IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is a Blessing
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

TARGET 2018

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES II

TARGET 2018
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES
I N D E X

<p style="text-align:center">TARGET 2018</p>

<p style="text-align:center">GOVERNMENT SCHEMES</p>

1. SCHEMES INTRODUCED IN THE BUDGET – 2018

1.1. Ayushman Bharat Programme

- The Government has announced two major initiatives in health sector, as part of newly announced Ayushman Bharat programme.

- The programme is aimed at making interventions to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems.

- The initiatives under the programme are:
  1. Health and Wellness Centre
  2. National Health Protection Scheme

- **Health and Wellness Centre** - National Health Policy, 2017 envisioned Health and Wellness Centres as the foundation of India's health system.

- Under this, 1.5 lakh centres will bring health care system closer to the homes of people.

- The centres will provide comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.

- These will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services.

- Contribution of private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centres is also envisaged.

- **National Health Protection Scheme** – The scheme will integrate two ongoing centrally sponsored schemes Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

- This will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families based on Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011. This would translate to around 50 crore beneficiaries.

- The scheme provides coverage of upto Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for **secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.**

- The NHPS remains disconnected from primary health care services.

- There would be **no cap on family size** and age in the scheme.

- It includes **pre and post-hospitalisation expenses**.

- It will cover all pre-existing conditions from beginning of the policy.

- It will also pay defined transport allowance per hospitalization to the beneficiary.

- NHPS has sharply raised the health care coverage. However, the shortfall of **not covering outpatient care** in RSBY continues in NHPS as well.

- The State governments have the main responsibility of health service delivery.

- The NHPS needs a buy-in from the States, which have to **contribute 40% of the funding**.

- States will be allowed to expand the scheme both horizontally and vertically. They will be free to choose modalities for implementation.

- States will be required to form **State Health Agency (SHA)** to implement scheme and at district level also, a structure for implementation of the scheme will be set up.

- The scheme will work in partnership with NITI Aayog to operationalise a robust, modular and interoperable IT platform which will involve a paperless and cashless transaction.

- Besides, 24 new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals will be set up, by up-grading existing district hospitals in the country.

- This would ensure that there is at least 1 Medical College for every 3 Parliamentary Constituencies.
- Also, at least 1 Government Medical College in each State of the country.
- This is to further enhance accessibility of quality medical education and health care.
- This is said to be the world's largest government funded health care programme.

1.2. Ekalavya Schools

- The government has announced the setting up of Ekalavya Residential Schools to provide education to tribals in their local environment.
- **Target** – Ekalavya schools in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons by 2022.
- Ekalavya schools will be on a par with Navodaya Vidyalayas.
- It will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture, besides providing training in sports and skill development.
- The Ekalavya Residential School Scheme isn't new. It has been around for many years now.
- However, the government has signalled in Budget 2018 that it wants to expand the scope.

1.3. Navodaya Vidyalayas (NV)

- Navodaya vidyalayas are residential schools providing good quality modern education from Class VI to Class VIII to the talented children predominantly from the rural areas, without regard to their family's socio-economic condition.
- In the admission, which is done through an entrance exam, 75 percent of seats are reserved for children from rural areas, apart from reservations for children belonging to SC and ST communities.
- Navodya Vidyalaya Samiti registered as a Society, an autonomous organisation under Ministry of HRD, run Navodaya vidyalayas.
- In the Union Budget 2016-17, government announced that 62 new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) schools will be opened in districts hitherto uncovered in the country.
- Tamil Nadu remains the only State which does not have a JNV, reportedly because of the perception that importance is given to Hindi in these schools.

1.4. Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) Scheme

- RISE scheme was launched to revitalize the infrastructure of higher educational institutions with a total investment of one lakh crore in the upcoming 4 years.
- Under the scheme, government will provide low cost funds to all government higher educational institutions to promote higher education in schools.
- This scheme will cover all centrally-funded institutes (CFIs) including central universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs.
- These institutions can borrow a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 crore in next 4 years.
- It will be financed via a restructured "Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) that has been constituted as a non-bank finance company.
- Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will get largest part of loans on offer under RISE Scheme.

HEFA

- HEFA will finance funds for infrastructure development at CFIs in higher education.
- Subsequently, HEFA was set up by central govt. as Section 8 company (company having charitable objectives) in 2017.
- HEFA will mobilize funds in market and will provide 10 year loans to all centrally-run institutes.
- **Equity Share** –
  - For mobilization of corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore, HEFA will require Rs. 10,000 crore.
  - Out of this total sum, central govt. will provide Rs. 8,500 crore.
  - Moreover, Canara Bank will bear the remaining amount as Canara bank was the partner of central govt. for setting up of HEFA.
- **Target –** All the projects whether infrastructure or research projects which are sanctioned by HEFA are to get completed till December 2022.
- **Raising of Funds –**
  - Under this scheme, HEFA will directly release the sanctioned amount to vendors or contractors.

- However, this amount will get released only after the certification of executing agency and educational institution.
- Under RISE Scheme, all the CFIs will have to repay the borrowed amount (loans) in a time frame of over 10 years.
- Furthermore, Loan Repayment modes will be different for institutes i.e on the basis of their internal revenue.
- Loans taken from HEFA, under the RISE programme, must be paid back over 10 years.

1.5. Prime Minister Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme

- PMRF scheme is aimed at attracting the talent pool of the country to doctoral (Ph.D.) programs of IITs and IISc for carrying out research in cutting edge science and technology domains.
- Under the scheme, students who have completed, or are pursuing, the final year B.Tech/Integrated M.Tech/ integrated M.Sc./ undergraduate-postgraduate dual degree programs in Science and Technology streams from IIEST/IISc/IITs/NITs/IISERs and centrally funded IIITs are eligible.
- Selected candidates will be offered admission to Ph.D. program in one of IITs/IISc with a fellowship of Rs.70,000/- per month for the first two years, Rs.75,000/- per month for the 3rd year, and Rs.80,000/- per month in the 4th and 5th years.
- Apart from this, a research grant of Rs.2.00 lakh per year will be provided to each of the Fellows for a period of 5 years to cover their academic contingency expenses and for foreign/national travel expenses.
- It will be implemented for period of seven years beginning 2018-19 and Maximum of 3000 Fellows would be selected in three year period, beginning 2018-19.

1.6. Operation Green

- Operation Green was launched on the lines of Operation Flood.
- The idea behind Operation Greens is to double the income of farmers by end of 2022.
- It aims to promote farmer producers organizations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
- It is essentially a **price fixation scheme** that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
- The main objective of the project is **to reduce price volatility** in agriculture commodities such as vegetables.
- Initially, Government has decided to start focusing on three basic vegetables namely tomatoes, onions and potatoes.

1.7. Kisan Credit Card to Fishermen and Cattle Owners

- Union Budget 2018-19 has expanded the scope of kisan credit card to fishermen and cattle owners.
- Extending KCC for fisheries and cattle owners is particularly relevant as the coverage of institutional credit delivery in these sectors is considerably lower compared to crop sector.
- The scheme will benefit the credit-starved emerging entrepreneurs in the area of open sea and coastal cage farming.
- **Kisan Credit Card** - The scheme aims at providing **adequate and timely credit support** from the banking system under a single window with flexible.
  1. It deploys simplified procedure to give credit to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs such as
  2. To meet the short term credit requirements for cultivation of crops;
  3. Post-harvest expenses;
  4. Produce marketing loan;
  5. Consumption requirements of farmer household;
  6. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture;
  7. Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities.
- The KCC scheme also provides the facility of ATM enabled RuPay Card, one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit and any number of drawals within the limit.

- The farmers eligible under the KCC scheme include small farmers, marginal farmers, share croppers, oral lessee and tenant farmers.
- The Self Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) are also eligible for availing benefits under the said scheme.

1.8. Affordable Housing Fund

- Government has announced a dedicated affordable housing fund under the **National Housing Bank (NHB)** to boost demand and supply of low-cost homes.
- It will receive fund from priority sector lending shortfall and fully serviced bonds authorised by the Government of India.
- It will be used to construct one crore households in the rural areas Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana.
- National Housing Bank Act is being amended to transfer its equity from the Reserve Bank of India to the government.
- In last year's Budget, the government had announced infrastructure status to affordable housing.
- **NOTE: Ministry of Urban Development has been merged with Ministry of Housing. The new Ministry is named as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**
- **All the schemes under Ministry of Urban development has been subsumed under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

1.9. GOBAR-Dhan Yojana

- The Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme was first announced in this year budget 2018.
- The scheme would focus on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, biogas and bio-CNG.
- It wiill help in keeping the village clean while increasing the income of farmers and cattle herders.
- Under it, villagers will be mobilized to create self-help groups (SHGs) and creative societies that will help in clean energy and green jobs initiative.
- Under this scheme, one village in every district of the country would be selected for its implementation.
- Nearly 700 districts would be covered during the current fiscal.

1.10. Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)

- It's a **farmer-oriented solar power scheme** that will allow setting up grid-connected solar plants in rural areas and off-grid solar pumps.
- It involves decentralized solar power production of up to 28,250 Megawatt (Mw) over five years.
- It aims at boosting farmers' income by allowing them to sell additional power to the grid through solar plants.
- Under the scheme, the government plans to **incentivise farmers** to run solar farm water pumps and use barren land for generating power for extra income up to Rs 60,000 per acre every year.
- It will also have provisions for solarization of tube wells and lift irrigation projects.
- It is implemented by **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.
- Various components of the Scheme
  i. Utilisation of barren land by farmers to generate 10,000 MW of solar energy and sell it to grid.
  ii. Providing incentives to DISCOMS to purchase the electricity produced
  iii. Subsidy to farmers for buying 17.5 lakhs off grid solar farm pumps.
  iv. Solarisation of grid-connected farm pumps involving 7,250 MW capacity
  v. Solarisation of government departments' grid connected water pumps involving 8250 MW capacity
- The other benefits of the scheme include
  i. reduction in transmission losses,
  ii. support the financial health of discoms by cutting the burden of agricultural subsidy;
  iii. supporting states in meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets;
  iv. promotion of energy efficiency; and providing water security to farmers.

2. OTHER SCHEMES

2.1 Soil Health Card

- Recently, the government has updated the funding pattern for soil health card scheme implemented by **Ministry of Agriculture** under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture.

- Accordingly, the fund sharing pattern would be 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States and 60:40 for other states and 100% borne by central government in UTs.

2.2 Zero Hunger Programme

- On the occasion of world food day (October 16), three districts in India will initiate India's ambitious 'Zero Hunger' programme through interventions in farm sector.

- The three districts are Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Koraput in Odisha and Thane in Maharashtra.

- It is a dedicated farm-based programme in sync with India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end hunger by 2030.

- It will be initiated by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

- These three districts would act as a model of an integrated approach adopting suitable agricultural/horticultural practices.

- The programme consists of organisations of farming system for nutrition, setting up genetic gardens and initiation of 'Zero Hunger' training.

- A genetic garden for biofortified plants/crops contains the germplasm of naturally biofortified crops or such crops through plant breeding.

- It has plants and crops that help supplement micro-nutrient deficiencies, including iron, iodine, vitamin A and zinc among others.

2.3 Pusa Krishi

- It is a new mobile app Pusa Krishi' for farmers in order to take the technology to farm fields.

- The app will provide farmers with information related to new varieties of crops developed by **Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR),** resource conserving cultivation practices as well as farm machinery and its implementation will help in increasing returns to farmers.

2.4 Kisan Suvidha

- It is a mobile app developed by **Ministry of Agriculture** that aims at providing information to farmers on weather, market prices, farm machinery as well as identification and management of crop pest and diseases.

2.5 UDAN Phase II

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation** is implementing UDAN to facilitate regional air connectivity by making it affordable.

- It offers concessions to the airlines to encourage them to fly on regional routes.

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency.

- The second phase of "Ude Desh Ki Aam Nagrik" has been recently launched.

- New 325 routes with special focus on "New priority areas" were created.

- The newly created priority areas are J&K, North Eastern states, Andaman and Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

- These include strategic airports such as Kargil in Jammu & Kashmir, Pakyong in Sikkim, and Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh, where civilian air connectivity will be provided for the first time.

- Further, the phase-II will also have routes being **served by helicopters** apart from fixed-wing aircraft.

- The government provides **viability gap funding** or subsidy for 50 per cent of the seats set aside for being offered at discounted rates by airlines and **all seats** up to 13 passenger seats **for helicopters.**

- Airport Authority of India is going to regional connectivity fund the scheme by levying on airlines.

- Airlines pay a regional connectivity levy of Rs 5,000 per flight on the routes not operated under UDAN.

Implementation of UDAN

- Concession to the airlines include operating subsidies like levies or charges imposed by the airport operators, excise duty at 2% and VAT at 1% on aviation turbine fuel, parking charges at airports and exempting these operations from the GST net.

- The airfare per RCS seat should not exceed Rs 2,500 and will be determined based on the flight distance.

- The selected airlines will have to commit 50% of the seats on RCS flights as RCS seats with 3-7 operational flights per week.

- A Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) will be created to subsidise operations under the RCS.

- The central government will fund 80% of the losses incurred and the rest will be covered by the states.

- This is provided through the **Viability gap funding (VGF)** to the selected airline operators from RCF, and state governments will be required to reimburse the applicable share.

- VGF will be provided for three years from the date of commencement of operations of such RCS flights.

- In general, central and state contributions for VGF are 80:20 and for the north-eastern states & union territories it is 90:10.

- Benefits under the Scheme will be available for **a period of 10 years** from the date of its notification.

- RCS will be made operational only in states and at airports which are willing to provide concessions required under the Scheme.

- Earlier, there was a requirement of 150 km minimum distance between two airports to be qualified for operations under the scheme. But later it was abolished.

- Maharashtra is the first state to sign agreement with centre for RCS.

2.6 Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan Scheme

- The Scheme is under the **Ministry of Communications**.

- It is a skill development scheme that will train rural youth to maintain mobile towers, repair optical fibres and fix other communication technologies across India.

- **Department of Telecommunication** will train people through skill training centres to supplement the telecom skill manpower creation for the growth of telecom sector.

- In the first phase of pilot project, the programme will be launched in 10 rural locations and will train 10,000 people.

- The scheme will be initially implemented in UP, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab and Haryana.

- The skill training will be based on National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).

- It will be financed by Department of Telecommunication in the initial pilot phase.

2.7 Swajal Yojana

- **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** has launched the Swajal pilot project at Rajasthan recently.

- Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.

- The project ensures the availability of clean drinking water to every household round the year and also generates employment.

- Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community.

- The Operations and management of the project will be take care by the local villagers.

2.8 Stree Swabhiman

- Stree Swabhiman is an initiative under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** for promoting women's menstrual health and hygiene.

- Under this initiative, Common Service Centres (CSC) will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.

- The initiative is driven by awareness and personalized outreach by women entrepreneurs who produce and market sanitary napkins by village level entrepreneus (VLE) and self help groups.

- VLE will distribute the pads to girls in the primary and secondary schools in their village, encompassing girls from 7th to 12th grade.

- Under this initiative, semi-automatic and manual sanitary napkin manufacturing units will be set up at CSC for producing sanitary napkins.

- The manufacturing unit will be operated by women entrepreneurs and generate employment for women.

- Thus the scheme is conceptualized to create avenues for the rural and semi-urban women to become self-reliant and also progress towards a healthy eco-friendly lifestyle.

2.9 Common Service Centres (CSC)

- Common Services Centers (CSC) scheme is one of the mission mode projects under the **Digital India Programme, Ministry of Electronics and IT.**

- CSCs are the access points for delivery of **Government to Citizen** essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education and agriculture services, apart from **host of B2C services** to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

2.10 North East BPO promotion Scheme (NEBPS)

- It is envisaged under Digital India Programme , seeks to incentivize establishment of 5,000 seats in respect of Business Process Outsourcing/ IT Enabled Service (BPO/ITES) operations in North East Region (NER).

- NEBPS provides the financial supports and special incentives in the form of **Viability Gap Funding** (VGF) to eligible Companies based on generation of new employment and economic activity in ITES sector.

- **Financial Support** – It provides up to 50% of expenditure incurred on BPO/ITES operations towards capital expenditure and/or operational expenditure subject to an **upper ceiling of Rs. 1 Lakh/Seat.**

- **Special Incentives** – It provides financial support of Rs.1 Lakh/Seat for training expenditure and providing employment to Women and Persons with disability.

- **Incentive for promoting local entrepreneur** - Special Incentive (5% of eligible financial support) for units setting up BPO/ITES operations as a consortium with local entrepreneur

- A Company seeking to avail financial support under this scheme, shall be under obligation not to claim the similar financial support from any other Scheme of the Central/State Government concerned.

- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is the implementing agency of the India BPO promotion Scheme and North East BPO promotion Scheme.

- STPI is a society established in 1991 by the **Ministry of electronics and Information Technology** with the objective of encouraging, promoting and boosting the export of software from India.

2.11 Cyber Surakshit Bharat

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, announced the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.

- It aims to spread awareness about cybercrime and building capacity for safety measures for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT staff across all government departments.

- Cyber Surakshit Bharat is the first public-private partnership of its kind and will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cybersecurity.

- Cyber Surakshit Bharat aims to conduct a series of training programs for departments in State and Union governments, Public Sector Banks, and technical arms of the Air Force, Army and Navy.

2.12 Jatan and Darshak

- Centre for Development for Advanced Computing (C-DAC), has developed software named "Jatan" that is set to revolutionize museum experience.

- The latest technology will help online visitors get a 3-Dimensional (3D) view of hundreds of artifacts displayed at the museums.

- The software will enable virtual tours to museums.

- The group has developed "Darshak", a mobile-based application, aimed at improving the museum visit experience among the differently-abled.

- It allows real-time museum visitors gather all details about objects or artifacts simply by scanning a QR code placed near the object.

- C-DAC is the premier R&D organization of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** for carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

2.13 UMANG App

- UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) mobile app allow citizens to access government services on a single platform.

- The services live on the app include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) among others.

- It is expected to provide access to over 1,200 services of various government organisations in states and at the Centre as well as utility payments.

- Using the app, citizens will be able to access Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) services, apply for a new PAN, and can register under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

- The app is developed and operated by National e-Governance Division of **Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity).**

UAN-Aadhar linkage

- Employee Provident Fund Organization has launched the facility of linking Aadhaar with universal account number (UAN), through UMANG mobile app.

- UAN is a unique 12-digit number assigned to an employee by EPFO India.

- UAN helps employees manage their provident fund accounts online with ease and hassle free.

- When an employee changes an organization, his/her mutual fund member ID also changes.

- UAN was introduced to link multiple Member Identification Numbers allotted to a single individual by the employer.

2.14 Himalayan Research Fellowships scheme

- **Union Environment Ministry** has decided to start a 'Himalayan Research Fellowships scheme' to create a young pool of trained environmental managers, ecologists and socio-economists.

- It will help generate information on physical, biological, managerial and human aspects of Himalayan environment and development.

- The scheme will be executed through various universities and Institutions working in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and preference will be given to the Institutions from north-eastern states.

- The financial support will be provided under the **National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS).**

- Fellowships will be awarded for a maximum period of three years.

- Areas that are being focused on for research under the NMHS are,

  i. Water resource management including rejuvenation of springs and catchments,
  ii. Hydropower development,
  iii. Assessment and prediction of water-induced hazards,
  iv. Livelihood options including ecotourism opportunities,
  v. Biodiversity management including recovery of threatened species and skill development.

2.15 Green Good Deeds Campaign

- The campaign is launched by the Union **Ministry of Environment**, Forest and climate change.
- Its aim is to sensitize the people and students, in particular, about climate change and global warming.
- The Union minster for Environment and forest emphasized the crucial role of 'Green Sainiks' in the Green Good Deeds Campaign.
- The plan is to broad-base it with the involvement of teachers, students and other voluntary organizations.

2.16 SAMEEP

- **Ministry of External Affairs** has launched "SAMEEP", an outreach mission which aims to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across the country.

- SAMEEP stands for Students and MEA Engagement Programme.

- The objective is to familiarise school and college students in India about the functioning of the MEA.

- All the ministry officers (under secretary and above ranks) are asked to engage students in the schools and colleges in the jobs that the ministry is engaged in.

- This is to give them a fair idea of how India engages with the world, what are its foreign policy priorities and how diplomacy is actually conducted.

- The programme is **voluntary** and gives officials the option of going back to their alma mater or to any school or college in their hometown.

2.17 National Strategic Plan and Mission Sampark

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has launched National strategic plan and mission Sampark on the occasion of World AIDS Day, 2017.

- The National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), 2017-24 was released.

- National Strategic Plan 2017-24 will pave a roadmap not only for achieving the target of 90:90:90 but also strive along with partners towards fast track strategy of **ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030**.

- By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

- The strategic plan is aimed at eradicating HIV/AIDS by 2030.

- It also aimed to achieve elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis as well as elimination of HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination by 2020.

- The "**Mission Sampark**" was launched to bring back People Living with HIV who has left treatment after starting Anti Retro Viral Treatment (ART).

- National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) aims to achieve 80% reduction in new HIV infections by 2024 from baseline value of 2010.

2.18 Maternity Benefit Programme/ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- Since 2005, JSY pays Rs.1,400 to poor women who deliver in a hospital, for the first two deliveries.

- National Food Security Act (2013) mandated the payment of no less than Rs.6,000 to all pregnant women, irrespective of their income status.

- So the Ministry has formulated **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana.**

- It was implemented using the platform of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and in selected 53 districts across the country.

- Maternity Benefit Program is the Pan-India Expansion of Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana.

- The Scheme provides cash incentives to pregnant and lactating women.

    i.   for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery;
    ii. to improve her health and nutrition during the period of pregnancy and lactation;
    iii. to breastfeed the child during the first six months of the birth, which is very vital for the development of the child.

- All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding those in regular employment with the Government or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being are eligible.

- Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who are eligible will receive a **cash benefit of Rs.5,000/-** in three instalment.

- The cash incentive is payable in three instalments for the **first live birth**, as normally, the first pregnancy of a woman exposes her to new kind of challenges and stress factors.

- However, to address the problem of malnutrition and morbidity among children, the anganwadi services, which is universal, is available to all PW&LM **including the second pregnancy**.

- The cash transfer would be Aadhaar linked through the individual bank/post office account etc. in DBT mode.

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the cost sharing between Centre and States is 60:40 for all the States and UTs (with legislature), 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% GoI share for UTs without legislatures.

- Thus a PW&LM will get Rs. 5,000/- under PMMVY and the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6000/-.

2.19 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- The programme is under the **Ministry of Human Resource and Development**.

- It aimed at providing rural India with professional resource support from institutes of higher education to address the development challenges through appropriate technologies.

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) along with the Ministries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has agreed to link all Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) with rural development processes under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).

- It is an attempt to bring about substantial improvements in the formulation and delivery of developmental schemes in the rural areas.

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has been designated as the Coordinating Institute.

2.20 Swasth Bachche-Swasth Bharat Programme

- The programme is under the **Ministry of Human Resource and Development**.

- It is an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.

- The programme will provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups and children of different abilities.

- IT also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics amongst students and motivating potentially outstanding performers.

2.21 JIGYASA

- It is a student- scientist connect programme by **Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Science and Technology**.

- It focuses on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning to research laboratory based learning by visiting CSIR laboratories and by participating in mini-science projects.

- CSIR and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) are collaborating to implement this programme.

2.22 National Testing Agency

- Union Cabinet has recently approved creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.

- It will be registered as a society under the Indian Societies Registration Act.

- It will act an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization chaired by eminent educationist appointed by **Ministry of HRD.**

- The setting up of NTA was announced in the union budget of 2017-18.

- It would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE (NEET, JEE etc).

- The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, giving adequate opportunity to candidates.

- It will be given a one-time grant of Rs.25 crore from the Government to start its operation in the first year. Thereafter, it will be financially self-sustainable.

- It will relieve CBSE, AICTE and other agencies from responsibility of conducting the entrance examinations.

2.23 Maitreyi Yatra

- It is an exclusive student exchange programme for J&K organized by **Ministry of Human Resource development.**

- It provides a good opportunity for the youth of J&K to be acquainted with culture, language and development story of different parts of the country.

2.24 Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan

- Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) is a nationwide science talent search examination organized by Vigyan Prasar.

- It is a unique initiative to give a boost to the learning of science, technology and mathematics among the youth-especially the school students.

- Vigyan Prasar is an autonomous organisation under Department of Science and Technology and NCERT of Ministry of Human Resources and Development and Vijnana Bharati.

- Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) is one of the largest science movements in the country led by eminent scientists.

- It aims to inculcate and generate scientific temper, foster excellence in students and nurture and mentor them for their careers in pure sciences.

2.25 Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

- The government has recently approved the continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond the 12th Plan period for three years to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs 5,500 crore.

- PMEGP is a major credit-linked subsidy programme being implemented by the **Ministry of MSME** since 2008-09.

- The Scheme is aimed at **generating self-employment opportunities** through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth in rural as well as urban areas.

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal implementing agency at the national level.

- KVIC, Khadi& Village Industry Boards (KVIB) and District Industry Centres (DIC) are the implementing agencies in the states.

Recent amendments in the scheme

- A minimum target of 75 projects/district is awarded to all districts of the country to achieve inclusive growth.

- Targets are fixed taking into account:
    i. Extent of backwardness of State;
    ii. Extent of unemployment;
    iii. Extent of fulfillment of previous year targets;
    iv. Population of State/Union Territory; and
    v. Availability of traditional skills and raw material.

- Higher rate of subsidy (25-35 per cent) will be applicable for women, SC/ST, OBC, Physically Disabled, NER applicants in rural areas

- A second loan of up to Rs 1 crore to existing and better performing PMEGP units for upgrading with subsidy of 15 per cent;

- Mandatory Aadhaar and Pan Card and Geo-tagging of units.

- Merger of Coir Udyami Yojana (GUY) in PMEGP;

- The negative list under PMEGP had also been amended allowing serving/selling non-vegetarian food at Hotels/Dhabas and Off Farm/Farm Linked activities

- Cap the working capital component for manufacturing units to 40% of the project cost and for service/trading sector to 60% of the project cost.

2.26 MSME Sambandh

- It is a public procurement portal unveiled by Ministry of MSME.

- The objective of the portal is to monitor the implementation of the Public Procurement from MSEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises.

- The Procurement Policy launched in 2012 mandates the Central Government Departments / CPSUs to procure necessarily from MSEs.

- Every Central Ministry / Department / PSU shall set an annual goal for procurement from the MSE sector at the beginning of the year, with the objective of achieving an overall procurement goal of **minimum of 20% of the total annual purchases** of the products or services produced or rendered by MSEs.

2.27 Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for Technology Upgradation

- CLCSS aims at facilitating technology upgradation of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) by providing 15% capital subsidy (limited to maximum Rs.15 lakhs) for purchase of Plant & Machinery.
- Maximum limit of eligible loan for calculation of subsidy under the scheme is Rs.100 lakhs.

2.28 Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM)

- To improve the ease of doing business for MSME's, **Ministry of MSME** has launched UAM which replaces the filing of Entrepreneurs' Memorandum with States/UTs.
- UAM is an online portal which facilitates the registration of entrepreneurs in the MSME sectors.
- Upon the registration, the user will be allocated an unique Udyog Aadhar Number (UAN).

2.29 Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources

- The Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) was created in 1997–98.
- It is the accrual of the unspent balance of the mandatory 10% budgetary allocation of the Ministries/Departments.
- The broad objectives of the NLCPR Scheme is to ensure speedy development of infrastructure in North eastern states and Sikkim by way of filling the existing infrastructural gaps in the region by making funds available from the pool.
- The accruals in NLCPR are utilized by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** under the two Schemes of NLCPR (State) and NLCPR-Central.
- Under the NLCPR (State) Scheme, priority projects of North Eastern States are being funded and under NLCPR-Central Scheme, funds are provided to Central Ministries for implementing projects of national and regional importance.
- Recently, cabinet has approved NLCPR scheme till March, 2020 with funding pattern of 90:10.

2.30 Sankalp Programme

- Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) Workshop 'Sankalp' for the retiring employees of Ministries/Departments was organised by the **Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare (DOP&PW).**
- The aim of this program is to counsel retiring employees for joining into advisory bodies of their respective offices and also to dispose of grievances.
- DOP&PW has so far conducted Pre-Retirement Counselling for more than 3000 employees under the Sankalp project.
- A web portal for "Sankalp' programme has also been launched, for Pensioners, Pensioner Associations and NGOs to avail the services.
- This programme is not to be confused with "Sankalp Se Siddhi" Scheme.

Sankalp Se Siddhi

- Sankalp Se Siddhi (Attainment through Resolve) programme is a new initiative launched by union government for a New India movement from 2017 to 2022.
- It was launched on the 75th anniversary of Quit India movement.
- New India movement 2017-2022 aims to free up the country from many social evils such as poverty, corruption, terrorism, filth and others by creating awareness among the people.

2.31 Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, a "Gram Swaraj Abhiyan" could be organised starting from 14th April to 05th May, 2018 by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj.**
- The campaign, undertaken under the name of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Gaon, Sabka Vikas", is to promote social harmony, spread awareness about pro-poor initiatives of government, reach out to poor households to enroll them as also to obtain their feedback on various welfare programmes.
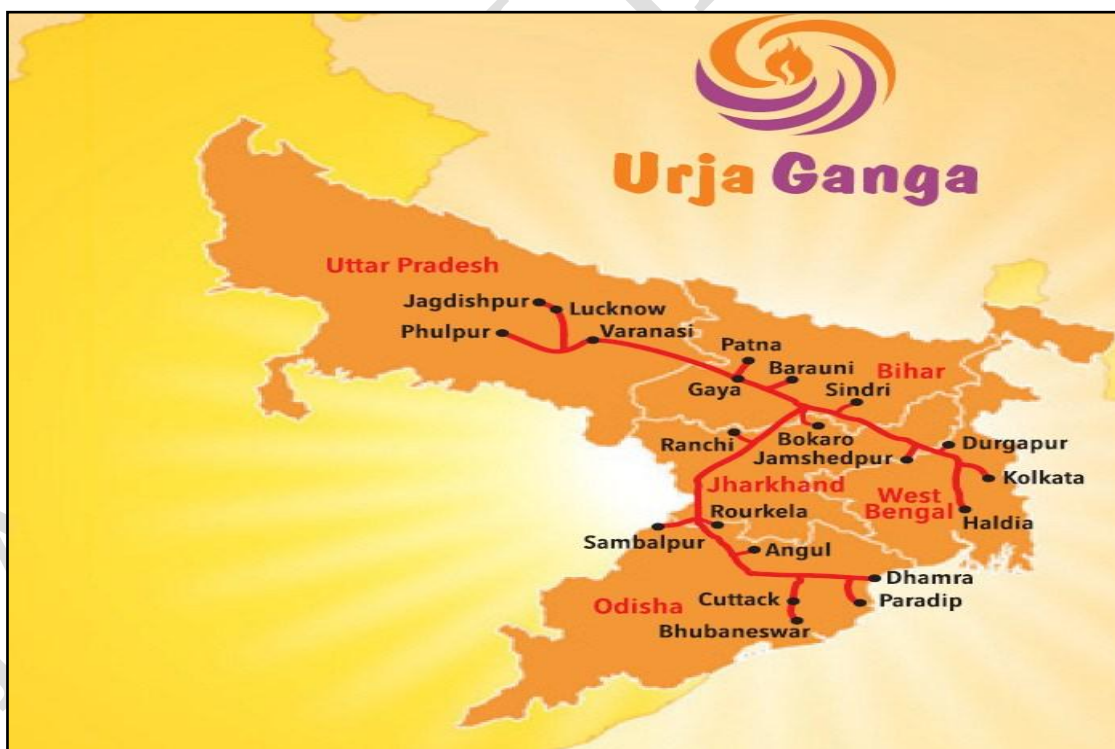
2.32 START-UPSANGAM Initiative

- It is launched by **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.

- It is program with the objective of funding startups in this high-tech sector and the program itself is **part of the Startup India scheme.**

- Under this initiative, India's state-run companies pledged to support more than 30 start-ups who will be funded for the next 3 years through a corpus of Rs 320 crore.

- Its objective is to bring in innovations and disruptions in the technology-heavy oil and gas industry.

- The corpus has been created by contributions from India Oil Corporation, ONGC, Oil India etc.

- The selected start-ups work in various fields related to energy such as converting waste plastics to petroleum fuels, solar stove, and multipurpose fuel from agricultural waste biomass and leak detectors for LNG cylinders etc.

- Start-ups in the technology field will get 30 months to submit proof of concept whereas start-ups with business ideas will be given 18 months.

- It is expected to reduce fuel import dependence through innovations in alternative fuels.

2.33 Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga

- Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project is part of National Gas Grid Project (Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga) of **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**

- The 2,655 km project aims to connect the eastern states to the national gas grid.

- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal are the beneficiary states.

- The project will usher Industrial development in East India by supplying environmentally clean natural gas to fertiliser and power plant, refineries, steel plants and other industries.

- It also provides clean energy to households and transportation in the cities en-route the pipeline.

- State-run gas utility GAIL India has recently placed orders for 400-km of pipeline.

- With these awards, pipe supply orders for 2,100 km of the project have been placed.

2.34 ASH TRACK App

- **Ministry of Power** has launched a Web based monitoring System and a Fly Ash mobile application named ASH TRACK.

- The Platform will provide a better interface between fly ash producers (Thermal Power Plants) and potential ash users such as – road contractors, cement plants etc.

- Fly ash, the end product of combustion during the process of power generation in the coal based thermal power plants.
- It is a proven resource material for construction industries and currently is being utilized in manufacturing of Portland Cement, bricks/blocks/tiles manufacturing, road embankment construction and low-lying area development, etc.
- Now the usage of flyash stands at 63% and the aim is to rise to 100 %.

2.35 ECO-NIWAS

- ECO-NIWAS (Energy COnservation – New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable homes) is an online portal recently unveiled on the occasion of Energy Conservation Day (14th December)
- It is for increasing awareness to build sustainable and energy efficient homes in the country.
- It is developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a statutory body under **Ministry of Power.**

2.36 National Power Portal (NPP)

- **Ministry of Power** has recently launched the National Power Portal.
- It is a centralized platform for collation and dissemination of Indian power sector information.
- It act as the single point interface for all Power Sector Apps launched previously by the Ministry, like TARANG, UJALA, VIDYUT PRAVAH, GARV, URJA, MERIT.
- It has been designed and developed to disseminate analyzed information about the sector through GIS enabled navigation and visualization chart windows.
- NPP is integrated with associated systems of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and other major utilities.
- It would serve as single authentic source of power sector information to apex bodies.
- The Nodal Agency for implementation of NPP and its operational control is CEA.

2.37 SECURE

- The **Ministry of rural development** has adopted the Software for Estimate Calculation Using Rural Rates for Employment (SECURE).
- It aims to improve quality of works through detailing of technical specifications, tasks and workflows.
- All estimates under MGNREGS will be generated with the use of SECURE (software) from the Programme's Management Information System with effect from 1st April, 2018.

2.38 Mahila Kisan Sashkitikaran Pariyojna (MKSP)

- MKSP is a sub component of the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).**
- It strives to improve the present status of women in Agriculture and to enhance opportunities for her empowerment.
- The primary objective is to empower women in agriculture by strengthening community institutions of poor women farmers and leverage their strength to promote sustainable agriculture.
- Specific objectives of the scheme are,
  - Sustainable livelihood opportunities for women
  - Enhance participation of women in a productive manner
  - Enhance managerial capacities for better management of biodiversity
  - Improve skills and capabilities to support farm and non-farm based activities
- It focuses on promotion of sustainable agriculture practices such as Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA), Non Pesticide Management (NPM), Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), Pashu-Sakhi model for doorstep animal care services, Sustainable regeneration and harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce.
- Community Resource Persons (CRPs) play a proactive role in scaling up these initiatives.
- The program is being implemented by DAY-NRLM in partnership with State Rural Livelihood Missions/ Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/NGOs, as implementing partners (PIAs) across the country.

2.39 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

- DDU-GKY is a **part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission**.
- DDU-GKY is tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.
- It aims at transforming **rural poor youth** into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.
- It focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.
- **Special initiatives under DDU-GKY** -
1. **Himayat**: A special scheme for the youth (rural & urban) of Jammu & Kashmir.
2. **Roshni**: A special initiative for the rural youth of poor families in 27 Left-wing Extremist (LWE) districts across 9 states.

2.40 Farmer Zone

- "Farmer Zone" is a collective open-source data platform for smart agriculture which will use biological research and data to improve the lives of small and marginal farmers.
- The platform will connect farmers and scientists, government officials, thought leaders in agriculture, economists and representatives from global companies who work in the big-data and e-commerce space to bring about technology-based localised agri-solutions.
- It is envisaged that Farmer Zone will help cater to all needs of the farmer, from dealing with climate change, weather predictions and soil, water, and seed requirements to providing market intelligence.
- It was unveiled in the "Smart Agriculture Conclave" organised by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- It was organised in partnership with the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Research Councils UK (RCUK) India.

2.41 Farmer Zone

- "Farmer Zone" is a collective open-source data platform for smart agriculture which will use biological research and data to improve the lives of small and marginal farmers.
- The platform will connect farmers and scientists, government officials, thought leaders in agriculture, economists and representatives from global companies who work in the big-data and e-commerce space to bring about technology-based localised agri-solutions.
- It is envisaged that Farmer Zone will help cater to all needs of the farmer, from dealing with climate change, weather predictions and soil, water, and seed requirements to providing market intelligence.
- It was unveiled in the "Smart Agriculture Conclave" organised by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- It was organised in partnership with the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Research Councils UK (RCUK) India.

2.42 Jal Marg Vikas Project

- Jal Marg Vikas Project aims at capacity augmentation of National waterways projects.
- Government has recently approved phase –I of JVMP for enhanced navigation on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW-1).
- **Ministry of Shipping** designated Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI) as implementation agency.
- The phase-I of the project is being assisted technically and financially by **World Bank (IBRD).**
- The project falls in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- The project is expected to be completed by March, 2023 and will provide an alternative mode of environment-friendly and cost-effective transport.
- It will boost infrastructure development like multi-modal and inter-modal terminals, Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) facilities, ferry services and navigation aids.
- However, one of the major problems for commercially viable, safe navigation on NW-1 is the low depth upstream of Farakka due to low discharges from tributaries and difficult hydro morphological characteristics of river Ganga.
- The nodal points along the National Waterway will be created by IWAI with the help of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL).
- The project adopted River Information System for the first time in India.

- River Information System is an IT based system to optimised the resource management of waterborne transport chain by enabling information exchange between vessels, lock and bridges, terminals and ports, status of fairways, calamity abatement etc.
- IWAI is the apex statutory body created in 1986 for the development and regulation of inland waterways.

2.43 Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)

- The scheme is under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- The main objective of the ADIP scheme is to provide latest and modern aids and assistive devices to the Divyangjan to promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation and to enhance their economic potential.
- Major aids and assistive devices to be distributed under ADIP Scheme are Motorized Tricycles, Tricycles Conventional, Wheelchairs, Crutches, Walking Sticks, Brail kits, Brail Slate, Hearing Aids etc.,
- Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh has taken an initiative to become the first 'Divyang Mitra' district of the country.
- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is the implementing agency of this scheme.

2.44 Inter Caste Marriage Scheme

- "Dr Ambedkar scheme for social Integration through inter caste marriage" was started in 2013 by **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- Its objective is to provide monetary incentive to at least 500 such inter-caste couples per year.
- As per rules, such couples whose total annual income does not exceed Rs 5 lakh are eligible to get a one-time incentive of Rs 2.5 lakhs from the Centre.
- This is to enable them to settle down in the initial phase of their married life.
- The other pre-conditions were that it should be their first marriage, and it should be registered under the Hindu Marriages Act, with the proposal being submitted within a year of marriage.
- The target for each state is fixed in proportion to its share of Scheduled Caste population, though states are allow to exceed their targets.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recently scrapped the condition of the total income exceed Rs.5 lakhs per annum and now there will be "no income limit for incentive under the scheme".
- It has also made it mandatory for the couples to submit their Aadhaar numbers and details of their Aadhaar-linked joint bank account.

2.45 Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SCBTS)

- It is a new skill development scheme by the **Ministry of Textiles.**
- Its objectives are
  i. Providing **placement oriented skilling programme** to incentivize the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors;
  ii. Promoting skilling and **skill up-gradation in the traditional sectors** through respective Sectoral Divisions/organizations of Ministry of Textiles;
  iii. Providing livelihood to all sections of the society across the country.
- It covers the entire value chain of the textile sector **excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector**.
- It is going to be implemented from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.
- The scheme will have **National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF)** compliant training courses with funding norms as per the Common Norms notified by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- Skill upgradation will be supported further for entrepreneurial development through provision of MUDRA loans.
- Atleast 70% of the certified trainees are to be placed in the wage employment. **Post Placement tracking** will be mandatory under the scheme.
- All partner institutions will be required to comply with the guidelines regarding Internal Complaints Committee to be constituted under the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act,** 2013 to become eligible for funding under the scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented for the benefit of all sections of the society across the country including rural, remote, LWE affected, North East, J&K by imparting skills in the identified job roles.

2.46 North East Region Textile Promotion scheme

- It is an umbrella scheme under which project based strategy for the promotion of textiles will be undertaken.
- This umbrella scheme will be implemented in the North East Region in addition to the regular schemes of the Ministry of Textiles.
- The expenditure under this scheme will be met from the 10 percent budget outlay being earmarked for North Eastern States.
- The expenditure will ordinarily be shared between Ministry of Textiles and the implementing agency in the ratio 90:10.
- The scheme will be implemented throughout the North East Region covering the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- The normal duration of the projects will be three years. In exceptional cases, projects with a time-line of more than three years but not exceeding five years.
- Under this scheme, two projects are being implemented. They are,
  - Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP)
  - Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP)

2.47 Adopt a Heritage Project

- Adopt a Heritage Project is a key initiative of **Ministry of Tourism** in close collaboration with **Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India (ASI).**
- It entails encouraging students, public sector and private organisations to participate more actively in the maintenance of Indian heritage.
- Private sector companies, Public sector companies and individuals will act as 'Monument Mitras' for the development of tourist amenities.

2.48 'Eco-Circuits Projects' – Swadesh darshan Scheme

- The Swadesh Darshan Scheme (Central Sector Scheme) was launched by **Ministry of Tourism** for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
- Eco Circuit is one of the thematic circuits identified for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- Tourism Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 460.74 Crore for Five Ongoing 'Eco Circuit' Projects.
- The five eco circuit projects are in the states of Uttrakhand, Mizoram, Kerala, Telegana and Madhya Pradesh.
- The completion of the projects sanctioned under the scheme would result in increased tourist inflow thereby creating employment opportunities for the local community.

SWADESH DHARSHAN	PRASAD SCHEME
Swadesh dharshan is a theme based tourist circuit's development scheme.	The scheme is a National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) under Ministry of Tourism.
Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the following thematic circuits have been identified, for development namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tirtankar circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.	Under the PRASAD scheme thirteen sites have been identified for development, namely: Amritsar, Ajmer, Dwaraka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kedarnath, Kamakhya and Patna.
In the 'Spiritual Circuit' identified under the Swadesh Darshan scheme; the thrust is on development of particular thematic circuit consisting of various religious/spiritual destinations in a State and Union Territory.	Under the 'PRASAD' scheme the focus is on development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations

2.49 The Great Indian Blog Train

- It is an initiative of Incredible India under the aegis of **Ministry of Tourism.**
- It involves the Bloggers across the world and they are invited to travel to destinations in the country on the Luxury Trains operating in different States.
- The objective of the campaign is to position luxury trains of India as a unique tourism product both in the domestic and overseas markets.

- The Maharajas' Express, The Golden Chariot, Palace on Wheels and Deccan Odyssey are part of this event.
- It is the social media key influencer campaign of the Ministry.

2.50 Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

- It is a project under **Ministry of Water Resources** with financial assistance from **World Bank.**
- 80% of the total project is provided by the World Bank as loan/credit and remaining 20% is borne by the States / Central Government (for CWC). Government has not sought funding from any internal agency for this project.
- The objectives of DRIP are to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner, and to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.
- Initially, the project will repair and rehabilitation about 225 dam projects across the seven states of India, namely Jharkhand , Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.

2.51 Atal Bhoojal Yojana

- Atal Bhoojal Yojana is an ambitious plan under **Ministry of Water resources** aimed at efficient management of available water resources.
- The emphasis of the scheme will be on **recharge of ground water sources** and **revival of surface water bodies** by involving people at the local level.
- It will focus on demand side management (how to meet requirements by minimum use of water).
- The half of the fund will be supported by a **World Bank loan** of 3000 crore and the rest will be funded by central government.
- It would initially be implemented with community participation in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- It focuses primarily on involvement of communities and convergence with different water scheme.

2.52 Transformation of aspirational districts program

- "Transformation of Aspirational Districts" programme is under the aegis of **NITI Aayog**, under the guidance of Prime minister of India.
- The main factors determining whether the given district is backward or not will be based on sectors like health, nutrition, education and agriculture.
- For each district, a four-tier supervisory mechanism has been put in place with a Central Nodal Officer from the Union Government, a State Nodal Officer from concerned State Govt,a District Nodal Officer / District Collector and a Union Minister-in-charge.
- Fourteen districts from Northeast have been identified for "Aspirational Development" under the program.

2.53 Price deficiency Payment Scheme

- The **NITI Aayog** has recently released a three-year action agenda for the Centre suggesting the 'Price Deficiency Payment' (PDP) system.
- Under this, farmers will be compensated for the difference between the MSPs for select crops and their actual market prices.
- For crops such as rice and wheat where MSP is effective now, the same will continue.
- For other targeted crops, price deficiency payments system will be introduced.
- However, notably there may be a cap on the extent to which the Centre will bridge the gap between MSP and market price.
- A farmer would have to register with the nearest APMC mandi and report the total area sown, to avail this benefit.
- The subsidy would be paid via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into the farmer's Aadhaar-linked bank account.

State's initiatives in PDP system

- **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana** - BBY is a "price deficiency payment" (PDP) scheme, being undertaken by the government of **Madhya Pradesh**.

- BBY assures that farmers at least get the MSP value for their crops.
- 8 kharif crops namely Soybean, maize, urad, tur, moong, groundnut, til, ramtil are covered under the scheme.
- "Input Support Scheme" of Telangana is modelled on the line of EU's "single payment scheme". It involves paying Rs 4,000 per acre to every farmer twice a year for the kharif and rabi seasons.
- The payment is mainly to cover the cost of major farm inputs such as fertilisers, seeds and pesticides.

2.54 Project Saksham

- It is a comprehensive training programme launched by **Indian Railways**.
- It is an up skilling exercise to upgrade skill and knowledge will be held for all employees of Indian Railways.
- Under this plan, all employees in each zone will be put through a week's training in skills and knowledge relevant to their work area over next one year.
- The training, as per the calendar, will be completed within 9 months.

Other programmes named "Saksham"

Saksham Scholarship Scheme

- The scheme was launched in 2014-15, with the objective of encouraging economically weaker differently-able students to pursue technical education at Diploma and Degree levels.
- In other words, it aims to provide assistance to 1000 differently-able children to pursue Technical Education.
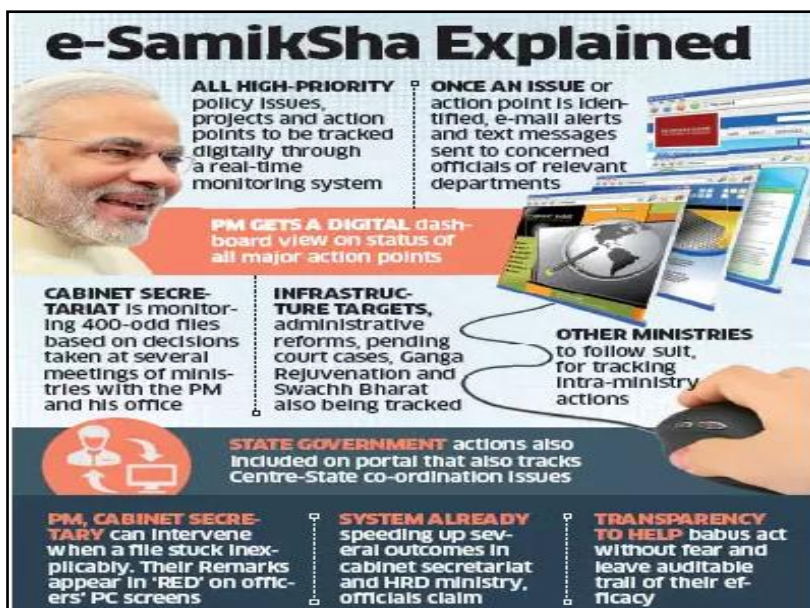- It is implemented by Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

Project Saksham	Ministry of Finance	Its objective is to develop a New Indirect Tax Network (Systems Integration) of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
Project Saksham	Ministry of Railways	It is a comprehensive training program for all employees of Indian Railways to boost productivity & efficiency
Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav)	Ministry Of Petroleum and Natural gas	It is an annual flagship event to create focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities
Saksham	Ministry of Rural Development	Capacity Building program - a training module that uses Remote Sensing and GIS tools for project planning and monitoring component.

2.55 E-Samiksha Portal

- eSamikSha is a real time, on-line system for **monitoring of follow-up action on the decisions** taken during the presentations made by different Ministries/Departments to the Prime Minister.
- It is developed by the cabinet secretariat with technical support from the **National Informatics Centre (NIC).**
- **"Monitor, Follow Up, Action"** are the taglines assigned by the government to e-SamikSha.
- Different users such as the PMO/Cabinet Secretariat/Ministries/Departments can securely access the system through a log-in/password.
- For eg, if a joint secretary is sitting on a file on a big infrastructure project that's a PMO priority, this system will allow the prime minister to intervene digitally and ask the officer concerned to explain the delay or expedite decision-making.
- Every task is assigned four status descriptors - Not Started, Under Implementation, Implemented and No Further Action Required.
- Accordingly, different ministries have developed e-samiksha portals for enabling monitoring of projects of their respective ministries.
- The portal also enables tracking centre-state co-ordination issues.
- Several States also developed portals which monitors follow up action on the decision made by different departments to Chief Ministers/Chief secretary.

- Few districts and metropolitan authority also developed this portal to monitor at micro level.

e-SamikSha Explained

ALL HIGH-PRIORITY policy issues, projects and action points to be tracked digitally through a real-time monitoring system

ONCE AN ISSUE or action point is identified, e-mail alerts and text messages sent to concerned officials of relevant departments

PM GETS A DIGITAL dashboard view on status of all major action points

CABINET SECRETARIAT is monitoring 400-odd files based on decisions taken at several meetings of ministries with the PM and his office

INFRASTRUCTURE TARGETS, administrative reforms, pending court cases, Ganga Rejuvenation and Swachh Bharat also being tracked

OTHER MINISTRIES to follow suit, for tracking intra-ministry actions

STATE GOVERNMENT actions also included on portal that also tracks Centre-State co-ordination issues

PM, CABINET SECRETARY can intervene when a file stuck inexplicably. Their Remarks appear in 'RED' on officers' PC screens

SYSTEM ALREADY speeding up several outcomes in cabinet secretariat and HRD ministry, officials claim

TRANSPARENCY TO HELP babus act without fear and leave auditable trail of their efficacy

- **E-Patrachar** – It is a facility launched to send meeting notices via SMS, email etc.

2.56 Aayakar Setu

- It is a mobile App launched by **Central Board of Direct Taxes.**
- The app helps to file income tax return (ITR) online, locate the nearest Tax Return Prepares (TRP), provides calculators and other tools, helps in managing PAN and TDS.
- This e-initiative would not only provide better taxpayer services but would also help in reducing the direct physical interface between assesses and tax assessing authorities.

2.57 Baal Aadhar

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has come up with a **Blue coloured Aadhaar card** for **children aged below five years.**
- Blue coloured Aadhaar does not include child's biometric information.
- Photo ID cards issued by child's school, child's birth certificate and a mobile number can be used for his/her Aadhaar enrolment.
- The first mandatory biometric update is required at the age of five to include child's biometric information like fingerprints and iris scan.
- The second mandatory biometric update is required at the age of 15.

2.58 Modernisation of Police Force Scheme

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) gave its approval for the implementation of the umbrella scheme, Modernisation of Police Forces.
- The MPF scheme will be implemented between 2017 and 2020.
- Out of the total financial outlay, the Central government's share will be about 75% and the rest will be that of the states.
- The prime objective of the new scheme is thus to strengthen the law and order mechanism and mordernise the police forces.
- The new initiatives aim at providing assistance to States for upgradation of police infrastructure, forensic science laboratories, institutions, etc.
- It provides for the objective of a SMART Police who are expected to be strict, sensitive, modern, mobile, alert, accountable, reliable, responsible, tech-savvy and trained.
- The noteworthy provisions in the scheme cover the following diversified areas:
  - Internal security.

- Law and order.

- Women's security.

- Availability of modern weapons.

- Mobility of police forces.

- Logistical support.

- Hiring of helicopters.

- Upgradation of wireless, satellite communications for police.

- Crime and criminal tracking network and systems (CCTNS)

- e-prisons.

- The scheme also earmarks a specific sum for internal security-related expenditure for J&K, north-eastern states and states affected by Left-Wing Extremism.

- The government's grant for police modernisation would be followed by steps to grant the force autonomy from political masters.

- This will help them render their service as 'People's Police' rather than as present 'Ruler's Police'.

- Police stations would be integrated to set up a national database of crime and criminal records which will be linked with other criminal justice system machineries.

- Besides, it also provides for:

  - Setting up a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory in Amravat

  - Upgradation of the i) Sardar Patel Global Centre for Security, ii) Counter Terrorism and Anti-Insurgency in Jaipur, iii) Gujarat Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar.

- Following the 14th FC's recommendations, the Centre delinked from its support various centrally sponsored schemes which included modernisation of police.

- The state governments showed little interest to make any investments, and thus police modernisation witnessed a setback leading to increased security challenges.

- The scheme can thus go a long way in ensuring a solid foundation of good law and order promoted by a structured and accountable police machinery.

3. CORRECTIONS IN PART – I

3.1 Jeevan Pramaan

- The scheme is under **Ministry of Electronics and IT**.

- One of the main requisites for the pensioners to avail pension is to provide life certificates.

- Jeevan Pramman aims to streamline the process of getting Life certificate and making it hassle free and easier to get.

- It is an AADHAR Biometric Authentication based **digital life certificates for Pensioners**.

- It will do away with the requirement of a pensioner having to submit a physical Life Certificate every year, in order to ensure continuity of pension being credited into their account.

- Submission of Digital Life Certificate also ensures authenticity of pension payments.

3.2 Digi Locker

- Digi locker is a key initiative of **Ministry of Electronics and IT** under Digital India programme.

- Under the initiative, a secure dedicated personal electronic space for storing the documents of resident Indian citizens will be created.

- It is to provide citizens a shareable private space on a public cloud.

- The space can be utilized for storing personal documents like University certificates, PAN cards, voter id cards, etc., and the URI's of the e-documents issued by various issuer departments.

- It is a platform for issuance and verification of documents & certificates in a digital way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents.

- There is also an associated facility for e-signing documents.

3.3 National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

- It seeks to transform Indian agriculture into a climate resilient production system through suitable adaptation and mitigation measures in domains of both crops and animal husbandry.

- **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** is the nodal ministry.

- **Features -**
    - Promotes location specific integrated/Composite Farming Systems;
    - Conserve natural resources through appropriate soil and moisture conservation measures;
    - Adopt comprehensive soil health management practices;
    - Optimize utilization of water resources through efficient water management to expand coverage for achieving 'more crop per drop;
    - Develop capacity of farmers & stakeholders.

- There are three major components of the mission such as
    1. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
    2. Soil Health Management (SHM)
    3. Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN).

- Various dimensions of the mission have been embedded in to schemes of Ministry of Agriculture through a process of restructuring of various schemes/missions implemented and convergence with other related programmes of Central/State Governments.

3.4 Swavalamban Scheme

- The scheme is under the Department of Financial Services, **Ministry of Finance.**

- Under the scheme, GOI will contribute Rs.1000 per year to each Nation Pension Scheme- Swavalamban account opened in the year 2010-2013 for five years.

- The scheme is voluntary and open to eligible citizens in the age group of 18-60 years.

- Eligible individuals in the unorganized sector can open an account through their Aggregator and get an Individual subscriber Account.

- The account is regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authorities (PFRDA).

- Minimum contribution amount at the time of Registration is Rs.100.

- Though there is no minimum contribution requirement per year, minimum contribution of Rs. 1000/-per year is recommended to avail Swavalamban benefit.

- Subscriber is free to choose the amount he/she wants to invest every year.

- Subscriber should not be covered under any other social security schemes like Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act etc.

- The normal exit from NPS – Swavalamban account is at the age of 60. However early exit is also permitted with certain conditions.

- In case of death of the subscriber, the nominee can receive 100% of the NPS pension wealth in lump sum or if the nominee wishes to continue with the NPS, he/she shall have to subscribe to NPS individually after following prescribed KYC norms.

- The existing subscribers of Swavalamban Scheme would be automatically migrated to APY, unless they opt out.

3.5 Urban Reform Incentive Fund

- The Urban Reform Incentive Fund (URIF) in India aims to provide States with incentives to undertake essential urban sector reforms.

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has proposed to increase Reform Incentive Fund from Rs 500 crore during 2017-18 to over Rs 3,000 crore per year over the next three years.

- The reforms to be undertaken by the States to receive incentives under URIF improve the responsiveness of local real estate markets, increase resource mobilization in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), provide rigorous accounting of the management of public funds.

- The incentives given to the states will be on a grant basis.
- URIF receive funds from **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and Government of India.

3.6 Ganga Gram

- Ganga Gram is a project launched by **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.**
- Its objective is sanitation based integrated development of all 4470 villages along the River Ganga.
- The works include rural sanitation, development of water bodies and river ghats, construction/ modernization of crematoria, etc.
- These works are done in coordination with NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga).
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is the nodal agency for implementation of the Ganga Gram Project.

3.7 COMMIT

- **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions** in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a new training programme Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) for State Government officials.
- The objective of this training programme is to improve the public service delivery mechanism and provide citizen centric administration.
- COMMIT will be launched in 6 States of Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal initially on pilot basis.

3.8 Sagar Vani

- Sagar Vani is an integrated information dissemination system developed by **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- It primarily **serves fishermen community** with advisories and alerts towards their livelihood as well as their safety at Sea.
- It is a software platform where various dissemination modes will be integrated on a single central server.
- The information to be disseminated is given by INCOIS under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- Services will be disseminated in local languages using advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities.
- It uses power of television and cable network mediums for alert dissemination services.
- The system also has the facility to provide access to various stakeholders, NGOs, State Fishery Departments, Disaster Management Authorities; they will further disseminate these ocean information and alerts to the user community.

3.9 SWAYAM

- **Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds** is a programme initiated by Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- It is an indigenous IT platform for hosting the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).
- The objective is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.
- It targets those students who could not complete their studies and professionals who wish to upgrade their knowledge.
- This is done through an indigenous developed IT platform that facilitates **hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation** to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.
- It cover diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences and humanities subjects, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture etc. in higher education domain.
- It shall also cover Skill based courses, which cover both post-higher secondary school skills that are presently the **domain of polytechnics** as well as **industrial skills** certified by the sector skill councils of various Ministries.
- Professors of centrally funded institutions like IITs, IIMs, central universities will offer online courses to citizens of India through this platform.

- At the end of each course, there will be an assessment of the student through examination and the marks/grades secured in this exam could be transferred to the academic record of the students.
- SWAYAM platform is indigenously developed by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) with the help of Microsoft.

3.10 Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

- TKDL is a **collaborative Project** of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research **(CSIR) and Ministry of AYUSH.**
- It is an Indian initiative to prevent exploitation and to protect Indian traditional knowledge from wrongful patents mainly at International Patent Offices.
- TKDL contains Indian traditional medicine knowledge in a digitized format and is available in five international languages (English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese).
- Indian traditional medicine knowledge in TKDL pertains to traditional books related to Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha.
- CSIR is the implementing agency for TKDL. CSIR is an autonomous body under Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Funds under the scheme are provided only to CSIR and no funds have been allocated to any state.

3.11 Portal PENCIL

- PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) is an electronic platform for no child labour developed by the **Labour Ministry.**
- The portal creates a robust implementing and monitoring mechanism for enforcement of the legislative provisions of National Child Labour Policy (NCLP).
- Since the subject of **labour is in the concurrent list**, the enforcement of the policy depends on respective state governments.
- This online portal aims to connect the Centre to the state government, district and to all project societies for effective implementation of NCLP.
- The portal has a component of child tracking system.

3.12 Laqshya Initiative

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has recently launched Laqshya - Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative.
- Its objective is to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths by improving the quality of care provided in the labour room.
- It will be implemented in Government Medical Colleges besides District Hospitals, and Sub- District Hospitals and Community Health Centres.
- The initiative plans to conduct quality certification of labour rooms and also incentivize facilities achieving the targets outlined.

****