

- Ensure **high-quality maintenance of roads**.
- Provide a **higher level of service**.

#### **About NHAI**

- History → The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was **operationalized in 1995**.
- Parent organization → It is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- Functions → It is entrusted with the **responsibility of development, maintenance and operation of National Highways**.
- This is also the apex body to **improve the quality of the roads** designated as National Highways.

## 6. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

### Why in News?

- The Union cabinet has approved an extension till end September for availing free cooking gas cylinders under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

### About PMUY

- Nodal Ministry → **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**.
- Aim → To **replace the unclean cooking fuels** mostly used in rural India with the clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).
- Launched Year → **2016**
- Objectives →
  - **Empower women** and protect their health
  - **Reduce the serious health hazards** associated with cooking based on fossil fuel
  - **Reduce the number of deaths** in India due to unclean cooking fuel and
  - **Prevent young children** from a significant number of **acute respiratory illnesses** caused due to indoor air pollution.
- Features → Under the scheme, an **adult woman member** of a **below poverty line family** identified through the **Socio-Economic Caste Census** (SECC) is given a **deposit-free LPG connection** with financial assistance of **Rs 1,600 per** connection by the Centre.
- Target → Initially the target was **installation of 5 crore LPG connections** by 2019. But the target was revised to 8 crore which has been achieved in September, 2019.

## 8. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

### Why in News?

- Government of India has approved setting up of an agriculture infrastructure fund with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore.

### About Fund

- Type → **Central Sector Scheme**.
- Aim → To provide a **medium-long term debt financing** for investment in viable projects for **post-harvest management Infrastructure** and **community farming assets** through interest subvention and financial support.