBERS INVOLVED | 24.25 lakh Registered ex-servicemen | Over 13 lakh serving military personnel | Rs 8,300cr Estimated cost of OROP |

PROBLEMS

Financial: Grant of full OROP will further bloat the govt's pension bill

Administrative: Huge task to pass all the benefits, with no cut-off date, to all living ex-servicemen

Legal: Will lead to similar demands by other govt employees, especially paramilitary forces

WHY IT IS BEING DEMANDED
➤ Civilian employees retire at 60. Military personnel retire much earlier (based on rank) when family liability is maximum and 2nd career is difficult
➤ Sepoys retire at 35-38; NCOs & JCOs at 40-45 (Only 10% of sepoys become JCOs)
➤ Most officers retire in early-50s (just a few become Lt-Generals/Air Marshals/Vice-Admirals to serve till 60)
➤ Terms and conditions of military service much tougher than civilian government employees
➤ Soldiers undergo hardship postings, with risk to live and restriction of fundamental rights
➤ Successive pay commissions have widened gap between veterans who have retired earlier and those who retire later

4. Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)

Recently, Raksha Mantri has launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO).

The NIIO is a **three-tiered organisation.**

- **Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC)** will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.
- A **working group** under the N-TAC will implement the projects.
- A **Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)** has also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.
- The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence in keeping with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Stop procrastinating. Start Working.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

1. Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020

- The Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, notified on July 23, regulate all commercial transactions sold over a digital or electronic network.

- The e-com rules currently recognise two e-commerce business models, namely, marketplace model and inventory-based model.

CONSUMER PROTECTION (E-COMMERCE) RULES, 2020

PROVISIONS FOR E-COMMERCE FIRMS

APPLICABLE TO E-TAILERS REGISTERED IN INDIA OR ABROAD BUT OFFERING GOODS AND SERVICES TO INDIAN CONSUMERS

1. Mandatory display of 'country of origin' on products
2. Display total price of goods & services offered for sale (+ break-up of other charges)
3. Mention the 'expiry date' of goods offered for sale
4. Specify details about return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment
5. No manipulation of prices for unreasonable profit
6. No cancellation charges
7. Provide information on available payment methods
8. Information about the 'sellers' offering goods and services
9. Violation to attract penal action under Consumer Protection Act, 2019

TPCI Trade Promotion Council of India
www.tpci.in

- The rules have separate specified provisions for marketplace- and inventory-based entities.

- The e-com rules require that all information on the return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment of the goods or services being sold, including their country of origin, be provided on the platform.

- Such details enable consumers to make an informed decision.

Please note:

- The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 are notified under **the new Consumer Protection Act, 2019.**

- The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) **Rules, 2020 are mandatory and are not advisories.**

> **Marketplace model** of e-commerce means providing of an information technology platform by an e-commerce entity on a digital and electronic network to act as a facilitator between buyer and seller.
>
> **Inventory model** of ecommerce means an ecommerce activity where inventory of goods and services is owned by e-commerce entity and is sold to the consumers directly.

2. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the National Standard Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.

- BIS was established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which came into effect on 23 December 1986.

- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 made the BIS a National Standards Body. The **BIS Act** has been implemented since 12 October 2017.

- BIS is responsible for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

1. One District One Product Scheme

- One District One Product (ODOP) initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub' initiative being implemented by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce, with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.
- The Department of Commerce through DGFT is engaging with State and Central government agencies to promote the initiative of One District One Product.
- The objective is to **convert each District of the country into an Export Hub** by **identifying products with export potential in the District**, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products, supporting local exporters/manufacturers to scale up manufacturing, and find potential buyers outside India with the aim of promoting exports, promoting manufacturing & services industry in the District and generate employment in the District.
- Under the initial phase of the ODOP programme, 106 Products have been identified from 103 districts across 27 States.

Background:
ODOP is basically **a Japanese business development concept,** which gained prominence in 1979. It is aimed at promoting a competitive and staple product from a specific area to push sales and improve the standard of living of the local population. Over time, it has been replicated in other Asian countries as well.

2. 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit'

The Summit is being organized by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

- The Summit marks the **fifth anniversary of the Startup India initiative**, **launched on 16 January, 2016.**
- The Summit will be the largest startup confluence organised by the Government of India since the launch of the Startup India initiative.

3. Spices Board

- Spices Board is a body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It was constituted in 1987 under the Spices Board Act, 1986 by merging the Cardamom Board and the Spices Export Promotion Council.
- The Spices Board is one of the five commodity boards functioning under the Commerce Ministry.
- It is an autonomous body responsible for the promotion of the 52 scheduled spices and the development of small and large cardamom.

4. National Productivity Council (NPC)

NPC has been granted **accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012** by **National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI)** for undertaking inspection and audit work in the area of Food Safety Audit and Scientific Storage of Agricultural Products.

- This accreditation is **valid for a period of three years.**
- **Implications**: This accreditation will enable it to undertake **Independent Third-Party Audits of Food Business Operators** including Food Storage Warehouses as per **Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018 of FSSAI** as well as inspections of Warehouses as per **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) Rules, 2017.**

About NPC:

- Established by **the Ministry of Commerce and Industry,** Government of India in 1958, it is an autonomous, multipartite, non-profit organization.
- NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based **Asian Productivity Organisation (APO),** an Intergovernmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founder member.

5. Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)

Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) under **Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20)** is one of the two schemes introduced in Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015-20, as a part of Exports from India Scheme (The other scheme is **Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)).**

- The **rewards are given by way of duty credit scrips to exporters.**
- The MEIS is **notified by the DGFT** (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) and **implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

Objective of the scheme:
To offset infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in export of goods/products, which are produced/manufactured in India, especially those having high export intensity, employment potential and thereby enhancing India's export competitiveness.

MEIS replaced the following five other similar incentive schemes present in the earlier Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14:
1. Focus Product Scheme (FPS).
2. Focus Market Scheme (FMS).
3. Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS).
4. Infrastructure incentive scheme.
5. Vishesh Krishi Gramin Upaj Yojna (VKGUY).

Ministry of Labour & Employment

1. Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) decided that in cases where the employer has shown "Zero" contribution in respect of an employee for some months before exiting him from the system, the relief under ABVKY for such period of "Zero" contribution, shall also be allowed.

What's the issue?
- It was brought to the notice of ESIC that in some cases employers have struck off their employees from the rolls few months after actually terminating them from service.
- During this period, ESI contribution was also not filed by the employers for these employees in the system.
- As the relief under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is available only in case of unemployment of the Insured Persons, such employees though terminated from service became ineligible for relief under this scheme.

About the scheme:
- It is a welfare measure being implemented by the Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.
- It offers **cash compensation** to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.
- The Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01-07- 2018 on pilot basis for a period of two years initially. The Scheme has now been extended for another one year i.e. from 1st July, 2020 to 30th June, 2021.

In 2020, eligibility criteria for availing the relief were relaxed, as under:

1. The payment of relief has been enhanced to 50% of average of wages from earlier 25% of average wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.
2. Instead of the relief becoming payable 90 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 30 days.
3. The Insured Person can submit the claim directly to ESIC Branch Office instead of the claim being forwarded by the last employer and the payment shall be made directly in the bank account of IP.
4. The Insured Person should have been insurable employment for a minimum period of 2 years before his/her unemployment and should have contributed for not les than 78 days in the contribution period immediately preceding to unemployment and minimum 78 days in one of the remaining 3 contribution periods in 02 years prior to unemployment.

2. National Career Service (NCS) project

- It is one of **the mission mode projects** under the umbrella of E-Governance Plan.
- It works towards bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance and agencies providing training and career counselling by transforming the National Employment Service.
- NCS provides a host of career-related services such as dynamic job matching, career counselling, job notifications, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, internships and alike.

Ministry of Labour and Employment under its **National Career Service (NCS) project** offers free online Career Skills Training for its registered job-seekers.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

1. Sagarmala Seaplane Services

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is initiating the process of commencing operations of the Seaplane services, on the select routes, under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework through prospective airline operators.

- The project execution and implementation would be through **Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL),** which is under the administrative control of the Ministry.
- One such Seaplane Service is already in operation between Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

2. National Authority for Recycling of Ships

The Centre has notified **the directorate general of shipping** as **the National authority for recycling of ships.**

● The notification was issued under **the section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.**

Roles and functions:

● As an apex body, DG Shipping is authorized to **administer, supervise and monitor** all activities relating to ship recycling in the country.

● It will also be **the final authority for the various approvals required by the ship-recycling yard owners and state governments.**

Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling:

Under **Ship Recycling Act, 2019,** India has acceded to **Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling** under **International Maritime Organization (IMO).**

● IMO adopted the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in 2009.

● The guidelines are aimed at ensuring that ships, being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and the environment.

Please note, **the Convention is yet to come into force** because it has not been ratified by 15 nations, representing 40 per cent of the world merchant shipping by gross tonnage (capacity) and a maximum annual ship recycling volume of not less than 3 per cent of the combined tonnage of the countries.

Recycling of ships in India and neighbours:

● India is **the largest ship-breaking player in the world,** recycling around 70 lakh gross tonnage every year, followed closely by Bangladesh.

● Pakistan and China are the third and fourth largest players.

Around 800 vessels are sent for breaking every year around the world. India accounts for around 30% of that work, with an average 250 ships recycled majorly at centre in **Alang, Gujarat**.

Ministry of Textiles

1. National Technical Textiles Mission

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had** given its approval to set up **a National Technical Textiles Mission,** with a four-year implementation period.

● The export promotion council for technical textiles is **one of the components of the mission.**

● The focus of the Mission is for **developing on usage of technical textiles in various flagship missions**, programmes of the country including strategic sectors.

● Promotion of innovation amongst young engineering /technology/ science standards and graduates is proposed to be taken up by the Mission; alongwith creation of innovation and incubation centres and promotion of 'start-up' and Ventures'.

● A sub-component of the research will focus on development of bio degradable technical textiles materials, particularly for agro-textiles, geo-textiles and medical textiles.

● There is another important sub-component in the research activity aiming at development of indigenous machineries and process equipment for technical textiles, in order to promote 'Make In India' and enable competitiveness of the industry by way of reduced capital costs.

Technical textiles industry in India:

● Annual technical textile exports are now worth ₹14,000 crore.

- The government had set a target market size of $350 billion for technical textiles by 2024-2025 from the current $167 billion for the textile and clothing sector.

What are technical textiles?
Technical textiles are defined as **textile materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties** rather than aesthetic and decorative characteristics.
Technical textiles include textiles for automotive applications, medical textiles, geotextiles, agrotextiles, and protective clothing.

2. Samarth Scheme

- Also known as **the 'Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)'.**
- Implemented by **the Ministry of Textiles.**
- It seeks to Provide demand driven, placement oriented **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)** compliant skilling programmes.

Target:
To train 10.00 lakh persons (9 lakhs in organised & 1 lakh in traditional sector) **excluding Spinning & Weaving in the organized Sector.**

Key features:
- Training of Trainers (ToT).
- Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS).
- CCTV recording of training programme.
- Dedicated call centre with helpline number.

Implementing Agencies:
- Textile Industry.
- Institutions/Organization of the Ministry of Textiles/State Governments having training infrastructure and placement tie-ups with textile industry.
- Reputed training institutions/ NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Organizations/ Companies /Start Ups / Entrepreneurs active in textile sector having placement tie-ups with textile industry.

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushdhi Pariyojana

8 immunity boosting products launched under **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Priyojana (PMBJP)** for sale through **Janaushadhi Kendras** across country.

It is a campaign **launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals** of **the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.**
- It seeks **to provide quality medicines at affordable prices** to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
- Initially **launched in 2008,** the scheme was **rechristened in 2015.**

Implementation:
Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP.
- BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

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

2. Scheme for promotion of Bulk Drug Parks

Launched by **the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** in line with the vision and clarion call for making India **Atma Nirbhar in the pharma sector.**

Scheme for promotion of Bulk Drug Parks:
• The scheme envisages **creation of 3 bulk drug parks in the country.**
• The grant-in-aid will be 90% of the project cost in case of North-East and hilly States and 70% in case of other States.
• **Funding**: Maximum grant-in-aid for one bulk drug park is limited to Rs.1000 crore.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

1. Panel to review TRP norms

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has constituted a four-member committee to review the guidelines on television rating agencies.
It will be **headed by Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO of Prasar Bharati.**

What is Target Rating Point (TRP)?
Sometimes it is also known as **the Television Rating Points.**
● It is the metric used by the marketing and advertising agencies to evaluate viewership.
● TRPs represent how many people, from which socio-economic categories, watched which channels for how much time during a particular period.

How is it recorded?
In India, the TRP is recorded by **the Broadcast Audience Research Council** using **Bar-O-Meters** that are installed on televisions in selected households.
● As on date, the BARC has installed these meters in 44,000 households across the country.

Why these ratings are important?
● On the basis of audience measurement data, ratings are assigned to various programmes on television.
● Television ratings in turn influence programmes produced for the viewers.
● Better ratings would promote a programme while poor ratings will discourage a programme.
● Incorrect ratings will lead to production of programmes which may not be really popular while good programmes may be left out.
● Besides, TRPs are the main currency for advertisers to decide which channel to advertise on by calculating the cost-per-rating-point (CPRP).

What is BARC?

It is **an industry body jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies,** represented by **the Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India.**
- Created in 2010.
- I&B Ministry notified **the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India** on January 10, 2014 and **registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.**

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

1. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)
The Union government had resorted to **Disaster Management Act** to suspend **the member of Parliament local area development (MPLAD) scheme.**

About MPLAD scheme:
- Launched in December, 1993.
- Seeks to provide a mechanism for the Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature **for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities** including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs.
- The MPLADS is **a Plan Scheme fully funded by Government of India.**
- The **annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.**

Special focus:
1. MPs are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by S.T. population.
2. In order to encourage trusts and societies for the betterment of tribal people, a ceiling of Rs. 75 lakh is stipulated for building assets by trusts and societies subject to conditions prescribed in the scheme guidelines.

Works under the scheme:
Works, developmental in nature, based on locally felt needs and always available for the use of the public at large, are eligible under the scheme. Preference under the scheme is given to works relating to national priorities, such as provision of drinking water, public health, education, sanitation, roads, etc.

Release of Funds:
1. Funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities.
2. The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.
3. The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility.

The **MPs have a recommendatory role** under the scheme.
- **The district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works, sanction funds and select the implementing agencies,** prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level.
- **At least 10% of the projects under implementation in the district are to be inspected every year** by the district authority.

Recommendation of works:
1. The Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies.

2. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected.
3. Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.

Ministry of Earth Sciences

1. National Monsoon Mission
- Launched by **the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in 2012**.
- Aim to develop a state-of-the-art, dynamic monsoon prediction system for short, medium, and long-range forecasts.
- The successful development of **a Global Ensemble Forecast System for short and medium-range prediction at 12 kilometers** was made possible due to the National Monsoon Mission.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

1. 'Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas' (SVAMITVA) scheme
Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the physical distribution of property cards under the scheme.
- This launch will enable nearly one lakh property holders to download their property cards through SMS on their mobile phones and pave the way for villagers to use property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.

About SVAMITVA scheme:
- Launched by PM Modi in April this year with the aim to update rural land records, providing record of rights to village households and issue property cards.
- It is a central scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.
- The scheme focuses on mapping rural-inhabited lands using drones as land records are inaccurate or do not exist for vast areas across India.

Property cards:
Property card for every property in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping. These cards will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.

Ministry of Communications

1. Five Star Villages Scheme
The **Department of Posts** has launched a scheme called **Five Star Villages,** to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
- The scheme is being launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra

The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:
1. Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates.
2. Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts.
3. Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts.
4. Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy.

5. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.

Rating of villages:
If a village attains universal coverage for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status; if a village completes three schemes, then that village get three-star status and so on.

Scheme Implementation Team:
- The scheme will be implemented by a team of five **Gramin Dak Sevaks** who will be assigned a village for marketing of all products, savings and insurance schemes of the Department of Posts.
- **This team will be headed by the Branch Post Master** of the concerned Branch Office.
- Mail overseer will keep personal watch on progress of team on daily basis.
- The teams will be led and monitored by concerned Divisional Head, Assistant Superintendents Posts and Inspector Posts.

Strategy

> Formation of dedicated Teams
> Infrastructure / Equipments
> Training
> Campaign
> Involvement of local Functionaries
> Monitoring
> Recognition of Achievements

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)

1. Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)
PMEGP is **a central sector scheme** administered by **the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).**
Launched in **2008-09,** it is **a credit-linked subsidy scheme** which promotes self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises, where **subsidy up to 35% is provided by the Government through Ministry of MSME** for loans up to ₹25 lakhs in manufacturing and ₹10 lakhs in the service sector.

Implementation:
National Level- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the nodal agency.
State Level- State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.

Eligibility:
- Any individual above 18 years of age, Self Help Groups, Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, Production Co-operative Societies and Charitable Trusts are eligible.
- Existing Units and the units that have already availed Government Subsidy under any other scheme of Government of India or State Government are not eligible.
- Only new projects are considered for sanction under PMEGP.

2. Gramodyog Vikas Yojana
Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of **Agarbatti** under **the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' (As a pilot project).**

Key points:
1. Initially four Pilot Projects will be started, including one in North Eastern part of the country.

2. Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 Automatic Agarbatti making machines and 10 Mixing machines.
3. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, will provide training, and assist artisans working in this area, with Agarbatti manufacturing machines.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

1. Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme
Cabinet approves **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme.**

Key features:
1. The scheme provides for development of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).**
2. The Scheme would support setting up of both **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centers (CFCs).**

Where can these clusters be setup?
1. An **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)** would set up in geographical areas of certain minimum extent, preferably contiguous, where the focus is on development of basic infrastructure, amenities and other common facilities for the ESDM units.
2. **For Common Facility Centre (CFC),** there should be a significant number of existing ESDM units located in the area and the focus is on upgrading common technical infrastructure and providing common facilities for the ESDM units in such EMCs, Industrial Areas/Parks/industrial corridors.

Benefits of the scheme:
1. Availability of ready infrastructure and Plug & Play facility for attracting investment in electronics sector.
2. New investment in electronics sector
3. Jobs created by the manufacturing units;
4. Revenue in the form of taxes paid by the manufacturing units

2. UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)
UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive Mobile Governance in India.
● UMANG provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies and other citizen centric services.

NOTES

NITI Aayog

1. 'Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India'

NITI Aayog has released a white paper: Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India with the vision:

1. To make India's public health surveillance system more responsive and predictive to enhance preparedness for action at all levels.
2. Citizen-friendly public health surveillance system will ensure individual privacy and confidentiality, enabled with a client feedback mechanism.
3. Improved data-sharing mechanism between Centre and states for better disease detection, prevention, and control.
4. India aims to provide regional and global leadership in managing events that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

Focus of the paper and Significance:

- It contributes by suggesting **mainstreaming of surveillance by making individual electronic health records the basis for surveillance.**
- Public health surveillance (PHS) is an important function that cuts across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of care. Surveillance is 'Information for Action'.
- It envisions a citizen-friendly public health system, which will involve stakeholders at all levels, be it individual, community, health care facilities or laboratories, all while protecting the individual's privacy and confidentiality.'
- The white paper lays out **India's vision 2035 for public health surveillance** through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.
- It also spells out the need for expanded referral networks and enhanced laboratory capacity.

2. National Program and Project Management Policy Framework' (NPMPF)

Launched by **NITI Aayog and Quality Council of India (QCI).**

- The framework envisages to bring radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.

It has an action plan to:

1. Adopt a program and project management approach to infra development.
2. Institutionalize and promote the profession of program and project management and build a workforce of such professionals.
3. Enhance institutional capacity and capability of professionals.

3. Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges

Launched by?
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog.
Aim:
To spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.

Who will implement?
The programme will be driven by **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), four ministries**—Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs—and associated industries to facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.

Key features of the program:

- It will support deserving applied research–based innovations by providing **funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh** for speedy development of the proposed technology solution and/or product.

Important Acts / Bills

1. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021
Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Highlights:
- **Removal of restriction on end-use of minerals:** The Act provides that **no mine will be reserved for particular end-use.**
- **Sale of minerals by captive mines:** The Act provides that captive mines (other than atomic minerals) may sell up to 50% of their annual mineral production in the open market after meeting their own needs.   The central government may increase this threshold through a notification.
- **Auction by the central government in certain cases:** The Act empowers the central government to specify a time period for completion of the auction process in consultation with the state government. If the state government is unable to complete the auction process within this period, the auctions may be conducted by the central government.
- **Transfer of statutory clearances:** The Act provides that transferred statutory clearances will be valid throughout the lease period of the new lessee.
- **Allocation of mines with expired leases:** The Act says that mines (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals), whose lease has expired, may be allocated to a government company in certain cases. The state government may grant a lease for such a mine to a government company for a period of up to 10 years or until the selection of a new lessee, whichever is earlier.

2. Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021
The Parliament has passed the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Key features of the Bill:
- The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938 to increase the maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company.
- The Bill increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%, and removes restrictions on ownership and control.
- While control will go to foreign companies, the majority of directors and key management persons will be resident Indians who will be covered by law of the land.

Background:
Foreign investment in the insurance sector was first permitted in the year 2000 up to 26%.
- Subsequently, vide an Amendment Act of 2015, this limit was raised to 49% of the paid-up equity capital of such company, which is Indian owned and controlled.

3. Places of Worship Act
A petition filed in the court challenged a special law — Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991 — which freezes the status of places of worship as it was on August 15, 1947.

What are the objectives of the Act?
- To freeze the status of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.

- To provide for the maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship as on that day.
- To pre-empt new claims by any group about the past status of any place of worship and attempts to reclaim the structures or the land on which they stood.

Key features:
- The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on August 15, 1947.
- It says no person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section.
- It declares that all suits, appeals or any other proceedings regarding converting the character of a place of worship, which are pending before any court or authority on August 15, 1947, will abate as soon as the law comes into force. No further legal proceedings can be instituted.

Exceptions:
These provisions will not apply to:
1. Ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
2. A suit that has been finally settled or disposed of; and any dispute that has been settled by the parties or conversion of any place that took place by acquiescence before the Act commenced.
3. The Act also does not apply to the place of worship commonly referred to as Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. This law will have overriding effect over any other law in force.

4. National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Bill, 2021

National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill passed by Parliament to regulate practice of allied and healthcare professionals.

Key features of the Bill:
- The Bill seeks to set up **a National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions** to regulate and standardize the education and practice of allied and healthcare professionals.
- **The functions of the proposed National Commission** include framing of standards for education and practice, creating and maintaining an online Central Register of all registered professionals, providing basic standards of education, and providing for a uniform entrance and exit examination.
- Under the legislation, **only those enrolled in a State Register or the National Register as a qualified allied and healthcare practitioner** would be allowed to practice as **an allied and healthcare practitioner.**

Definitions:
1. The Bill **defines an 'allied health professional'** as an associate, technician, or technologist trained to support the diagnosis and treatment of any illness, disease, injury, or impairment. Such a professional should have obtained a diploma or degree under this Bill.
2. **A 'healthcare professional'** includes a scientist, therapist, or any other professional who studies, advises, researches, supervises, or provides preventive, curative, rehabilitative, therapeutic, or promotional health services. Such a professional should have obtained a degree under this Bill.
3. **Allied and healthcare professions** that are mentioned in the Bill include professionals working in life sciences, trauma and burn care, surgical and anaesthesia related technology, physiotherapists, and nutrition science.

Significance:

- The legislation will increase employment opportunities for the allied and healthcare professionals and provide dignity to their valuable works.
- Also, there is an immense demand for the qualified healthcare professionals and the legislation will provide necessary impetus in providing affordable healthcare to the people.

5. National Food Security Act 2013

Department of Food &Public Distribution issues directions to States/UTs **to include all eligible disabled persons under the National Food Security Act 2013.**

- It has also asked the states to ensure that they get their entitled quota of food grains under NFSA & Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

Enabling provisions:
Section 38 of the Act mandates that the Central Government may from time to time give directions to the State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.
The Section 10 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of persons under **the Antyodaya Anna Yojana** in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the remaining households as priority households in accordance with such guidelines as the States Government may specify.

- **Disability** is one of the criteria for inclusion of beneficiaries under AAY households

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:
The objective is to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

Key features:

- **Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):** The TDPS covers 50% of the urban population and 75% of the rural population, with uniform entitlement of 5 kg of food grains per person per month. However, the poorest of the poor households will continue to receive 35 kg of food grains per household per month under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).
- **Subsidised prices under TPDS and their revision:** For a period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act, Food grains under TPDS will be made available at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains.
- **Identification of Households:** The identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs under TDPS determined for each State.
- **Nutritional Support to women and children:** Children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes. Malnourished children up to the age of 6 have been prescribed for higher nutritional norms.
- **Maternity Benefit:** Pregnant women and lactating mothers will also be receiving maternity benefit of Rs. 6,000.
- **Women Empowerment:** For the purpose of issuing of ration cards, eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is to be the head of the household.
- **Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Grievance redressal mechanism available at the District and State levels.
- **Cost of transportation & handling of food grains and Fair Price Shop (FPS) Dealers' margin:** the expenditure incurred by the state on transportation of food grains within the State, its handling and FPS dealers' margin as per norms to be devised for this purpose and assistance to states will be provided by the Central Government to meet the above expenditure.

- **Transparency and Accountability:** In order to ensure transparency and accountability, provisions have been made for disclosure of records relating to PDS, **social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees.**
- **Food Security Allowance:** In case of non-supply of entitled food grains or meals, there is a provision for food security allowance to entitled beneficiaries.
- **Penalty:** If the public servant or authority fails to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer, penalty will be imposed by the State Food Commission according to the provision.

6. Essential Services Maintenance Act

The **Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)** is an act of Parliament of India.
Objective: It was established to ensure the delivery of certain services, which if obstructed would affect the normal life of the people.
These include services like public transport (bus services), health services (doctors and hospitals).

- ESMA **gives police right to arrest without a warrant anybody violating the Act's provisions.**

Implementation:
The ESMA is **a law made by the Parliament of India under List No. 33 in Concurrent List of 7th Schedule of Constitution of India.**

- Although it is a very powerful law, **its execution rests entirely on the discretion of the State government.** Each state in the union of India has a separate state Essential Services Maintenance Act with slight variations from the central law in its provisions. This freedom is accorded by the central law itself.

7. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

Review petition of over 1,000 tribals from Mysore District, Karnataka for recognition of their claims over forest land under **the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006,** has been rejected by the local authorities.

Why the petitions were rejected?
They had failed to furnish evidence to substantiate the claims of their stay inside the forest.

- Expressing concerns over such decisions, experts have said that in a country where maintaining records of evidence and documents were a recent phenomena, expecting tribals to provide records to substantiate claims that they lived inside the forest before their eviction in 1972 was ridiculous and was in contravention of **the concept of natural justice.**

About the Forest Rights Act:
The Act passed in 2006 grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities.

Rights under the Act:

Maharashtra Governor has issued a notification modifying **the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.

- The notification has been issued by the Governor using his powers under sub paragraph (1) of paragraph 5 of **the Schedule V of the Constitution.**

What are the modifications?
The changes will **enable tribals and other traditional forest dwelling families to build houses in the neighbourhood forest areas.**

Significance:

- The decision is likely to provide a major relief to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest-dwelling families residing in the scheduled areas of the State.
- The move aims to prevent the migration of forest-dwelling families outside their native villages and provide them housing areas by extending the village site into forest land in their neighbourhood.

- **Title rights -** i.e. ownership - to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers as on 13 December 2005, subject to a maximum of 4 hectares; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family as on that date, meaning that no new lands are granted.
- **Use rights -** to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- **Relief and development rights -** to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement;[15] and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- **Forest management rights -** to protect forests and wildlife.

Forest Rights Act

Enacted in 2006, the Forest Rights Act came into effect in 2008. Considered a landmark piece of legislation as it attempts to correct historical injustices against forest dwellers in the colonial era and in independent India, it recognises forest dwellers' individual rights over their land and a village's rights to manage and conserve the forest:

Individual Forest Rights: Any person belonging to a scheduled tribe can claim rights to live in and cultivate up to 4 ha if he occupied it and depended on it as of December 13, 2005. A non-tribal, in addition, will have to prove his family's residence in the vicinity of the forest for 75 years prior to December 2005

Community Forest Rights: The Act recognises the rights of a gram sabha over forest land within the village boundaries or seasonal use of landscape for pastoral communities. This allows the villagers to own and collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce besides timber, including the right to use grazing land and water bodies and the right to protect and regenerate any community resource, among others

Eligibility criteria:
According to Section 2(c) of Forest Rights Act (FRA), to qualify as **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST)** and be **eligible for recognition of rights under FRA,** three conditions must be satisfied by the applicant/s, who could be "members or community":
1. Must be a Scheduled Tribe in the area where the right is claimed; and
2. Primarily resided in forest or forests land prior to 13-12-2005; and
3. Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.

And to qualify as Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD) and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, two conditions need to be fulfilled:
1. Primarily resided in forest or forests land for three generations (75 years) prior to 13-12-2005.
2. Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.

Critical Wildlife Habitats:
They are **defined under the Forest Rights Act, 2006,** as the "areas of national parks and sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation…"

8. Jammu & Kashmir Development Act

The Centre has notified new **land laws for the Jammu and Kashmir UT region,** ending the exclusive rights enjoyed by the local population over land under the now-diluted Article 370.

Who introduced the changes?
The introduction of **the UT of J&K Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020,** by **the Ministry of Home Affairs** has resulted in the repeal of at least 11 land laws in vogue in J&K earlier, including the J&K Big Landed Estates Abolition Act that had resulted in the famous **'land to tiller' rights.**

What are the latest changes?
- Under the newly introduced **J&K Development Act,** the **term "being permanent resident of the State" as a criteria has been "omitted",** paving the way for investors outside J&K to invest in the UT.

Open for sale
Some of the features of the new Jammu & Kashmir land laws:
- The new laws end the exclusive rights of permanent residents over land in the Union Territory
- People, including investors, outside J&K can purchase land now
- There will be a bar though on agriculture land to be used for non-agricultural purposes
- Land can be transferred in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialised education

An Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander can declare an area as "Strategic Area" for operational and training requirements of the armed forces

- **No land used for agriculture purposes shall be used for any non-agricultural purposes** except with the permission of the district collector.
- The **government may now allow transfer of land** "in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialized education in J&K".
- Also, **No sale, gift, exchange, or mortgage of the land shall be valid in favour of a person who is not an agriculturist.**
- **An Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander** can declare an area as **"Strategic Area" within a local area,** only for direct operational and training requirements of the armed forces.

Implications:
People, including investors, outside Jammu and Kashmir can now purchase land in the Union Territory.

9. Consumer Protection Act 2019
The Consumer Protection Act 2019 was notified on August 9th 2019.

New provisions under Consumer Protection Act 2019
• Inclusion of E- commerce, Direct selling Establishment of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)
• Strict Norms for Misleading Advertisement
• Strict Norms for product liability
• Changes in the Pecuniary Jurisdiction
• Greater ease to dispute resolution
Addition in the clause of "Unfair Trade Practice":
• Unfair Contract
• Alternate Dispute Resolution through mediation

	CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 1986	PROVISIONS	CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2019
	No separate regulator	Regulator	Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to be formed
	Complaint could be filed in a consumer court where the seller's (defendant) office is located	Consumer court	Complaint can be filed in a consumer court where the complainant resides or works
	No provision. Consumer could approach a civil court but not consumer court	Product liability	Consumer can seek compensation for harm caused by a product or service
	District: up to ₹20 lakh State: ₹20 lakh to ₹1 cr National: above ₹1 cr	Pecuniary jurisdiction	District: up to ₹1 cr State: ₹1 cr to ₹10 cr National: Above ₹10 cr
	No provision	E-commerce	All rules of direct selling extended to e-commerce
	No legal provision	Mediation cells	Court can refer settlement through mediation

Who is a consumer?
- A person who buys any goods or services for a consideration, which has been paid or promised or partly paid and partly promised, or under any system of deferred payment also includes the user with approval of such goods or beneficiary of services.
- As per Consumer Protection Act 2019, the expression "buys any goods" and 'hires or avails any services" includes offline or online transactions through electronic means or by teleshopping or direct selling or multi-level marketing

Who is a not a consumer?
• A person who obtains;
• goods free of charge
• who avails services free of charge
• who obtains goods for resale or for any commercial purposes
• who avails services for any commercial purposes
• who avails services under contract of service

As per the provisions of the Act, commercial purpose does not include use by a person of goods bought and used by him exclusively for the purposes of earning his livelihood by means of self-employment

What Consumers Rights are guaranteed under Consumer Protection Act, 2019?

Consumer is having the following six consumer rights under the Act

• Right to Safety

• Right to be Informed

• Right to Choose

• Right to be heard

• Right to seek Redressal

• Right to Consumer Awareness

Who can make complaint?

i. a consumer; or

ii. any voluntary consumer association registered under any law for the time being in force; or

iii. the Central Government or any State Government; or

iv. the Central Authority; or

v. one or more consumers, where there are numerous consumers having the same interest; or

vi. in case of death of a consumer, his legal heir or legal representative; or

vii. in case of a consumer being a minor, his parent or legal guardian;

Can a person buying goods or hiring services for business purpose make a complaint?

No

What are Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies?

These are quasi-judicial bodies established under the Act to provide simple, speedy and inexpensive redressal to the grievances of the consumers. These have been established at three levels: District, State and National known as:

• District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or District Commission

• State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or State Commission

• National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or National Commission.

What is the pecuniary jurisdiction of Commissions?

District Commission: Upto 1 cr

State Commission: 1 cr – 10 cr

National Commission: above 10 cr

What is a misleading advertisement?

Misleading advertisement" in relation to any product or service, means an advertisement, which—

a. falsely describes such product or service; or

b. gives a false guarantee to, or is likely to mislead the consumers as to the nature, substance, quantity or quality of such product or service; or

c. conveys an express or implied representation which, if made by the manufacturer or seller or service provider thereof, would constitute an unfair trade practice; or

d. deliberately conceals important information

Who all can be made liable for a misleading advertisement?

Manufacturers, advertising agencies, celebrity endorsers and publishers can be made liable.

What is CCPA?

• The New Act provides power to Central Government to establish Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of Consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements which are prejudicial to the interests of public and Consumer and to promote, protect and enforce the rights of Consumer as a Class.

- The Central Authority may inquire or cause an inquiry or investigation to be made into violations of Consumer Rights, either Suo motu or on a complaint received or on the directions from the Central Government.

Every complaint filed shall be accompanied by a fee

10.2020 Indian agriculture acts

- The Indian agriculture acts of 2020, often referred to as the Farm Bills.
- Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the farm laws and appointed a committee to look into farmer grievances related to the farm laws.
- The stay on their implementation means the Centre cannot, for the time being, proceed with any executive actions to enforce the laws.
- The Punjab, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh state assemblies tabled bills to counter and amend the centers three farm laws.

Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020

- Prior to the 2020 legislation, agricultural trade in India could only be conducted in APMC market yards (mandis).
- This Act, however, allows **trading in "outside trade areas"**—such as farm gates, factory premises, warehouses, silos, and cold storages—and prohibits state governments from levying any market fee or cess on farmers, traders, and electronic-trading platforms for trading the produce of farmers in such areas.
- The Act seeks to facilitate lucrative prices for farmers through **competitive alternative trading channels** to promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade of agriculture goods.
- It also permits the **electronic trading of farmers' produce** in the specified trade area, facilitating direct and online buying & selling of such products through electronic devices and internet.

Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020

- The Government asserts that the Act helps protect farmers engaging with agribusiness firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters, or large retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce by a **mutually-agreed lucrative price framework fairly and transparently through a contract.**
- The Act provided for a **3-level dispute settlement mechanism** by the conciliation board, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, and Appellate Authority. The agreement had to provide for a conciliation board as well as a conciliation process for the settlement of disputes.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

- The ECA was enacted in 1955 and has since been used by the Government to regulate the production, supply, and distribution of a whole host of commodities that it declares 'essential' to make them available to consumers at fair prices. Additionally, the government can also fix the minimum support price (MSP) of any packaged product that it declares an "essential commodity".
- The list of items under the Act includes drugs, fertilizers, pulses, and edible oils, as well as petroleum and petroleum products. The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises, and take them off the list once the situation improves.
- **With Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020** the stock limit will be imposed only under exceptional circumstances such as famine or other calamities.
    - There will be no stock limit for processors and supply chain owners based on their capacity and for exporters based on the export demand. It would also end some punitive measures.

o It will also deregulate agricultural produce such as pulses, onion, potato and cereals, edible oils, and oilseeds, to realize better prices for farmers.

Disaster Management

1. Disaster Management Act

About the Disaster Management Act, 2005:
- The stated object and purpose of the DM Act is **to manage disasters, including preparation of mitigation strategies, capacity-building and more.**
- It **came into force in India in January 2006.**
- The Act provides for **"the effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."**
- The Act calls for the establishment of **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA),** with the Prime Minister of India as chairperson.
- The Act enjoins **the Central Government to Constitute a National Executive Committee (NEC) to assist the National Authority.**
- All State Governments are mandated to establish **a State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).**

Powers given to the Centre:
- Power bestowed by DM Act on Central Government and NDMA are extensive.
- The **Central Government,** irrespective of any law in force (including over-riding powers) can issue any directions to any authority anywhere in India to facilitate or assist in the disaster management.
- Importantly, **any such directions issued by Central Government and NDMA** must necessarily be followed the Union Ministries, State Governments and State Disaster Management Authorities.
- In order to achieve all these, **the prime minister can exercise all powers of NDMA (S 6(3)).** This ensures that there is adequate political and constitutional heft behind the decisions made.

Relevance of DM Act in this pandemic:
COVID-19 is **the first pan India biological disaster being handled by the legal and constitutional institutions of the country.**
The lockdown was imposed under **the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act).**
Under the Act, **the States and district authorities can frame their own rules on the basis of broad guidelines issued by the Ministry.**
- The legal basis of the DM Act, is **Entry 23,** Concurrent List of the Constitution "Social security and social insurance".
- **Entry 29,** Concurrent List "Prevention of the extension from one State to another of infectious or contagious diseases or pests affecting men, animals or plants," can also be used for specific law making.

The State Disaster Executive Committee (DEC) under Disaster Management Act, 2005, can:

➤ Require any department of the state or any other body or authority or person in charge of any relevant resources to make available the resources for the purposes of emergency response, rescue and relief

➤ Control and restrict, vehicular traffic to, from or within, the vulnerable or affected area

➤ Control or restrict the entry of any person into, his/her movement within and departure from, a vulnerable or affected area

➤ Conduct search and carry out rescue operations

➤ Provide shelter, food, drinking water, essential provisions, healthcare and services in

accordance with the standards laid down by the national authority and state authority

➤ Give direction to the concerned department of the government of the state, any district authority or other authority, within the local limits of the state to take such measure or steps for rescue, evacuation or providing immediate relief for saving lives or property, as may be necessary in its opinion

➤ Require experts and consultants in the field of disasters to provide advice and assistance for rescue and relief

➤ Procure exclusive or preferential use of amenities from any authority or person as and when required

In case of a disaster, **the priority of all authorities under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 is to immediately combat the disaster and contain it to save human life.**

2. State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

Ministry of Home Affairs treat COVID-19 as **a notified disaster** for the purpose of providing assistance under **the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).**

> **A notified disaster:**
> Central government included the Covid-19 outbreak as "Notified Disaster" as a "critical medical condition or pandemic situation".

What is a disaster?
- According to **the Disaster Management Act,** a disaster is defined as "a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from **natural or manmade causes**, or by **accident or negligence** which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area".
- **Ministry of Home Affairs** has defined a disaster as an "extreme disruption of the functioning of a society that causes widespread human, material, or environmental losses that exceed the ability of the affected society to cope with its own resources."
- **31 disaster categories are organised into five major sub-groups,** which are: water and climate related disasters, geological related disasters, chemical, industrial and nuclear related disasters and biological related disasters, which includes biological disasters and epidemics.

What is the State Disaster Response Fund?
- Constituted under **the Disaster Management Act, 2005 by respective states** and it is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to **notified disasters.**
- **Composition**: The Central government contributes **75 per cent** towards the SDRF allocation **for general category states and UTs**, and **over 90 per cent for special category states/UTs**, which includes northeastern states, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand).
- For SDRF, the Centre releases funds in two equal installments as per the **recommendation of the Finance Commission.**
- **Support from the National Disaster Response Fund:** it supplements the SDRF of a state, in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF.
- **The disasters covered under the SDRF include** cyclones, droughts, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches and pest attacks among others.
- **Deciding authority:** The state executive committee headed by the Chief Secretary is authorized to decide on all matters relating to the financing of the relief expenditure from the SDRF.

Features of SDRF:
1. SDRF is located in **the 'Public Account' under 'Reserve Fund'.** (But direct expenditures are not made from Public Account.)
2. **State Government has to pay interest on a half yearly basis** to the funds in SDRF, at the rate applicable to overdrafts.
3. The **aggregate size of the SDRF for each state, for each year, is as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.**
4. The share of GoI to the SDRF is treated as **a 'grant in aid'.**
5. The **financing of relief measures out of SDRF are decided by the State Executive Committee (SEC) constituted under Section 20 of the DM Act.** SEC is responsible for the overall administration of the SDRF. However, the administrative expenses of SEC are borne by the State Government from its normal budgetary provisions and not from the SDRF or NDRF.

6. **The norms regarding the amount to be incurred on each approved item of expenditure (type of disaster) are fixed by the Ministry of Home Affairs with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance.** Any **excess expenditure has to be borne out of the budget of the state government.**
7. **Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for overseeing** the operation of the SDRF and monitors compliance with prescribed processes.
8. **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit the SDRF every year.**

3. National Disaster Response Force

The Disaster Management Act has made **the statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.

ROLE AND MANDATE OF NDRF:
1. Specialized response during disasters.
2. Proactive deployment during impending disaster situations.
3. Acquire and continually upgrade its own training and skills.
4. Liaison, Reconnaissance, Rehearsals and Mock Drills.
5. Impart basic and operational level training to State Response Forces (Police, Civil Defence and Home Guards).
6. Community Capacity Building Programme.
7. Organize Public Awareness Campaigns.

4. Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

In pursuance of an appeal by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in January, 1948, **the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)** was established with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan.

- The resources of the PMNRF are now utilized primarily to render **immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities** like floods, cyclones and earthquakes, etc. and to the victims of the major accidents and riots.
- Assistance from PMNRF is also rendered, to partially defray the **expenses for medical treatment** like heart surgeries, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment, etc.

Key features:
1. Disbursements are made with the approval of the Prime Minister.
2. PMNRF has **not been constituted by the Parliament.**
3. The fund is **recognized as a Trust under the Income Tax Act** and the same is managed by Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes.
4. PMNRF is **exempt under Income Tax Act.**
5. **Prime Minister is the Chairman of PMNRF** and is assisted by Officers/ Staff on honorary basis.
6. These **contributions also qualify as CSR (corporate social responsibility) spend** for companies, making it more attractive in terms of tax exemptions.

How are the surplus funds of PMNRF deployed?
In general, funds are either disbursed immediately or they are committed for specific purposes. The balance of the funds invested in various forms with scheduled commercial banks and other agencies to ensure long term sustainability.

Type of contributions accepted in PMNRF:
1. PMNRF accepts only **voluntary donations by individuals and institutions.**
2. Contributions flowing out of budgetary sources of Government or from the balance sheets of the public sector undertakings are not accepted.

3. At the time of natural calamity of devastating scale, Prime Minister, makes an appeal for donation to the fund.

5. During coronavirus lockdown, the laws that come into play

1. **Section 188 IPC** deals with those disobeying an order passed by a public servant, and provides for imprisonment ranging from one to six months. For those violating orders passed under the Epidemic Diseases Act, Section 188 IPC is the provision under which punishment is awarded.
2. **Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005** provides for punishment for two kinds of offences: obstructing any officer or employee of the government or person authorised by any disaster management authority for discharge of a function; and refusing to comply with any direction given by the authorities under the Act. Punishment can extend to one year on conviction, or two years if the refusal leads to loss of lives or any imminent danger.
3. **Section 505 IPC** provides for imprisonment of three years or fine, or both, for those who publish or circulate anything which is likely to cause fear or alarm. Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act provides for imprisonment, extending to one year, of those who make or circulate a false alarm or warning regarding a disaster or its severity or magnitude.
4. Under **Section 52, Disaster Management Act,** whoever makes a false claim for obtaining "any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits" from any official authority can be sentenced to a maximum of two years imprisonment and a fine will be imposed on the person.

6. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** had released guidelines for restarting manufacturing and chemical industries after the lockdown.
It issued guidelines on **Chemical Disasters, 2007, Management of Chemical (Terrorism) Disasters, 2009 and the Strengthening of Safety and Security For Transportation of POL Tankers, 2010.**

About NDMA:
On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted **the Disaster Management Act,** which envisaged the creation of **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).** It is **headed by the Prime Minister.**
State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

It has the following responsibilities:
1. Lay down policies on disaster management.
2. Approve the National Plan.
3. Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan.
4. Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plan.
5. Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the Purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects.
6. Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plans for disaster management.
7. Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation.
8. Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Central Government.
9. Take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with threatening disaster situations or disasters as it may consider necessary.
10. Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of the National Institute of Disaster Management.

Miscellaneous

1. Kochi-Mangaluru LNG pipeline

Inaugurated recently by PM.
- It is 450km long.
- It provide another 21 lakh PNG connections.

"One nation, one gas grid" concept:
It will be high-voltage electric power transmission network in mainland India, connecting power stations and major substations and ensuring that electricity generated anywhere in mainland India can be used to satisfy demand elsewhere.

Evolution of National Grid:
1. Grid management on regional basis started in sixties.
2. Initially, State grids were inter-connected to form regional grid and India was demarcated into 5 regions namely Northern, Eastern, Western, North Eastern and Southern region.
3. In August 2006 North and East grids were interconnected thereby 4 regional grids Northern, Eastern, Western and North Eastern grids are synchronously connected forming central grid operating at one frequency.
4. On 31st December 2013, Southern Region was connected to Central Grid in Synchronous mode with the commissioning of 765kV Raichur-Solapur Transmission line thereby achieving **'ONE NATION'-'ONE GRID'-'ONE FREQUENCY'.**

Benefits of a National Grid:
1. Better availability resulting in lesser power cuts.
2. More stability in power.
3. Better synchronisation.

2. Padma Awards

- The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.
- The Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
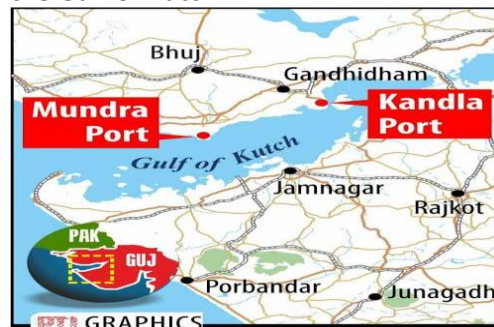
The Awards are given in three categories:
1. Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service).
2. Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order).
3. Padma Shri (distinguished service).

3. Vadhavan port project

- The Vadhavan port will be India's 13th major port.
- It has been planned as an 'All Weather, All Cargo' satellite port to enhance capabilities in handling deep draft ships and larger vessels.
- The port project is part of the Centre's Sagarmala initiative that aims to make Indian ports major contributors to the country's GDP.

Mundra Port is **the largest private port of India located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch.**

- The Port will have a dedicated road and rail service so as not to interfere with the local traffic, thereby avoiding any clutter within the local transportation.
- It will be developed on a "landlord model".

4. Mahajan Commission report on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute

Genesis of the dispute:
The erstwhile Bombay Presidency, a multilingual province, included the present-day Karnataka districts of Vijayapura, Belagavi, Dharwad and Uttara-Kannada.
- In 1948, the Belgaum municipality requested that the district, having a predominantly Marathi-speaking population, be incorporated into the proposed Maharashtra state.
- However, **the States Reorganisation Act of 1956,** which divided states on linguistic and administrative lines, made Belgaum and 10 talukas of Bombay State a part of the then Mysore State (which was renamed Karnataka in 1973).

The Mahajan Commission report:
While demarcating borders, the Reorganisation of States Commission sought to include talukas with a Kannada-speaking population of more than 50 per cent in Mysore.
- Opponents of the region's inclusion in Mysore argued, and continue to argue, that **Marathi-speakers outnumbered Kannadigas who lived there in 1956.**
- In September 1957, the Bombay government echoed their demand and lodged a protest with the Centre, leading to the formation of **the Mahajan Commission** under former Chief Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan in October 1966.

Recommendations of the Commission:
The Commission in its report in August 1967 recommended that 264 villages be transferred to Maharashtra (which formed in 1960) and that Belgaum and 247 villages remain with Karnataka.

Later developments:
- Maharashtra rejected the report, calling it biased and illogical, and demanded another review.
- Karnataka welcomed the report, and has ever since continued to press for implementation, although this has not been formally done by the Centre.
- Maharashtra continues to claim over 814 villages along the border, as well as Belgaum city, which are currently part of Karnataka.
- Successive governments in Maharashtra have demanded their inclusion within the state— a claim that Karnataka contests.

5. File FIRs for cybercrime, States told

The **Union Home Ministry** has written to all States to examine and **register FIRs based on the complaints received on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal,** www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Efforts by the Home Ministry to raise awareness on this:
- Through the above-mentioned portal, the Ministry aims to raise **a group of "cybercrime volunteers" to flag "unlawful content" on the Internet.**
- It has invited **Good Samaritans to register as Cybercrime Volunteers** in the role of Unlawful Content Flaggers for facilitating law enforcement agencies in identifying, reporting and removal of illegal / unlawful online content.

What is unlawful content?
It is categorised as **content against** the sovereignty and integrity of India, against defence of India, against security of the state, against friendly relations with foreign states, content aimed at disturbing public order, disturbing communal harmony and child sex abuse material.

Other Steps taken by the Government to spread awareness about cyber crimes:
- A scheme for establishment of **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** has been established to handle issues related to cybercrime in the country in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- Establishment of **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country.
- All organizations providing digital services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to **CERT-In** expeditiously.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra** (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) has been launched for providing detection of malicious programmes and free tools to remove such programmes.
- Formulation of **Crisis Management Plan** for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism.

6. Frontier Highway project
- It is a planned border highway in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is also called as the Arunachal Frontier Highway and Mago-Thingbu–Vijaynagar Border Highway.
- The 2,000-kilometre-long road follows **the McMahon Line.**
- It accompanies **the Trans-Arunachal Highway** (through the middle) and **the Arunachal East-West Corridor** (in the foothills along the Assam border) as major highways spanning Arunachal Pradesh, pursuing the Look East connectivity concept.
- **The highway will intersect with** the proposed East-West Industrial Corridor Highway in the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh from Bhairabkunda, the tri-junction of Bhutan, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to Ruksin in East Siang district.
- The highway will cross **the Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary,** which may raise environmental issues.

7. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project
Cabinet approves Externally Aided **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project – Phase II and Phase III.**

Key points:
- Financial Assistance is being provided by **the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).**
- The Project will be implemented over a period of **10 years duration** in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping **from April, 2021 to March, 2031.**

DRIP Phase II & Phase III envisages the following objectives:
1. To improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner.
2. To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level.
3. To explore the alternative incidental means at few of selected dams to generate the incidental revenue for sustainable operation and maintenance of dams.

Need for the Scheme:
India ranks third globally after China and the United States of America, with 5334 large dams in operation. In addition, about 411 dams are under construction at present. There are also several thousand smaller dams.

About DRIP:
The project was launched in 2012 by Central Water Commission (CWC) with assistance from World Bank.
The objectives of DRIP:

1. To improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner, and
2. To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.

Phase 1 of the Project:
The first phase of the DRIP programme covered 223 dams in 7 states.

Facts for Prelims:
● **DHARMA** (Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring) is a system to monitor the health of dams. At present, it is being used by 18 states.
● A **seismic hazard analysis information system (SHAISYS)** has also been developed.

8. Ayushman Sahakar
It is a scheme **to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure** in the country.

Formulated by:
National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an autonomous development finance institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Key features and implementation of the scheme:
● NCDC will extend **term loans to prospective cooperatives**.
● A fund will be created for the purpose.
● Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund.
● NCDC **assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.**
● The scheme also **provides working capital and margin money** to meet operational requirements.
● The scheme provides **interest subvention of one percent to women majority cooperatives.**

Cooperatives in healthcare and why focus on them?
There are about 52 hospitals across the country run by cooperatives. They have cumulative bed strength of more than 5,000.
● By virtue of their strong presence in rural areas, cooperatives utilizing the scheme would bring revolution in comprehensive health care services.

Benefits of the scheme:
● NCDC's scheme will be a step towards strengthening farmers welfare activities by the Central Government.
● With this scheme, villagers will get many facilities including hospitals, medical colleges.

In line with the National Health Policy, 2017:
The scheme aligns itself with the focus of the National Health Policy, 2017, covering the health systems in all their dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, access to technologies, development of human resources, encouragement of medical pluralism, affordable health care to farmers etc.

In line with the National Digital Heath Mission:
The scheme would bring transformation in rural areas.

9. Powergrid

- It is a Maharatna company headquartered in Gurugram, India and engaged mainly in Transmission of Power.
- It was incorporated on 23 October 1989 under the Companies Act, 1956 as a public limited company, wholly owned by the Government of India.
- POWERGRID transmits about 50% of the total power generated in India on its transmission network.
- POWERGRID also operates a telecom business under the name POWERTEL.
- The Corporation, apart from providing transmission system for evacuation of central sector power, is also responsible for Establishment and Operation of Regional and National Power Grids to facilitate transfer of power within and across the Regions.

10. PM CARES Fund

- The **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)** was created on 27 March 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic in India.
- PM CARES Fund has been registered as a **Public Charitable Trust.**
- **Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund** and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

Objectives:
- To undertake and support relief or assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural, including the creation or upgradation of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities, other necessary infrastructure, funding relevant research or any other type of support.
- To render financial assistance, provide grants of payments of money or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees to the affected population.
- To undertake any other activity, which is not inconsistent with the above Objects.

Other Details:
- The fund consists **entirely of voluntary contributions** from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support. The fund will be utilised in meeting the objectives as stated above.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify **100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.** Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure** under the Companies Act, 2013
- PM CARES Fund has also got **exemption under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries. This is consistent with respect to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). PMNRF has also received foreign contributions as a public trust since 2011.

Stating that **PM CARES FUNDS is not a 'public authority'** under **Section 2(h) of the Right to Information Act, 2005,** the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had refused to divulge information sought in an application filed under the RTI Act.

What is 'public authority' under RTI?
As per **Section 2(h) of the RTI Act,** "public authority" is means **any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted:**
1. by or under the Constitution;
2. by any other law made by Parliament;
3. by any other law made by State Legislature;

4. by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government.

The definition of 'public authority' also **includes bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government and non-governmental organizations substantially financed, directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government.**

Supreme Court had delivered its judgement on PM CARES funds.

Highlights of the judgment:

1. The Court had **"refused" to order transfer of funds from the PM CARES Fund to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).** They "are two entirely different funds with different object and purpose".
2. **PM CARES Fund,** being **a public charitable trust,** "there is **no occasion for audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India".**

11. Narcotics Control Bureau

- It was **constituted by the Government of India in 1986** under **the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.**
- It is the apex coordinating **agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**

The **National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances** is based on **Article 47 of the Indian Constitution** which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.

Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.

12. VAIBHAV Summit

Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit was **inaugurated on 2nd October 2020 –** the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- It is a global summit of Overseas and Resident Indian scientists and academicians.

The Summit is **a joint effort of various Science & Technology (S&T) and Academic organisations,** including Department of S&T, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Objectives:

- To bring out the comprehensive roadmap to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for solving emerging challenges.
- To reflect in-depth on the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India.
- To create an ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through global outreach.

13. High-security number plates

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has mandated all vehicles to have a high security registration plate (HSRP) that have been sold before April 2019.

- HSRPs are **chrome-based hologram plates** manufactured through a process of hot-stamping and laser-branding a unique identification number, which cannot be duplicated, linked to the central vehicular database of the Union government.
- The plates are also supposed to help authorities in tracking authenticity of vehicle ownerships, which will help in criminal probes, curb illegal sale in the grey market, and prevent thefts and forging of number plates.
- Through an amendment in **Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989,** Govt. of India has made HSRP mandatory.

What is HSRP?

- The registration plate comes with a hot-stamped chromium-based hologram of Ashoka Chakra on the top left corner which is blue in colour and precisely measures 20mm x 20mm.
- At the bottom left corner of the plate is a 10-digit PIN (permanent identification number) that is laser-engraved on the reflective sheet.
- Similarly, the HSRP also comes with a hot-stamped film applied on the registration numerals and letters bearing the inscription 'India' at a 45-degree angle.
- Once the unique registration is fixed, it is then electronically linked to the vehicle.