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TARGET 2020

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES II

UPTO AUGUST 2020

SHANKAR IAS ACADEMY

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Upto August 2020

1. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1.1 PM - Scholarship Scheme

- The scheme is under the aegis of National Defence Fund.
- Its objective is to encourage higher technical and professional education for the wards and widows of Ex/ Serving Army/Navy or Air Force personnel, Para Military forces and Railway Protection Force.
- It is being implemented by the Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence in respect of armed forces.
- In case of personnel of paramilitary forces and Railway Protection force, it is being implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Railways respectively.
- Recently the government has made major change to the scheme.
- The rates of scholarship have been increased from Rs 2,000/month to Rs 2,500.month for boys and from Rs 2,250/month to Rs 3,000/month for girls."
- The ambit of the scholarship scheme is extended to the wards of state police officials who are/were martyred during terror/Naxal attacks.
- The quota of new scholarships for wards of state police officials will be 500 in a year.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs will be the nodal ministry in this regard.

National Defence Fund

- It was set up in 1962 to take charge of the voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort and to decide on their utilisation.
- The fund is currently being used for the welfare of the members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and Railway Protection Force (RPF) and their dependents.
- The Fund is administered by an Executive Committee, with PM as Chairperson, and Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as Members.
- Finance Minister is the Treasurer of the Fund and the Joint Secretary, PMO dealing with the subject is Secretary of the Executive Committee.
- Accounts of the Fund are kept with the Reserve Bank of India. The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from the public and does not get any budgetary support.

1.2 Employees' State Insurance Scheme

- The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 under the labour ministry provides social security and health insurance for workers.
- It is applicable to all factories and other establishmentsas defined in the Act with 10 or more persons employed in such establishment (including non-organised sector) and beneficiaries' monthly wage does not exceed Rs 21,000.
- In 2011, it has been extended to shops, hotels, restaurants, private medical and educational institutions, cinemas and newspaper establishments employing 20 or more persons.
- It is funded by both the employer and the employee, which would be remitted into the Employees State Insurance Fund.

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- It is administered by Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under Labour ministry.
- The government has recently reduced the quantum of contribution from employers and employees part.
- It has reduced the contribution of employers to 3.25% from 4.75% and employees contribution to 0.75% from 1.75%.
- Thus, overall the rate of contribution has been reduced to 4% from 6.5%.
- This reduced rate of contribution will bring about a substantial relief to workers and workforce across the country.
- The income limit for availing the medical benefit for the dependent parents of an Insured Person covered under ESI Scheme has been enhanced from the existing Rs.5000 per month from all sources to Rs.9000 per month.

1.3 Stand Up India Scheme

- It is under the aegis of Department of Financial Service, Ministry of Finance.
- It is to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women.
- It is to facilitate bank loans between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up (only) a greenfield enterprise.
- The enterprise may be manufacturing, services or trading sector (i.e) non-farm sectors.
- In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.
- These loans would be eligible for refinance and credit guarantee cover.
- The loan is repayable in 7 years with a maximum moratorium period of 18 months.
- The government has extended the scheme coinciding with the 15th Finance commission period (i.e) 2025.

1.4 Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Scheme

- Also called as National pension scheme Traders and Self Employed Persons Yojana .
- It is under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- It is meant for old age protection and social security of Small Scale Traders and Retailers.
- Eligibility –
    i. For self employed shop owners, retail owners and other vyaparis
    ii. Entry age between 18 to 40 years
    iii. Annual turnover should not exceed Rs 1.5 crore
- He/She should not be
    i. Covered under any National Pension Scheme contributed by the Central Government or member of EPFO/NPS/ESIC
    ii. An income tax payer
    iii. Enroled under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment or Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, respectively
- It is a voluntary and **contributory pension scheme.**
- The applicants between the age group of 18 to 40 years will have to make monthly contributions ranging between Rs 55 to Rs 200 per month till they attain the age of 60.
- It receives equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government.
- A subscriber would receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

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- If the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse.

1.5 Liberalised Remittance Scheme

- It is a scheme by Reserve Bank of India.
- Under LRS, all resident individuals can freely remit $250,000 overseas every financial year for a permissible set of current or capital account transactions.
- There are no restrictions on the frequency of remittances within the limit of $250,000.
- Remittances are permitted for overseas education, travel, medical treatment and purchase of shares and property, apart from maintenance of relatives living abroad, gifting and donations.
- Under LRS, people can't send money to countries identified as 'non-cooperative' by the Financial Action Task Force.
- However, the rules do not allow remittances for trading on the foreign exchange markets and the purchase of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds issued by Indian companies abroad.

1.6 Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh

- Ministry of Women and Child Development along with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK).
- It aims at reducing malnutrition through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture, among women and children across the country.
- It has two components –
  i. Development of a Food Atlas and
  ii. Documentation of promising practices for Jan-Andolan for POSHAN Abhiyaan
- The Agro-Food Atlas is to act as a *repository of diverse crops across 127 agro-climatic zones* of the country.
- The atlas will have 3 parts -
  i. crops currently being grown,
  ii. agro-ecological conditions and
  iii. guidance to promote greater diversity of crops
- The project also documents social, behavioral and cultural practices that promote and reinforce healthy dietary behaviors.
- A Technical Support Unit has been set-up under NITI Aayog which facilitates regular monitoring and evaluation of the National Nutrition Mission to assess the impact of the programme.

1.7 Interest subvention scheme for MSMEs

- It is under the Ministry of MSME with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as the single nationallevel nodal implementation agency for the scheme.
- It aims at encouraging both manufacturing and service enterprises to increase productivity and provides incentives to MSMEs for onboarding on GST platform.
- It provides 2% interest subvention for all GST registered MSMEs on fresh or incremental loans.
- **Exceptions** - MSMEs already availing interest subvention under any of the Schemes of the State / Central Government and the loan accounts on the date of filing claim should not have been declared as NPA.
- Its operational period is financial years FY 2019 & 2020.
- Recently government introduced few changes in the schemes guidelines.
- It has done away with the requirement of Udyog AadhaarNumber (UAN) for units eligible for GST. Earlier both UAN and GSTN were mandatory.

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- Units that are not required to obtain GST may either submit income tax Permanent Account Number (PAN) or their loan account must be categorised as an MSME by the concerned eligible institutions.

1.8 Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

- Ministry of Finance has introduced the scheme for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus.

Components of the scheme –

- **Insurance scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19**
  i. It covers Safai karamcharis, ward-boys, nurses, ASHA workers, paramedics, technicians, doctors and specialists and other health workers.
  ii. All government health centres, wellness centres and hospitals of Centre as well as States would be covered.
  iii. A compensation of Rs. 50 lakh will be provided to health professionals if they met with some accident while treating COVID-19
- **PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana** – Under PDS, 80 crore poor people will be given double of their current entitlementof foodgrains over 3 months for free of cost.
- **Benefit to farmers** - The first instalment of Rs 2,000 due in 2020-21 will be front-loaded and paid in April 2020 itself under the PM KISAN Yojana.
- A total of 20.40 crores **PMJDY (Jan Dhan Yojana) women account-holders** would be given an ex-gratia of Rs 500 per month for three months.
- **Gas cylinders,** free of cost, would be provided to 8 crore poor families for three months.
- Government proposes to pay 24 % of monthly wages into their PF accounts forwage-earners below Rs 15,000 per month in businesses having less than 100 workers.
- Rs 1,000 to senior citizens, widows and divyangs to tide over difficulties during 3 months.
- MNREGA wages would be increased by Rs 20 with effect from 1 April, 2020. Wage increase under MNREGA will provide an additional Rs 2,000 benefit annually to a worker.
- Limit of collateral free lending to self-help groups would be increased from Rs 10 to Rs 20 lakhs.
- Employees' Provident Fund Regulations will be amended to include Pandemic as the reason to allow non-refundable advance of 75 % of the amount or three months of the wages, whichever is lower, from their accounts.
- **Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund** - Created under a Central Government Act and State Governments will be given directions to utilise this fund to provide assistance and support to these workers to protect them against economic disruptions.
- **District Mineral Fund** - The State Government will be asked to utilise this fund for supplementing and augmenting facilities of medical testing, screening and other requirements in connection with preventing the spread of pandemic as well as treating the patients affected with this pandemic.

1.9 Van Dhan Yojana

- It is a Market Linked Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program targeting livelihood generation for tribal by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan.
- It will support Minor Forest Produce (MFP) market development and ensuring fair returns to the tribal gatherers.
- The tribals presently get only 20-30% of the value chain of the Minor Forest Produces.
- This situation will change after Van Dhan scheme which aims to take this share to 70 to 80%.
- It promotes forming clusters of tribal Self-help Groups and strengthening them into Tribal Producer Companies.
- It aims to tap into traditional knowledge & skill sets of tribal by adding technology & IT to upgrade it at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity.

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- The implementation will be done through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) as Nodal Agency at the National Level.

1.10 International Cooperation Scheme

- The Scheme is implemented by 'Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises'(MSME).
- It's **objective,**
    1. is to enhance the competency of MSMEs,
    2. Capturing new markets for their products,
    3. exploring new technologies for improving manufacturing capacity.
- The Scheme covers the following activities,
    1. Visit of MSME business delegations to other countries to international exhibitions, trade fairs for exploring new areas of technology up-gradation, facilitating joint ventures.
    2. Holding international Conferences and Seminars on topics and themes of interest to the Indian MSMEs.
    3. Visit and participation by Indian MSMEs for improving market for MSMEs products, foreign collaborations.
- It will provide financial assistance on reimbursement basis to the eligible,
    1. State/Central Government Organisations
    2. Registered Industry Associations,
    3. societies/trusts associated with promotion and development of MSME sector.
- Government Institutions and Registered Industry Associations associated with promotion and development of MSME sector can apply for financial assistance.

1.11 National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

- National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) is a central sector scheme being implemented since 2008 by Ministry of Human Resources & Development.
- It aims to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage.
- Under the Scheme one lakh fresh scholarships @ of Rs.12000/- per annum per student are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools.
- There is a separate quota of scholarships for each State/UT.
- The selection of students for award of scholarships under the scheme is made through an examination conducted by the States/UTs Governments.
- The scheme is boarded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) since 2015-16.
- According to recent findings of National Institute of Planning and Administration (NIEPA), it has helped to reduce the dropout rate at the secondary and senior secondary classes- HRD Minister.

1.12 Kishori Health Cards

- 'Kishori Health Cards is a scheme for all the Adolescent Girls (11-18 years) which is maintained by Anganwadi Centre (AWCs), under Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Its objective is to record the information about the weight, height and Body Mass Index (BMI).
- The scheme will be implemented across the country.
- It is a redesign of the already existing Adolescent Girls (AG) Scheme being implemented as a component under the centrally sponsored Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

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- It aims to improve the following
    1. Nutritional, health and development status of adolescent girls,
    2. Link them to opportunities for learning life skills,
    3. Going back to school,
    4. Help them gain a better understanding of their social environment.
    5. Take initiatives to become productive members of the society.

1.13 National Crèche Scheme

- The National Crèche Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The scheme was earlier named as Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme.
- It aims to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months to 6 years) of working mothers.
- The fund sharing pattern under National Creche Scheme amongst Centre, States/UTs & Non-Governmental Organizations/Voluntary Organizations is in the ratio of 60:30:10 for States, 80:10:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States and 90:0:10 for UTs.
- The salient features of the National Creche Scheme are as follows:
    1. Daycare Facilities including Sleeping Facilities.
    2. Early Stimulation for children below 3 years and pre-school Education for 3 to 6 years old children.
    3. Supplementary Nutrition (to be locally sourced)
    4. Growth Monitoring
    5. Health Check-up and Immunization
- Further, the guidelines provide that :
    1. Crèches shall be open for 26 days in a month and for seven and half (7-1/2) hours per day.
    2. The number of children in the crèche should not be more than 25 per crèche.
    3. User charges will be levied to bring in an element of community ownership.

1.14 One Nation, One Ration Card Scheme

- Recently, the government launched the pilot project for the inter-state portability of ration cards.
- It was launched between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and between Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- It is a part of 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme launched by Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- A ration card is issued to the head of the family depending on the number of members in a family and its financial status.
- It is used by households to get essential food grains at subsidised prices from designated ration shops under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- Over the years, different types of ration cards were issued depending on the level of deprivation.
- In 2013, when the National Food Security Bill was passed, different ration cards were compressed to just 2,
    1. "Priority" and "Antyodaya" (for the most poor).
    2. The responsibility of identifying eligible families and issuing ration cards to them rests with the state/UT government.
- **Ration shops -**
    1. It can be privately owned or owned by cooperative societies or by the government.
    2. Ownership licenses are issued by the concerned state government.

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3. Presently, commodities including wheat, sugar, rice and kerosene are being allocated as part of the TPDS.
4. State governments have the discretion to provide additional commodities.

- Since ration cards are issued by state governments, the beneficiaries could procure food grains only from the designated ration shops within the concerned state.
- If a beneficiary were to shift to another state, he/she would need to apply for a new ration card in the second state.
- The ONORC scheme attempts to address this gap in TPDS delivery.
- The scheme has been launched keeping in mind the internal migration of our country.
- As per Census 2011, 4.1 crore people were inter-state migrants and 1.4crore people migrated (inter and intra-state) for employment.
- The government hopes to implement the scheme across India by June 2020.

1.15 Education Related Initiatives of HRD Ministry

EQUIP

- Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) Five-year vision plan of HRD Ministry.
- It sets out to deliver further on principles of Access, Inclusion, Quality, Excellence and enhancing employability in Higher Education.
- EQUIP is a vision plan aiming at ushering transformation in India's higher education system by implementing strategic interventions in the sector over five years (2019-2024).
- EQUIP has been prepared based on reports of Ten expert groups constituted to deliberate upon important aspects of Higher Education.
- Currently EQUIP has been submitted for in principal approval of Expenditure Finance Committee.

Institution of Eminence (IoE)

- The regulatory infrastructure for the Institutes of Eminence (IoE) plan was provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Under this initiative 10 institutions in public sector and 10 institutions in private sector have to be declared as IoE.
- Each Public institute (IoE) will be eligible to receive Rs. 1000 crore during next 5 years.
- 10 Public Institutions are IISc Bangalore, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, University of Hyderabad, Banaras Hindu University, University of Delhi, Jadavpur University & Anna University.
- 10 Private institutions are BITS Pilani, MAHE Karnataka, Jio Institute, Amrita Vishwavidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu , Vellore Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha, O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana, Bharti Institute, Satya Bharti Foundation, Mohali, Shiv Nadar University, Uttar Pradesh.

SRATS

- Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences is to be implemented, monitored and managed by IISc, Bangalore.
- It will be providing extra mural funding to faculty of HE institutions for research projects in basic sciences.

Higher Education Financing Agency

- Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is a joint venture of MHRD Government of India and Canara Bank for financing creation of capital assets in premier educational institutions in India.
- It aims to expand the scope of covering school education, educational institutes under Ministry of health etc.
- HEFA is registered under Section 8, Not-for-profit under the Companies Act 2013 as a Union Govt company and as Non–deposit taking NBFC (NBFC-ND-Type II) with RBI.

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- HEFA finances for HEIs, Kendra vidyalayas, Navodaya vidyalaya, AIIMS and other educational institutions of the Ministry of Health.

Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)

- It aims to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making.

SWAYAM

- It aims to offer Online Degree Programmes through SWAYAM by Top Ranking Universities.
- SWAYAM aims to access to Quality education ,Increase GER in Higher Education from 26 to 30 in next 5 years and Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime learning.

SWAYAM PRABHA- DTH Educational Channels

- Project for telecasting high quality educational programs through 32 DTH channels on 24x7 basis to reach out to student/learners of India with wide reach and minimal cost.
- It aims to support those students who do not have good learning options like lack of teacher or internet etc.
- It also aims to provide dedicated channels 'IITPAL' to assist the students of 11 and 12 standards aspiring to join premier educational institutions in the country.
- SWAYAM Prabha project is managed by Chief Coordinator from IIT Madras.

SHREYAS

- Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) was launched for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- The program aims to enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing 'on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend.

ASEAN Fellowship

- It was launched by MHRD & MEA.
- It offers 1000 fellowships to the students of ASEAN countries for pursuing integrated Ph.D programmes in IITs.

National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)

- National Education Alliance of Technologies (NEAT) is a PPP Model between MHRD and EdTech companies
- It aims to offer Adaptive and personalized learning through Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the students with specific emphasis on students from economically and socially backward regions.
- **Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Program (DHRUV) -** To identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge.
- **NISHTHA –** National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement to improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme.
- **Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) -** Five year vision plan to transform Indian Higher education environment.
- **SWAYAM 2.0 -** SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
- **Deeksharambh -** It is a guide to Student Induction Programme which is prepared by University Grants Commission (UGC).
- **PARAMARSH -** To mentor National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation aspirant institutions for promoting quality assurance in higher education.
- **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) -** Aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States
- **Shagun -** World's largest Integrated Online junction for School Education.

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- **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) -** To ensure quality, credibility and timely availability of information from all the schools in the country.
- The GIS based mapping portal gives information about location of more than 15 lakh schools in the country along with some salient highlights.
- **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) –** To provide digital platform to teachers giving them an opportunity to learn and train themselves and connect with teacher community.
- **Mid-Day Meal (MDM) -** The National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools is Centrally-Sponsored Scheme.
- It covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided, Special Training Centers including Madrasas and Maqtabs.
- **School Nutrition Gardens (SNG) -** A guideline on School Nutrition Gardens has been issued to all states and UTs.
- It is a place where herbs, fruits and vegetables are grown in the school premises for use in preparation of Mid-Day Meal.
- **Kala Utsav -** Initiative of the Department of School Education & Literacy to recognize the importance of aesthetics and artistic experiences for school students, which play a major role in creating awareness of India's rich cultural heritage and its vibrant diversity.

1.16 Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Minister of Finance made a set of announcements under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Atmanirbhar meaning self-reliant)

- The measures announced will go a long way in lifting the spirits of the two key and troubled sectors:
    1. micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) - has an existential crisis
    2. non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) - has liquidity issues
- **MSMEs** - The massive Rs. 3-lakh crore collateral-free assistance handed out to MSMEs will help them revive their operations.
- Extending a sovereign credit guarantee for the complete amount is a welcome move.
- This is because banks may otherwise have been reluctant to support troubled borrowers.
- Two of the feature that would help boost the equity portion on MSME finances are:
    i. the Rs. 20,000 crore partially guaranteed subordinated debt programme
    ii. the Rs. 50,000 crore fund of funds scheme
- **NBFCs** - NBFCs, housing finance firms and micro finance entities got a much-required liquidity boost.
- A Rs. 30,000 crore scheme is announced wherein their debt paper will be fully guaranteed by the government.
- This works along with the partial credit guarantee scheme of Rs. 45,000 crore.
- With these, the government has broken the logjam wherein banks were unwilling to extend credit despite the RBI's strong push.
- This will largely address the liquidity crisis in the non-banking space for now.
- **DISCOMS** - The liquidity issues of power distribution companies were addressed through a Rs. 90,000 crore infusion.
- This will be securitised on their receivables and backed by a State government guarantee.

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2. STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

2.1 Jalyukta Shivar

- It is the flagship programme of the Maharashtra government.
- It aims to make 5,000 villages free of water scarcity.
- It target the drought-prone areas by improving water conservation measures to make them more water sustainable.
- It also proposed to strengthen and rejuvenate water storage capacity.
- Dedicated committees were formed to assist in construction of watersheds like farm ponds, cement nullah bunds alongside rejuvenating the existing water bodies in the villages.
- More than 11,000 villages where Jalyukta Shivar was introduced are declared drought-free.
- The water storage capacity has been improved and the overall agriculture productivity jumped up 30 to 50 % in these areas.

2.2 Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana

- Union home minister declared that Himachal Pradesh had become the first state in the country to have "100% LPG gas coverage".
- But according to state residents and officials, these claims may not be entirely true, but they are not too far off the mark either.
- Following the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the state government launched its own Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana in May 2018 to cover the remaining households.
- Except families having a pensioner, income taxpayer or any member employed with the government, board, corporation etc, all households of the state without an LPG connection were eligible.
- Unless there was no female member in the family, the connections were issued only to women.
- In many cases, officials issued kits to a cluster of villages from a focal point.
- Till December 27, 2019, the department issued around 2.64 lakh such kits around the state which has a total population of 68.64 lakh (Census 2011).
- Some families were still left out, as is evident by a few thousand applications received after the deadline was extended.

2.3 Silver Line Project

- The Silver Line project is a proposal of the Kerala government that aims to connect major districts and towns with semi high-speed trains that will run on their own tracks.
- Ministry of Railways have recently granted in-principle approval for the project.
- It involves laying the railway lines from Kasaragod in the north to Thiruvananthapuram in the south.
- It aims to cut the travel time between the two corners (532 km) from 12 hours to less than four hours with a maximum speed of 200 km/h.
- The project is scheduled to be commissioned by 2024.
- The Kerala Rail Development Corporation (K-Rail), a joint venture between the Ministry of Railways and the Kerala government will be the nodal agency.

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3. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES & PROGRAMMES

3.1 Health Data Management Policy

- National Health Authority (NHA) has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
- NHA is the apex agency of the Government of India responsible for the implementation and management of Ayushman Bharat and the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) across the country.
- The draft health data management policy acts as a guidance document to set out the minimum standard for health data privacy protection.
- It aims to create a National Digital Health Ecosystem through provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services ensuring the privacy of health-related personal information.

3.2 DHRUV Programme

- Pradhan Mantri Innovation Learning Programme – DHRUV is a 14-day learning programme launched by Ministry of HRD in ISRO HQ in Bengaluru.
- 60 brightest and talented students from Science, Mathematics and Performing Arts have been chosen for the programme.
- It aims to further sharpen innovative imagination, skills and knowledge of the students to bring solutions to socio-economic, political and environmental issues in the country.
- Every student to be called 'DHRUV TARA' will be mentored by renowned experts.

3.3 Patent Prosecution Highway Programme

- It is a pilot programme between Indian Patent Office (IPO) and Japan Patent Office (JPO).
- Under the programme, Indian Patent Office may receive patent applications in certain specified technical fields only while JPO may receive applications in all fields of technology.
- The technical fields include Electrical, Electronics, Computer Science, Information Technology, Physics, Civil, Mechanical, Textiles, Automobiles and Metallurgy.
- It will be operative for 3 years.
- IPO works under the Controller General of Patents, Designs &Trademarks (CGPDTM), Ministry of Commerce and Industry with patent offices of various other interest countries or regions.

3.4 Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme

- The NAIP is a campaign mode genetic upgradation program covering all breeds of bovines to enhance the milk production using low cost breeding technology for improving genetic merit of milch animals with high quality seed.
- It is a campaign by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- The Programme will be implemented in 600 identified districts having less than 50% A.I coverage from 15th September 2019 to 15th March 2020 over a period of 6 months covering around 120 lakh breedable female bovine population, covering 100 villages and 200 animals per village.
- Monitoring of the project and follow-up of all the animals covered under the programme shall be continued until calves are born.
- All the animals covered under the programme shall be identified using UID and their data shall be uploaded on INAPH database.
- All inseminated animals shall be given Animal health Card (Nakul Swasthya Patra).
- After AI, the animal shall be followed up and all the events shall be recorded on the database till the birth of the calf.

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3.5 Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

- Tribal Youth Exchange Programme is organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The programme aims at providing an opportunity to tribal youth to visit different places to understand the culture, language, lifestyles, educational avenues, development activities and educational opportunities.
- During the visit, the participants will interact with the local communities and youth, affiliated with the NYKS Youth Clubs to develop cultural ties.

3.6 SATYAM Program

Recently, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has initiated the Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) programme.

- It was conceptualized in 2015 by the DST under its Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI).
- To foster *scientific research on the effects of yoga and meditation* on physical & mental health and on cognitive functioning in healthy people as well as in patients with disorders.
- Scientists/academicians with research background in 'Yoga and Meditation' and having regular positions are invited to participate in this initiative.
- The project is tenable for a maximum period of three years.
- Under SATYAM, DST has recently invited proposals to study appropriate intervention of yoga and meditation in fighting Covid-19 and similar kinds of viruses.

3.7 Standards & Labelling Programme

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency initiated the Standards & Labeling programme for equipment and appliances in 2006 to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the relevant marketed product.
- The energy efficiency labeling programs under BEE are intended to reduce the energy consumption of appliance without diminishing the services it provides to consumers.
- The scheme is invoked for *21 equipment/appliances* including 10 for which it is mandatory.The other appliances are presently under voluntary labeling phase.
- The estimated savings from these labeling programmes have been about 12000 MW since 2007.

3.8 MSME Emergency Response Programme

- *World Bank* and the Government of India signed an agreement for the MSME Emergency Response Programme.
- It involves $750 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- The loan has a *maturity of 19 years* including a 5-year grace period.
- The programme aims to support increased flow of finance into the hands of MSMEs severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- It will support the government in providing targeted guarantees to incentivize NBFCs and banks to continue lending to viable MSMEs to help sustain them through the crisis.
- It will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact and protect millions of jobs.

3.9 Student Entrepreneurship Programme

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) by NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies has launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP).

- AIM is establishing Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools across India with a vision to cultivate one million children in India as neoteric (modern) innovators.

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- SEP will allow student innovators of ATLs to work closely with Dell volunteers.
- It provides training on business and entrepreneurship skills to students.
- They will receive mentor support, prototyping and testing support, end-user feedback, intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products, manufacturing support, as well as the launch support of the product in the market.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) -** It aims to create a paradigm shift where children as young as 12 years of age are being introduced to the world of technology innovation.
- Eligibility - Schools (minimum Grade VI - X) managed by Government, local body or private trusts/society.
- Financial Support - It provides grant-in-aid of Rs. 20 Lakh to each school that includes a one-time establishment cost of Rs. 10 lakh and operational expenses of Rs. 10 lakh for a maximum period of 5 years to each ATL

3.10 Vriksharopan Abhiyan

- "Vriksharopan Abhiyan" is a campaign orgainsed by the *Ministry of Coal* as a part of going green initiative.
- Under this initiative, large scale plantation will be carried out in colonies, offices, and mines and in other suitable areas of coal and Ignite PSUs.
- Seedlings will also be distributed under the campaign in the nearby areas for promoting plantation by society.
- It invloves all coal and lignite PSUs.
- Under this initiative six eco-parks were inaugurated by Home Ministry, it will provide avenues for the adventure, water sport, recreation, bird watching, etc.
- Going Green initiative involves maximization of green cover through ecological reclamation of the mined-out areas and overburden dumps, avenue plantation at suitable places, and plantation in and around the mines.

3.11 Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund

- The first tripartite Memorandum of Agreement was signed for the implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF).
- It is signed between the department of Fisheries Government of India, NABARD and the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- The nodal loaning entities for the fund are
  i. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD),
  ii. National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and
  iii. All scheduled Banks.
- The fund would provide concessional finance to take up investment activities of fisheries development.
- The beneficiaries are State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc.,
- The Department of Fisheries provides interest subvention up to 3% per annum for providing the concessional finance by the nodal loaning entities at the interest rate not lower than 5% per annum.
- NABARD provides concessional finance for development of fisheries infrastructure facilities through State Governments/State Entities under the FIDF.

3.12 Social & Infrastructure Development Fund

- It was announced in 2008 to set apart a sum of Rs.500 crore (subsequently enhanced to Rs.586.20 crore in 2017) for North Eastern Region (NER) by Ministry of Development of North-East Region.
- The fund will be especially used for Arunachal Pradesh and other border areas facing special problems that cannot be tackled through normal schemes.

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- It is a one-time package that covers projects, prioritized by the State Governments as per their requirement, which, inter alia, include construction of new roads and bridges, re-establishment of new sub-stations/transmission lines, construction/upgradation of hospitals, establishment of schools, water supply projects etc.
- 37 projects have been approved against the funds available under SIDF.

3.13 Nagpur Resolution

- It a holistic approach for empowering citizens' adopted during regional conference organized by DARPG in Nagpur.
- The conference was organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra.
- The resolution aims to empower the citizens by policy interventions for better service delivery through timely updating of citizens charters, implementation of enactments and benchmarking standards for continuous improvement.
- It also aims to ensure timely publication of Good Governance Index to identify the quality of governance in 10 sectors especially those pertaining to welfare and infrastructure at the Union, State and District levels.
- Shillong Declaration and Jammu Resolution are other two resolutions, which was adopted for good governance.

3.14 Spandana Initiative

- It is an initiative of Andhra Pradesh Government to make police stations more approachable for the public, especially women.
- Spandana (means response) centers have been established within the premises of all District Collector offices and police stations.
- These centers mostly have a female receptionist and other staff members who are trained, briefed and sensitized in handling women victims and complainants.
- Spandana centres spread across the district, and each have video conferencing facility, it is easier and cheaper for people to lodge complaints.
- They no longer have to travel to the district headquarters to follow up.

3.15 1000 Spring Initiatives

- Union Tribal Affairs Ministry launched an online portal 1000 Spring Initiatives.
- It is a GIS-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the springs.
- Presently, data of more than 170 springs have been uploaded on the Spring Atlas.
- It aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in difficult and inaccessible part of rural areas in the country.
- It is an integrated solution around natural springs, It includes the following
  1. Provision of infrastructure for piped water supply for drinking.
  2. Provision of water for irrigation.
  3. Community-led total sanitation initiatives.
  4. Provision for water for backyard nutrition gardens, generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal people.
- Springs are natural sources of groundwater discharge and have been used extensively in the mountainous regions across the world, including India.
- However, in the central and eastern Indian belt with more than 75% tribal population, it remains largely unrecognized and under-utilized.

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- The initiative will help in harnessing the potential of perennial springs' water to address natural scarcity of water in tribal areas.
- Under this initiative, more than 70 young tribal youths from the rural belt of three districts of Odisha namely, Kalahandi, Khandamal and Gajapati have been trained as barefoot hydro geologists by combining traditional and scientific knowledge for identification and mapping of springs, and undertaking rejuvenation and protection measures in their habitations.

3.16 Manodarpan Initiative

- Union Human Resource and Development Ministry virtually launched the Manodarpan initiative under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- This initiative will *provide psycho-social support to students, teachers and parents*.
- It aims to address the issues related to mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- The components of the initiative are webpage, voluntary tele-counselling, handbook on Psychosocial support and Interactive online chat platform by psychologists and other mental health professionals

3.17 SATAT Initiative

- It is an initiative by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- It is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)
- It will promote the use of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.
- It will be launched in association with PSU oil marketing companies, which invites potential entrepreneurs to set up CBG plants

3.18 Khudol Initiative

- Khudol is a crowdfunded initiative of Ya_All, an Imphal-based NGO that had created India's first transgender football team.
- The initiative entails ensuring food, health and hygiene of the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents.
- The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has listed Manipur's Khudol (gift) among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.19 SPARC Initiative

- Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- IIT, Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.
- It 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

3.20 India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative

- It is a joint initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It prepared the first comprehensive estimates of disease burden attributable to mental health from 1990.
- It states that Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh account for a higher prevalence of mental disorders.
- It manifests primarily during adulthood in depression and anxiety.

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- It finds that roughly one in seven Indians, or 197 million persons, suffered from mental disorders of varying severity in 2017.
- These include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, idiopathic developmental intellectual disability, conduct disorders, and autism.
- The contribution of mental disorders to the Disability Adjusted Life Year (DALY) has doubled between 1990 and 2017 increasing from 2.5% to 4.7%.
- In accordance with socio-demographic index (SDI), prevalence of depressive disorders was highest in,
    i. Tamil Nadu (loss of 836 years per 1 lakh population), Kerala (loss of 641 years) in the high SDI state group and
    ii. Andhra Pradesh (loss of 793 years) in the middle SDI State group.
- **DALY** - the sum of total years of life lost and years lived with disability
- **SDI** - It is a composite measure of per-capita income, mean education, and fertility rate in women younger than 25 years and is calculated on a scale of one.

3.21 Digital Initiatives of Ministry of AYUSH

- AYUSH Hospital Management Information Systems (A-HIMS) - It is a comprehensive IT platform to effectively manage all functions of health care delivery systems and patient care in AYUSH facilities.
- It has an exclusive dashboard for citizens to interact and engage with AYUSH Health Services across India.
- Bhuvan Yoga Application - It has been designed in collaboration with ISRO.
- It provides geo-time location and documentation of a yoga event.

3.22 Improving Online Education Ecosystem

- **Bharat Padhe Online Campaign -** It is a week-long campaign for *crowdsourcing of ideas* for improving the online education ecosystem of India.
- It aims to invite all the best brains in India to share suggestions/solutions directly with the HRD Ministry to overcome constraints of online education while promoting the available digital education platforms.
- Students and teachers are the main target audience in it.
- **YUKTI web-portal -** YUKTI (Young India Combating Covid with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) is a unique portal and dashboard to *monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD*.
- It will also cover the various initiatives and efforts of the institutions in academics, research especially related to Covid-19, social initiatives by institutions and the measures taken for the betterment of the total wellbeing of the students.
- It aims to keep the academic community healthy, both physically & mentally and to enable a continuous high-quality learning environment for learners.
- It will allow various institutions to share their strategies for various challenges which are there because of the unprecedented situation of Covid-19 and other future initiatives.
- The portal will also establish a *two-way communication channel between the Ministry of HRD and the institutions* so that the Ministry can provide the necessary support system to the institutions.

3.23 Buddhist Tourism Initiatives

- Union Ministry of Tourism & Culture has inaugurated the Webinar on “Cross Border Tourism” organized by the Association of Buddhist Tour Operators.
- Various initiatives taken on Buddhist Tourism are as follows
    1. Signage in International Languages - at important Buddhist sites in the country including signage in Chinese language that have been put up at Sarnath, Kushinagar and Sravasti.
    2. Similarly, since Sanchi receives a large number of tourists from Sri Lanka, signage in Sinhalese language have been put up at the Sanchi monuments.

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3. Kushinagar Airport - Government of India to declared the Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport which will offer better connectivity to the air-travelers.

- The Association of Buddhist Tour Operators is the association of dedicated inbound tour-operators engaged in promoting Buddhist tourism, with over 1500 members in India & Overseas

3.24 Prakash Portal

- Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony (PRAKASH) portal was launched by the Ministry of Coal & Power.
- It is for better coordination among the ministries of power, coal and Indian Railways for coal supply to power plants.
- It will enable all stakeholders to map and monitor coal right from mines to transportation.
- Through the portal, coal company will be able to track stocks and the coal requirement at power stations for effective production planning.
- It is developed by NTPC and sources data from Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) and coal companies.
- However, the portal, unlike the power ministry's other recently launched websites, is not accessible to general public.
- The present mechanism to review coal supply situation consists of an inter-ministerial group with officials from ministries of Power, Coal, Railways, CEA, power utilities and coal companies.
- This has faced several issues such as scattered information, correctness of data from different organizations, timely availability of data etc.

3.25 Shaala Darpan Portal

- It is an E-Governance school automation and management system for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) in New Delhi.
- Navodaya Vidyalaya is the country's largest residential schooling system that provides education to the talented children predominantly from the rural areas without regard to their family's socio-economic conditions.
- This portal has been developed for information sharing and knowledge dissemination for employees and students across schools and offices of NVS.
- It is the first major initiative to enable automation of all activities of the NV's through a single umbrella - 636 schools, 8 Regional Offices, 8 NLIs and Head Quarter.
- There is also another portal with the same name for KendriyaVidyalayas.
- ***Kendriya Vidyalaya Shaala Darpan*** is an e-Governance platform for all KVs in the country.
- It aims to improve quality of learning, efficiency of school administration, governance of schools & service delivery to key stakeholders namely, students, parents, teachers, community and schools.

Other Related Portals

- ***ShaalaSarathi*** is a State-NGO-CSR Portal to aid the collaboration among the stakeholders in sharing innovative practices in various schools.
- ***Shaala Siddhi*** is a comprehensive school evaluation system focused on well-defined quality-based parameters that facilitates Schools to make professional judgments for improvement.

3.26 National AI Portal

Union Ministry for Electronics and IT, has launched India's national Artificial Intelligence Portal.

- National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM from the IT industry will jointly run this portal.

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- This portal shall work as a *one stop digital platform for AI related developments* in India, sharing of resources such as articles, startups, investment funds in AI, resources, companies and educational institutions related to AI in India.
- The portal will also share documents, case studies, research reports etc. It has section about learning and new job roles related to AI.

3.27 NIKSHAY Portal

- It is the web enabled *patient management system for TB control* under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- It is developed and maintained by the Central TB Division (CTD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), and WHO.
- It functions as the National TB Surveillance System and enables reporting of various surveillance data to the Government of India.

3.28 SATYABHAMA Portal

- Union *Ministry of Mines* has launched a portal "SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Atmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement)".
- Its aim is to promote research and development in the mining and minerals sector.
- It has been launched to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the Science and Technology Programme Scheme.
- Under the Science and Technology Programme Scheme, the Ministry of Mines promotes research in applied geosciences, mineral exploration, mining and allied areas, mineral processing, optimum utilization and conservation of the mineral resources of the country.
- The portal has been designed, developed and implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- The portal is also integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog.

NGO-DARPAN

- It is a platform that provides space for interface between NGOs/Voluntary Organizations (VOs) and key Government Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies.
- It is an e-governance application offered by NITI Aayog to electronically maintain data and transparency regarding NGOs/VOs in the country.
- It was earlier maintained by erstwhile Planning Commission, which has been replaced by the NITI Aayog in 2015.

3.29 e-Raktkosh Portal

- e-Raktkosh portal is a *Centralized Blood Bank Management System*.
- It is a comprehensive IT solution to standardize and streamline the standard operating procedures, guidelines and workflow of blood banks across the nation.
- It was inaugurated in 2016 by then Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHWFW)
- It enforces Drug & Cosmetic Act, National blood policy standards and guidelines ensuring proper management of blood.
- It has components for management of the blood donation life cycle which includes - The biometric Donor Management System, Blood grouping,TTI screening,antibody screening,A centralized Blood Inventory Management System and Bio-Medical Waste Management System for disposal of discarded blood

3.30 TULIP Portal

- The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) is an online portal jointly launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- It aims to provide internship opportunities to 25,000 fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.

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- It has been conceived pursuant to the Budget 2020-21 announcement under the theme 'Aspirational India' which laid emphasis on changing the approach of education from 'doing by learning,' to 'learning by doing'.
- The internship opportunities will be provided for 'Smart City' projects which range from positions in urban planning, water supply, waste management, slum improvement and digital governance among others.
- Applicants must be Indian citizens who have completed their final year of college within the last 18 months and have a degree of B. Tech, B planning, B. Arch, BA, BSc, B.Com, LLB.
- Internship durations can range from eight weeks to one year.
- The TULIP's launch is also an important stepping stone for fulfillment of MHRD and AICTE's goal of 1 crore successful internships by the year 2025.

3.31 Empowering Tribal, Transforming India

"Empowering Tribal, Transforming India" is an online performance Dashboard launched by M/o Tribal Affairs.

- It has been developed by Centre of Excellence of Data Analytics (CEDA), organization under National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Performance Dashboard is an interactive and dynamic online platform that showcases updated & real-time details of 11 schemes / initiatives of the Ministry for achieving Sustainable Developmental Goals.
- Highlights of the dash board are
    1. It captures performance of 5 Scholarship Schemes of Ministry wherein every year about 30 lakh underprivileged ST beneficiaries reap benefit to the tune of INR 2500 crores.
    2. It also displays the details of functional schools under Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) scheme.
    3. It maps district wise NGO details, funds given to NGO and beneficiaries' details.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently got 66th SKOCH Gold Award for "Empowerment of Tribal through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" under the guidance of DBT Mission.

3.32 Swasthya Portal

Union Tribal Affairs Minister has e-launched "Swasthya" Portal.

- It is the first of its kind comprehensive *platform for health and nutrition related information of the tribal population* of India.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya, the Centre of Excellence has developed this Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal.
- It has a dashboard, knowledge repository, partner segment, Sickle Cell Diseases (SCD) support corner.
- It encourages people with Sickle Cell disease or trait to register themselves.
- The dashboard presents data curated from multiple sources for the 177 identified high priority tribal districts.

3.33 Bhoomi Rashi Portal

- The Bhoomi Rashi Portal is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- The portal intends to expedite the process of land acquisition for National Highways.
- It has fully digitized and automated the entire process of land acquisition.
- It has helped to make land acquisition error-free & more transparent with notifications at every stage being processed on a real-time basis.
- Earlier, the acquisition of land for the purpose of National Highway projects, payment of compensation to the landowners etc. was done manually by physical movement of documents.
- It had some constraints viz. delay in issuing land acquisition notification, errors in the land/ area details etc.
- The portal is integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for depositing the compensation in the account of affected/ interested persons on a real-time basis.

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3.34 NAMASTE Portal

- It provides Standardized Terminologies & Morbidity Codes for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems of medicine along with W.H.O ICD-10/11 codes meant for dual coding and morbidity reporting for Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy Systems.
- It is meant for unambiguous reporting, electronic data submission through individual institutions and gradually moving towards adopting Electronic Health Records (E.H.R.).
- It serves as a reference repository of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani terminologies and Morbidity Codes for further development of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani international terminologies and ICD-11 morbidity Codes.
- A nationwide digital platform called 'AYUSH Grid' has been initiated by Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

3.35 Santusht Portal

- 'Santusht' Implementation Monitoring Cell (IMC) has been constituted in the Office of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment.
- The objective of 'Santusht' is to promote transparency, accountability, effective delivery of public services and implementation of policies, schemes of Ministry of Labour and Employment at grass root level through constant monitoring.
- For public grievances, the Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) portal is already functional.
- Besides, written grievances as received from stakeholders are also disposed of by the Ministry.
- Further, online portal under 'Santusht' for public grievances has not been started so far.

3.36 GATI Portal

- Recently Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry launched online web portal 'GATI' on the pattern of 'PRAGATI', the portal.
- GATI Portal has been created by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- The portal 'GATI' can be accessed from NHAI's website, and contractors and concessionaires can raise any project-related issues on the platform.
- The issues raised on 'GATI' will be daily monitored by a team of NHAI officers and will be constantly reviewed by the senior officers of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

3.37 e-GramSwaraj Portal

- It helps to prepare and execute Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- The portal, by **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, will ensure real time monitoring and accountability.
- The portal is a major step towards digitization down to the Gram Panchayat level.

3.38 MANI App

- Reserve Bank of India, RBI has launched a mobile app, MANI, Mobile Aided Note Identifier.
- It aims to help visually challenged people to identify denomination of currency notes.
- Through the downloaded app, users can scan the notes using the camera.
- The audio output will give the result in Hindi and English.
- The mobile application does not authenticate a note as being either genuine or counterfeit.

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3.39 Audio Odigos

- It is an Audio Guide facility App launched by the Ministry of Tourism for 12 iconic sites.
- It is launched during Paryatan Parv programme, which aims to develop responsible tourism.
- It offers verified content, with visuals & voice over support and an inbuilt map of the site for a smooth navigation during the tour.
- The audio can be chosen in their preferred language & version of the history.
- The 12 sites include Amer Fort, Rajasthan, Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, Purana Quila, Humayun's tomb, Delhi, Fatehpur Sikri, Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh, Somnath and Dholavira, Gujarat, Khajuraho, Madhya pradesh, Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu and Mahabodhi Temple.

3.40 cVIGIL App

- It is an app, launched by Election commission of India, which will be operational only where elections are announced.
- "cVIGIL" will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls.
- By using this app, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint.
- The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential.
- The app will receive complaints only about the Model Code of Conduct violations.
- The user will get 5 minutes to report an incident after having clicked a picture or a video.
- To prevent any misuse, the app will not allow uploading of the pre-recorded or old images and videos.
- The app will not facilitate saving of the photos or videos recorded using the 'cVIGIL' app into the phone gallery either.

3.41 mHariyali App

- The mobile app was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It is aimed to encourage Public engagement in planting trees and other such Green drives.
- The App provides for automatic geo-tagging of plants and will also enable nodal officers to periodically monitor the plantation.

3.42 AarogyaSetu

- The Government of India launched a mobile app "AarogyaSetu" developed in *public-private partnership* to bring the people of India together in a resolute fight against COVID-19.
- It joins Digital India for the health and well-being of every Indian.
- It will enable people to assess themselves the risk for their catching the Corona Virus infection.
- Once installed in a smart phone through an easy and user-friendly process, the app detects other devices with AarogyaSetu installed that come in the proximity of that phone.
- The app can then calculate the risk of infection based on sophisticated parameters if any of these contacts is tested positive.
- The App will help the Government take necessary timely steps for assessing risk of spread of COVID-19 infection, and ensuring isolation where required.
- ***Recent Developments*** – The government has recently announced a new feature 'Open API Service' in the app.
- 'Application Programming Interface' (API) is an interface that can be used to program software that interacts with an existing application.

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- In practice, an API is "a set of functions and procedures" that allow one to access and build upon the data and functionality of an existing application.
- The Open API Service of AarogyaSetu addresses the fear/risk of Covid-19 infections and will help the people, businesses and the economy to return to normalcy.
- It can be availed by organizations and business entities, with following conditions - Entities who are registered in India and Entities with more than 50 employees.
- It will be used to get the health status of employees or any other AarogyaSetu User.
- It enables organizations to check the status of AarogyaSetu and integrate it into its various Work from Home features.

3.43 BIS-Care App

- Union Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the 'BIS-Care' app and e-BIS portal.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Care app enables Consumers to check the authenticity of the ISI-marked and hallmarked products and lodge complaints using this app.
- It is important to ensure that consumers are aware of the standards and quality products and help in eliminating the supply of sub-standard products.
- e-BIS portal - It has three components namely the Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Training Portals for consumers.
- It is an integrated portal covering all functions of BIS, enlisting the services of outside agencies for factory and market surveillance.
- BIS is a statutory body established under the BIS Act 1986, it replaced the Indian Standards Institution (ISI).

3.44 Mausam Mobile App

- Union Minister for Earth sciences launched a mobile App "Mausam" for India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- It is designed to communicate the weather information and forecasts to the general public in a lucid manner without technical jargons.
- It has the following services - Current Weather, Now cast, City Forecast, Warnings and Radar products.

3.45 FARMS-App

- Union Agriculture ministry has developed a Multi lingual Mobile App, 'CHC (Custom Hiring Centers) - Farm Machinery' which connects farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centers situated in their locality.
- It encourages small and marginal farmers to take *machines on rental basis for agriculture practices* without them having to purchase such high priced machines.
- The app has been further modified and been given the acronym of FARMS-app (Farm Machinery Solutions-app).

3.46 e-BCAS Project

- It is a training module project launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- It facilitates external stakeholders to access Biometric enabled Centralised Access Control System (CACS) for training in digital platforms.
- All 29 Aviation Security Training Institutes have been registered as User Entities for this project.
- It envisaged to achieve a "paperless office" under e-Governance initiative.
- Standing Committee on Economic Statistics

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- The statistics ministry has constituted a 28 member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCES) chaired by former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen.
- It is to improve quality of data amid criticism of the government over political interference.
- The first meeting of the SCES is scheduled on January 6, 2020.
- The committee is set up in the backdrop of controversy over revision of GDP numbers and withholding employment data by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).
- Earlier, Ministry of Statistics had decided not to release the Consumer Expenditure Survey results of 2017-18 citing data quality issues.

3.47 NeVA Project

- National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) comes under the Digital India Programme.
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures.
- The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY).
- The funding of NeVA is through Central Sponsored Schemee. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.
- The project aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

3.48 Sea Plane Project

- Ministry of Shipping has reviewed the seaplane projects on Indian water bodies.
- Seaplane projects will provide faster and hassle free travel option for the long, treacherous and hilly regions of the country.
- Till now, 16 seaplane routes have been identified under Regional Connectivity Routes under UDAN scheme.
- Sabarmati and Sardar Sarovar- Statue of Unity route is included in these 16 sea plane routes and hydrographic surveys of this route have been completed.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will manage the Project of Seaplane in Inland Waterways and Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL) will manage the Projects of seaplane in Coastal Areas.

3.49 Project Isaac

- Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) has launched Project Isaac to engage its students in creative projects to enhance their critical skills while they are confined to their homes because of Corona virus.
- The official release said, the project is inspired by Sir Isaac Newton, who was similarly sent home by Trinity College, Cambridge, because of the Great Plague of London in 1665.
- During this year, Newton, then a 22-year-old college student developed some of his most profound discoveries, including early calculus, as well as his theories of optics and gravity.
- As part of the project, four different competitions are being organized by IIT, Gandhinagar to cultivate new skills among students regarding writing, painting, coding, music, creative expression, and so on. Students can take part in competitions online.
- Nearly 40 per cent of IITGN students are already participating in various activities, which are entirely voluntary.
- Project Isaac is a model for academic institutions worldwide to explore ways to engage students in the midst of the pandemic.

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3.50 Project CARD

- *NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology* have launched the Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics (CARD) to scale up India's capacity to make coronavirus testing kits.
- The move comes after India faced quality issues with Chinese-made antibody testing kits, which are used for disease surveillance and to find out how many people have developed immunity to a disease.
- Project CARD's first goal is to roll out at least 10 million rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 by July.
- Additionally, capacity will be expanded to make reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and other paper-based tests for Covid-19 in the country.

3.51 Project Bal Basera

- 'Bal Basera' or a 'Creche' has been inaugurated for the welfare of Children of Construction Workers deployed at AIIMS Rishikesh.
- Project is being executed by 'Central Public Works Department' (**CPWD**), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- **CPWD** has signed an MoU with **CPWD OWA** (Officers' Wives Association), which shall run Bal Basera.
- The Creche shall accommodate about 35 Children.
- **CPWD OWA**, a socio-cultural organization, is actively involved in the social welfare activities of weaker sections of society.
- It is providing monetary help to the families of CPWD employees in distress.
- It manages a large number of Bal Baseras and organizing health camps at construction sites, a day care centre.

3.52 Operation Thirst

- The 'Railway Protection Force'(RPF), Ministry of Railways launched "Operation Thirst".
- It is an all India Drive to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water.
- Almost all major stations over Indian Railway were covered during this operation.
- The bottles of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) have been seized under section 144 and section 153 of **Indian Railway Act.**

3.53 Operation SHIELD

- Recently, *Delhi administration* has announced Operation SHIELD to fight COVID-19
- SHIELD stands for
    i. S - Sealing of the immediate area or surroundings after geographical marking.
    ii. H - Home quarantine of all the people living in the area.
    iii. I - Isolation and tracing of people who have been first and second contacts.
    iv. E- Essential supply of commodities is ensured.
    v. L- Local sanitation of the area by authorities.
    vi. D – Door to door health checks of everyone living in the area.
- It will be implemented in 21 localities identified as containment zones in Delhi

3.54 National Supercomputing Mission

- NSM is jointly led by DST and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Commissioned in May 2015, the nodal agencies spearheading the mission are Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc),Bengaluru.

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- The NSM envisaged setting up a network of 70 high-performance computing facilities across academia and research institutes, by 2022.
- Since the mission was approved until September 2019, only three systems
  1. PARAM Shivay - IIT-BHU
  2. PARAM Shakti - IIT-Kharagpur
  3. PARAM Bhrahma - Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER),Pune.
- They are equipped with applications from domains like Weather and Climate, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Bioinformatics, and Material science.
- According to union government's recent plan India is all set to experience the highest ever boost in its supercomputing capacities, with 14 new supercomputers set to be deployed this year.
- These systems would be installed at various national-level research laboratories and academic institutions by end of 2020.
- Once deployed, the total number of supercomputers under Rs 4,500 crore-National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) would grow to 17.
- Three New systems will be made operational at
  1. IIT-Kanpur,
  2. Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru,
  3. IIT-Hyderabad.
- Of the 11 new supercomputing systems eight systems, with collectively compute power of 16 PetaFlop, will be deployed at institutions located in India's Northeastern region.
- Three of the new systems, each having a compute power of 3PetaFlop, will be commissioned at
  1. IIT-Mumbai,
  2. IIT-Chennai
  3. Inter University Accelatator Centre, Delhi.
- These systems will form the backbone of the National Knowledge Network.

3.55 National Biopharma Mission

- The National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.
- It was launched by Ministry of Science & Technology in 2017 and is 50% co-funded by World Bank loan.
- It is being implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- BIRAC is a Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- The oversight to the mission activities is provided by the inter-ministerial Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary-DBT (Ministry of Science & Technology).
- The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) chaired by an eminent scientist provides scientific leadership to the mission drawing upon global expertise.
- Under this Mission, the Government has launched Innovate in India (i3) programme to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.
- It has a focus on following four verticals:
  1. Development of product leads for Vaccines, Biosimilars and Medical Devices that are relevant to the public health need by focussing on managed partnerships.
  2. Upgradation of shared infrastructure facilities and establishing them as centres of product discovery/discovery validations and manufacturing.
  3. Developing human capital by providing specific training.

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4. Developing technology transfer offices to help enhance industry academia inter-linkages.

3.56 Mission 175

- Mission 175 is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables.
- It is hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the event showcases India's renewable energy potential and the Government's efforts to scale up capacity to meet the national energy requirement in a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable manner.
- In the year 2015, the Government of India announced a target for 175 GW cumulative renewable power installed capacity by the year 2022.
- Ahead of COP 21, India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the UNFCCC, outlining the country's post-2020 climate actions.
- India's INDC builds on its goal of installing 175 Gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity by 2022 by setting a new target to increase the country's share of non-fossil based installed electric capacity to 40 percent by 2030.

3.57 Mission Purvodaya

- Mission Purvodaya in steel sector envisions to create an integrated steel hub in Eastern India.
- With abundance of raw materials, strategic geographical location and strong and developing connectivity, Odisha is well poised to be the heart of this eastern steel hub.
- The Mission is rolled out by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Ministry.
- More than 75% of India's envisioned incremental steel capacity will come from eastern India, with Odisha alone crossing 100 MTPA.
- In Odisha, Kalinganagar will be developed as the epicenter of Mission Purvodaya.
- There is immense scope for growth in high grade steel, downstream sector, ancillaries, capital goods and cluster development.
- Government of India is keen to have Japan to be partner country in Mission Purvodaya.
- Japanese technological expertise, investments will further strengthen the steel sector in Odisha and drive socio-economic growth.

3.58 Mission Surya Nagari

*Union government has launched a scheme for **100% solarisation of Konark sun temple** and Konark town in Odisha.*

- The scheme will meet all energy requirements of Konark town with solar energy, which is made under PM-vision to develop the historical Sun temple town of Konark in Odisha as 'Surya Nagri'.
- This aims to convey a message of synergy between the modern use of solar energy and the ancient Sun Temple and the importance of promoting solar energy.
- It envisages setting up of the 10-MW grid connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications such as solar trees, solar drinking water kiosks and off-grid solar power plants with battery storage.
- It will receive *100% Central Financial assistance (CFA) support* of around Rs. 25 crore through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- *Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency* will be the Implementation Agency of the project (and not union Ministry of Renewable energy or Ministry of culture)

3.59 National Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Mission

- *Union Finance Ministry* announced it will launch National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission.
- The mission will ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy in Grade 3 by 2025.

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- For this, teacher capacity building, a robust curricular framework, engaging learning material, both online and offline, learning outcomes and their measurement indices, assessment techniques, tracking of learning progress, etc. will be designed to take it forward in a systematic fashion.
- This mission will cover the learning needs of nearly 4 crore children in the age group of 3 to 11 years.

3.60 Vande Bharat Mission

- India has launched a massive evacuation operation Vande Bharat Mission, to bring back Indians stranded in different parts of the world due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Under Vande Bharat Mission, Air India flights will ferry out passengers stranded in India and on the return journey, these flights will bring back Indians, stuck overseas.
- Under the operation State-run carrier Air India will operate special flights from New Delhi, Cochin and Kozhikode to Singapore, Abu Dhabi and Dubai respectively.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs stated that a person who has an OCI card, or held the citizenship of a foreign country, or held a valid visa of more than one year of that country, or had the green card of that country, can travel on the repatriation flight leaving India under the Vande Bharat mission.
- The Mission is claimed to be the biggest repatriation exercise ever.
- This should not be confused with Vande Bharat Express

Vande Bharat Express

- It is also known as Train 18 is an Indian *semi-high speed* intercity electric multiple unit.
- It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai under the Indian government's Make in India initiative over a span of 18 months.
- The trainset has been tested for speeds up to 180 km/h, however operational speed has been capped at 130 km/h.
- The train is now operational between Delhi- Varanasi Route.

3.61 Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

- Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Defence with the objective of creating greater Intellectual Property (IP) in Defence Production Ecosystem.
- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme.
- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is under the Department Of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
- The organization provides Quality Assurance (QA) cover for the entire range of Arms, Ammunitions, Equipment and Stores supplied to Armed Forces.
- It aims to achieve the goal of self-reliance in the defense sector to generate Intellectual Property in India and marks a departure from the culture of seeking Transfer of Technology (ToT) from foreign sources.

3.62 Trifood

- Union Tribal Affairs Minister has e-launched the tertiary processing centers of 'Trifood Project'.
- Trifood Project is being implemented by TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Ministry of Food Processing (MoFPI).
- TRIFOOD aims to enhance the income of tribal through better utilization of and value addition to the MFPs collected by the tribal forest gatherers.
- To achieve this, as a start, two Minor Forest Produce (MFP) processing units will be set up in the following locations.

1. **Raigad Unit**, Maharashtra that will be used for value addition to Mahua, Amla, custard apple and Jamun and will produce Mahua drink, amla juice, candy, Jamun juice and custard apple pulp.
2. **Jagdalpur multi-commodity processing centre**, Chhattisgarh will be used for the processing of commodities like Mahua, Amla, honey, cashew, tamarind, ginger, garlic and other fruits and vegetables.

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3.63 Kiran Helpline

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has postponed the launch of "KIRAN" Helpline.
- It is Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation helpline 1800-599-0019, developed by Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry.
- It aims at providing support for early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental wellbeing, preventing deviant behavior and psychological crisis management.
- The helpline will offer support in 13 languages for any individual, family, NGOs, DPOs, parent associations, professional associations, rehabilitation institutes, hospitals or anyone in need of support across the country.
- The helpline will have a capacity of handling 300 clients per hour.
- The helpline will be coordinated by the
  1. National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD, Chennai)
  2. National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR, Sehore).

3.64 University for Transgender Community

- The country's first university for transgender community will be opened in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district.
- It is being built by All-India transgender education service trust.
- It facilitate its members to study right from class one to PG and even do research and get PhD degree.

3.65 Jan Shikshan Sansthan

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resources and Development.
- Under this, institutions are established to provide vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate, as well as school drop outs by identifying skills as would have a market in the region of their establishment.
- JSS offers training equivalent to courses designed by the Directorate of Adult education, National Institute of Open Schooling and Director General Employment & Training.

3.66 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras

- It is an initiative of the 'Ministry of Tribal Affairs' and TRIFED.
- It seeks to improve the livelihood of tribal population by harnessing the incomes through wealth of forest.
- 'Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram' is primarily a component under the Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
- Marketing is done through Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- 'Van Dhan Vikas Kendras' will provide skill upgradation and capacity building to the traditional knowledge of tribal people.
- Itseeks to to convert the tribal wisdom into a remunerative economic activity.
- MFP is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas.
- Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP.
- So, this will help in optimum utilization of natural resources and provide sustainable MFP based livelihood for tribals.
- A typical Van Dhan Vikas Kendra shall constitute of 10 tribal Van Dhan Vikas Self Help Groups (SHG).
- The grass root level procurement of MFP is proposed to be undertaken through SHG.
- SHGs shall be appropriately trained on sustainable harvesting, primary processing & value addition of MFP.

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3.67 AYUSH Grid

- Its aim is to bring onboard all AYUSH facilities including hospitals and laboratories and to promote traditional systems of healthcare.
- It provides digitalization of the entire AYUSH sector.
- It aims to develop a network of people, knowledge and technology.
- It provides that the strategies for development will be in sync with the international and national policies and health care needs.
- It will make it easier to assess the efficacy of alternative medicine systems and thus enabling AYUSH hospitals and laboratories to share data.

3.68 NATGRID

- It is the integrated intelligence grid connecting databases of core security agencies of the Government of India.
- It functions under *Ministry of Home Affairs*.
- It was proposed as a counter-terrorism measure after the terrorist attacks on Mumbai in 2008.
- It is a medium for at least 10 Central agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing to access data on a secured platform.
- The data will be procured by NATGRID from 21 organizations such as the telecom, tax records, bank, immigration etc.
- Recently, NATGRID has signed a MoU with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to access the centralized online database on FIRs and stolen vehicles.
- The MoU will give NATGRID access to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) database, a platform that links around 14,000 police stations.
- All State police are mandated to file FIRs in the CCTNS.

3.69 National Migrant Information System

Recently, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed an online dashboard called 'National Migrant Information System (NMIS)'.

- The online portal (NMIS) would maintain a central repository of migrant workers and help in speedy inter-state communication to facilitate the smooth movement of migrant workers to their native places.
- The key data pertaining to the persons migrating has been standardized for uploading such as name, age, mobile no., originating and destination district, date of travel etc.
- States will be able to visualize how many people are going out from where and how many are reaching their destination States.
- It has additional advantages like contact tracing, which may be useful in overall Covid-19 response work.

3.70 National Knowledge Network

- In March 2010, the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) approved the establishment of the National Knowledge Network (NKN) at an outlay of Rs 5990 Crore, to be implemented by NIC over a period of 10 years.
- The idea of setting up of a National Knowledge Network was deliberated at the office of Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and the National Knowledge Commission.
- NKN is intended to connect all the knowledge and research institutions in the country using high bandwidth / low latency network.
- In India, NKN with its multi-gigabit capability aims to connect all universities, research institutions, libraries, laboratories, healthcare and agricultural institutions across the country to address such paradigm shift.

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3.71 Market Intelligence and Early Warning System

- Union Ministry of Food Processing has launched Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) Portal for Monitoring prices of TOP Crops (Tomato, Onion and Potato).
- MIEWS portal would help in planning and timely intervention for price stabilization and generating alerts
- The MIEWS Dashboard and Portal is a 'first-of-its-kind' platform for 'real time monitoring' of prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) and for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention under the terms of the Operation Greens (OG) scheme.
- The portal would disseminate all relevant information related to TOP crops such as Prices and Arrivals, Area, Yield and Production, Imports and Exports, Crop Calendars, Crop Agronomy, etc in an easy to use visual format.
- A dashboard that would indicate low price and high price alerts as well as price forecasts for 3 month forward.
- Prices and arrivals of TOP crops across the country including interactive charts and comparisons with previous seasons
- This portal is a novel initiative of MoFPI leveraging IT tools and furthering the goals of Digital India.

3.72 PRAGATI

- PM chaired his 30th interaction through PRAGATI recently.
- It is a multi-purpose, multi-modal platform for "Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation" (PRAGATI).
- It is a unique integrating and interactive platform aimed at addressing common man's grievances.
- It also monitors and reviews important programmes and projects of both central and state governments.
- It is incorporated with three latest technologies-
  1. Digital data management,
  2. Video-conferencing and
  3. Geo-spatial technology.
- It is a three-tier system - PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States
- PM will hold a monthly interaction with the Government Secretaries and Chief Secretaries through Video-conferencing.
- The system has been designed in-house by the PMO with the help of National Informatics Center (NIC).
- It is also a robust system for bringing e-transparency and e-accountability among the key stakeholders.
- In the recent interaction, PM reviews progress of flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, PM AwasYojana (Urban) etc.

3.73 Cyberdome

- It is Kerala State police department's premier facility dedicated to preventing cybercrime and mitigate security threats to the State's critical information infrastructure.
- It is the state-of-the art lab with enabling software to crackdown the criminal activities over the Darknet.
- Darknet is a layer of the Internet accessible only by using special software like Tor (The Onion Router), or I2P, which stands for Invisible Internet Project.
- Websites and information on the Darknet are intentionally hidden and cannot be accessed using traditional search engines like Google.
- Its impermeability become a major platform for drug dealers, arms traffickers, child pornography collectors and other criminals involved in financial and physical crimes.
- In order to handle these type of crimes, cyber-surveillance tools to detect and convict those responsible for industrial espionage.

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- Cyberdome has used social engineering as the lynchpin of its policing strategy to snoop on radical groups that use the net for extremist activities.

3.74 GOAL

- Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) is a Facebook program launched for underprivileged young tribal women.
- It aimed at inspiring, guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.
- It connects tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs associated with Facebook have recently launched the 2nd phase of this program.
- In the second phase of the program, will digitally mentor 5000 young women in India's tribal dominated districts.
- It will give provide the tools and guidance they need to succeed, using technology they may otherwise have not had access to.

3.75 SUMAN

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched SurakshitMatritvaAashwasan (SUMAN) initiative.
- It was launched during the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare along with State Health Ministries.
- It aims to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths by assuring dignified, respectful & quality health care at no cost.
- It focuses on zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.
- It also provides a positive birth experience to both mother and infant.

3.76 PISA

- Union HRD Minister has recently reviewed the preparations of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti in New Delhi for its participation in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), 2021.
- The PISA is a competency-based test to assess the quality of education systems across the world.
- It assesses the learning levels of 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics, science, collaborative problem solving and money literacy.
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conducts PISA ***every three years***.
- It does not test a student's memory and curriculum-based knowledge.
- PISA's science test, , measures three competencies —
    1. Ability to explain scientific phenomena
    2. Scientific interpretation of data and evidence
    3. Ability to design and evaluate scientific query.
- Similarly, PISA defines reading as an individual's capacity to understand, use and reflect on written information in a range of situations.
- ***India's Participation*** - The country participated in 2009 test with 16,000 students from 400 schools in Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- India was placed 72nd among the 74 participating countries.
- Indian government decided not to participate in 2012 and 2015 cycles.
- The decision was revisited in 2016 and HRD ministry approved the decision to participate in 2021 cycle.

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- The students of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Union Territory of Chandigarh will represent India in this examination.

3.77 EChO Network

- EChO Network is a national program aimed at increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment by Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- It will provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India.
- It could develop a national network to catalyse a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology and technology.
- There is no precedent for such a network anywhere in the world.
- It establishes a new platform to change how science is embedded in our modern society.
- The purpose of this Network is to bring all those together to share knowledge and synergize efforts under the umbrella of science.

3.78 Virtual Police Station

- The Virtual Police Station is an initiative by the Andhra Pradesh government.
- It is to demystifythe police station and acquaint the public with the functioning of a police station electronically without visiting it physically.
- It will set up in the educational institutions as a pilot project and it will educate public about the functioning of police stations and how to file a FIR.

3.79 Youth Co:Lab

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) hosts it.
- It aims at fostering technology, promoting youth leadership and social entrepreneurship in India.
- Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for Asia-Pacific countries to invest in and empower youth to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship.
- By developing 21st century skills, catalyzing and sustaining youth-led start-ups and social enterprises across the region, Youth Co:Lab is positioning young people front and center in order to solve the region's most pressing challenges.

3.80 Young Scientists Laboratories

- Union government has launched 5 Young Scientists Laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) are located in five cities viz, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad.
- It aims to empower the youth by giving them decision making powers and challenging research opportunities.
- Each lab will work on key advanced technology of importance to the development of futuristic defence systems viz,
    1. Artificial intelligence,
    2. Quantum technologies,
    3. Cognitive technologies,
    4. Asymmetric technologies
    5. Smart materials.

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- It can be noted that N Chandrasekaran Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Defence in 2018 to study the use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military.

3.81 Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre

- India recently opens First Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Niger, a West African Nation.
- The convention center has been designed as a spacious, modern and eco-friendly facility, including a 2,000 capacity Plenary Hall, to witness high-level and wide-ranging participation from African Union (AU) member states and other high-level conventions.
- It is the first center to be established in Africa by India to honor the memory of Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th birth anniversary was observed in 2019.

3.82 Integrated Steel Hub

- Ministry of steel in partnership with CII and JPC is organizing the launch of Purvodaya-Accelerated Development of Eastern Region through an Integrated Steel hub.
- The proposed Integrated Steel Hub, encompassing Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh, would serve as a torchbearer for socio-economic growth of Eastern India.
- The objective of this hub would be to enable swift capacity addition and improve overall competitiveness of steel producers in terms of both cost and quality.
- In addition to increased steel capacity, this hub would also help enhance best-in- class value addition capabilities.
- The Integrated Steel Hub would focus on 3 key elements:
- Capacity addition through easing the setup of greenfield steel plants
- Development of steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centres
- Transformation of logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the East
- These elements would be supported through additional enablers such as ensured availability of raw materials, presence of supporting industries such as capital goods and well-established avenues for skill development.
- 12 major steel zones identified in the region are
    1. Kalinganagar - Odisha
    2. Angul – Odisha
    3. Rourkela – Odisha
    4. Jharsuguda – Odisha
    5. Nagarnar – Chhattisgarh
    6. Bhilai – Chhattisgarh
    7. Raipur – Chhattisgarh
    8. Jamshedpur – Jharkhand
    9. Bokaro – Jharkhand
    10. Durgapur- West Bengal
    11. Kolkata – West Bengal
    12. Vizag – Andhra Pradesh.
- These include major rail, road and port capacity expansion projects to debottleneck existing capacity and create world-class multimodal logistics infrastructure across these zones

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3.83 Swachh Iconic Places

- The 3rd Annual Review meeting on Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) was held today at Baidyanath Dham Deoghar, Jharkhand.
- The SIP is coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Thirty Swachh Iconic Places have been selected across the country in three phases, and are implementing their action plans for improving the sanitation facilities and overall cleanliness, focusing on enhancing visitor's experience and convenience.
- Under SIP some of the key activities undertaken to improve swachhata in the temple are as follows
    1. Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM),
    2. Beautification and Landscaping of premises and approach areas,
    3. Construction of sanitation,
    4. Safe drinking water facilities,
    5. Rooftop solar panels,
    6. Battery operated sweeping machines,
    7. Rejuvenation of water bodies,
    8. Ban on plastic use,
    9. Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs),
    10. Multi-level parking,
    11. Illuminated boards,
    12. Awareness campaigns

List of Swachh Iconic Places

Phase I Iconic sites	Phase II Iconic sites	Phase III Iconic sites
Ajmer Sharif Dargah	Gangotri	Sree Dharma Sastha Temple
CST Mumbai	Yamunotri	Mana Village, Uttarakhand
Golden Temple, Amritsar	Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain	Vidur Kuti Temple, Uttar Pradesh
Kamakhya Temple, Assam	Char Minar, Hyderabad	Shri Sarveshwar Mahadev Temple
Maikarnika Ghat, Varanasi	Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assissi, Goa	Shri Nag Vasuki Temple
Meenakshi Temple, Madurai	Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam	Kanvashram, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, J&K	Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola	Ema Keithel, Manipur
Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri	Baijnath Dham, Devghar	Hazarduari Palace, West Bengal
The Taj Mahal, Agra	Gaya Tirth in Bihar	Pangong Tso
Tirupati Temple, Tirumala	Somnath Temple in Gujarat	Sri Raghvendra Swamy Mutt Mantralayam

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Phase II of SBM

- Recently union government approved the Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen till 2024-25, which will focus on Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus), which includes ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).
- The program will also work towards ensuring that no one is left behind and everyone uses a toilet.
- Under the program, provision for incentive of Rs.12,000/- for construction of Individual Household Toilet (IHHL) to the newly emerging eligible households as per the existing norms will continue.
- The fund sharing pattern between Centre and States will be 90:10 for North-Eastern States and Himalayan States and UT of J&K; 60:40 for other States; and 100:0 for other Union Territories, for all the components.
- The SLWM component of ODF Plus will be monitored on the basis of output-outcome indicators for four key areas:
    1. Plastic waste management,
    2. Bio-degradable solid waste management (including animal waste management),
    3. Greywater management.
    4. Fecal sludge management

3.84 Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh

- Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs inaugurated All India Tribal Workers Meet organised by Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh (BAJSS).
- Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh works for the communities, primarily tribals and nomadic, semi-nomadic, and Vimukta Jati communities of India and weaker sections of the society.
- It promotes their social, cultural, educational, and economic development, and also to safeguard their Constitutional rights with a view to enable them to their legitimate share in the national life of the country as equal citizens.
- BAJSS is also maintaining a comprehensive national level Tribal Museum exhibiting tribal articles and tribal culture.

3.85 Unified Vehicle Registration Card

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had issued the guidelines to bring uniformity in driving licenses and vehicle registration cards across the country in 2019.
- These cards are being issued in compliance with these guidelines.
- The new cards will have more exhaustive information printed on both the sides of the cards.
- It will also bear a unique number recognized across the country.
- The unified smart cards for driving license and vehicle registration will each have a QR code that will help in verifying authenticity of the data printed on the cards.
- The unified driving license card will also have information about the ability of the driver to drive in hilly and dangerous areas and an emergency contact number.
- Recently Madhya Pradesh became first state to launch unified vehicle registration card and second state to launch the unified driving license after Uttar Pradesh.

3.86 SUTRA PIC

- Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation - Prime Products from Indigenous Cows (SUTRA PIC) is led by Department of Science and Technology.
- It is a programme to research on 'indigenous' cows, funded by multiple scientific ministries.
- It has the Department of Biotechnology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy) among others and the Indian Council of Medical Research as partners.

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- It has five themes such as
  1. Uniqueness of Indigenous Cows,
  2. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Medicine and Health,
  3. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Agricultural Applications,
  4. Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Food and Nutrition,
  5. Prime-products from indigenous cows-based utility items.

3.87 SATHI

- Department of Science and Technology has launched Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI).
- It is an Initiative for building shared, professionally managed strong S&T infrastructure.
- It will facilitate seamless application and capture IPRs.
- It can be readily accessible to academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs
- These Centers are expected to house major analytical instruments to provide common services of high-end analytical testing, thus avoiding duplication and reduced dependency on foreign sources.
- These would be operated with a transparent, open access policy.
- DST has already set up three such centres in the country, one each at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and BHU.

3.88 RAISE 2020

- Union government recently announced it will hold RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020' summit in New Delhi.
- The summit will be aimed at bringing together people to exchange ideas on the use of Artificial Intelligence for "social empowerment, inclusion and transformation" in industries such as education, smart mobility, agriculture, and healthcare among others.
- **Startup Pitch fest** – It is planned to host along the RAISE 2020 summit.
- During the summit, startups will have the opportunity to showcase their AI solutions aimed at the social transformation, inclusion and empowerment.
- Interested startups around the world can participate in the Pitch fest.
- The finalists will showcase their solutions at the summit and even get live feedback.

3.89 YUKTI 2.0

- The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It is to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions.
- It is an extension of 'YUKTI - Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Portal'.
- YUKTI which was launched to identify ideas relevant in COVID pandemic.
- The Ministry has invited students, faculty members, startups and other stakeholders of higher education institutions to register on the YUKTI portal and share their technologies and innovations.
- Database shared will be showcased to the investor community such as businessmen, farmers and industrialists i.e. students will be able to sell their ideas.
- However, *preliminary innovations won't be showcased* on YUKTI 2.0 but only those which have commercialization potential.

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3.90 VidyaDaan 2.0

- *Ministry of HRD* launched national program VidyaDaan 2.0 for inviting e-learning Content contributions.
- VidyaDaan is a common national programme to develop and contribute e-learning content and a chance to be recognized nationally.
- It is conceptualised as a common national program for individuals and organizations across the country to contribute e-learning resources for *both school and higher education* to ensure continuity of quality learning.
- The content will be used on the DIKSHA app to help millions of children across the country to continue their learning anytime and anywhere.
- The DIKSHA platform offers teachers, students and parents engaging learning material relevant to the prescribed school curriculum.

3.91 Urja Dakshata Information Tool

- Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT) is a first ever initiative taken by BEE with World Resources Institute (WRI), to facilitate a database on energy e-fficiency was launched.
- UDIT is a user-friendly platform that explains the energy efficiency landscape of India across industry, appliances, building, transport, municipal and agriculture sectors.
- UDIT will also showcase the capacity building and new initiatives taken up by the Government across the sectors in the increase energy efficiency domain.

3.92 NAMC

- Recently, Ministry of AYUSH has developed 'National Ayurveda Morbidity Codes (NAMC)' for the classification of diseases.
- It is a comprehensive classification of diseases described in Ayurveda as well as Standardized Ayurveda Terminologies.
- The codes are available on National AYUSH Morbidity and Standardized Terminologies Electronic Portal (NAMASTE Portal) developed by the ministry.
- It is aimed at standardardization of Ayurvedic diagnostic and treatment protocol.

3.93 ROPAX

- The Ministry of Shipping has launched a roll on-roll off cum passenger ferry service, called 'ROPAX', between Mumbai and Mandwa (Maharashtra).
- ROPAX service is a water transport service project under Eastern Waterfront Development.
- The road distance from Mumbai to Mandwa is about 110 kilometres, and it takes three to four hours, whereas by waterway the distance is about 18 kilometres and a journey of just an hour.
- ROPAX Vessel M2M -1 was built in Greece in September 2019. This Vessel has a speed of 14 knots and can carry 200 cars and 1000 passengers at a time.
- It is capable of operating even in a monsoon season.
- The benefits of this service include reduction in the travel time, vehicular emission and traffic on the road.

3.94 Eastern Waterfront Development

- The Eastern Waterfront is the Mumbai Port Trust's (MbPT's) plan to develop the port lands across Mumbai's eastern coast stretching from Sassoon Dock to Wadala.
- MbPT is an autonomous Body of the Government of India under the Ministry of Shipping.
- Some of the major proposals under the project include a 93- hectare park near Haji Bunder, around 17 hectares for tourism-related projects such as themed streets and affordable housing.

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- The project also has a focus on a water transport by making a provision for water taxis, international and domestic cruises and ro-pax (roll on/roll off passengers) services.

3.95 Lifeline UDAN flights

- Under Lifeline UDAN, 97 flights have been operated by Air India, Alliance Air, IAF, Pawan Hans and private carriers operated in a hub and spoke model.
- It carried COVID-19 related reagents, enzymes, medical equipment, testing kits, Personal protective equipment (PPE), masks, gloves, other materials of HLL and ICMR. Cargo requisitioned by State/UT Governments and also postal packets
- Cargo hubs have been established at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bangalore.
- Itconnect these hubs to locations like Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Agartala, Aizwal, Dimapur, Imphal, Coimbatore, Trivandrum, Bhubaneswar, Raipur, Ranchi, Port Blair and Goa.
- Special focus has been on the North East Region (NER), island territories and the hill states.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation, Air India and IAF have collaborated closely for last mile deliveries to Ladakh, Dimapur, Imphal, Guwahati and Port Blair.

3.96 SAMADHAN Challenge

Recently, a mega online challenge, SAMADHAN has been launched to test the ability of students to innovate.

- It is launched by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Human Resources Development and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- Under the challenge, the participating students will *search and develop measures against Coronavirus*.
- The challenge will inspire students and faculty for novel experiments and discoveries providing a strong baseline of experimentation.
- The newly developed measures can be made available to the government agencies, health services, hospitals and other services for the quick solution of such epidemics.
- The challenge will also create awareness among citizens and motivate them to face challenges, prevent crises and help them get livelihood.
- The success of this program depends on the effectiveness of the ideas of participating contestants with ability to find solutions, technically and commercially.

3.97 Green Zone State

- Union government announced the criteria for classifying districts into three zones depending on the level of outbreak in each district and relax restrictions.
- According to this states will be demarcated into three zones
    1. *Red Zones* - The districts which will have to be classified as red zones include the “highest case load districts contributing to more than 80 per cent of cases in India” or the “highest case load districts contributing to more than 80 per cent of cases for each state in India” or “districts with doubling rate less than 4 days (calculated every Monday for last 7 days, to be determined by the state government)”.
    2. *Orange Zone* - The areas with limited number of cases in the past and with no surge in positive cases recently would be included under the orange zone. Only restricted activities such as limited public transport and farm product harvesting is expected to be allowed in coronavirus
    3. *Green Zone* - Any district which has not reported a new case for 28 days will be classified as “Green Zones”.
- ***Goa*** recently became the ***first zero COVID-19 State*** in the country with the last seven positive cases also turning negative.
- This makes Goa the first green State in the country with no case of coronavirus being reported from April 3.

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3.98 Shramik Special Trains

- Indian Railways has launched Shramik Special trains to bring back home people stranded in different parts of the country due to lockdown.
- The passengers have to be screened by the sending states and only those found asymptomatic would be allowed to travel.
- Sending State Governments will have to bring these persons in batches that can be accommodated in the train to the designated Railway Station in sanitized buses.
- It will be mandatory for every passenger to wear face cover.

3.99 SAMARTH ERP

- It is an e-governance platform developed by *Ministry of HRD* under the National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (NMEICT).
- It is an open source, open standard enabled robust, secure, scalable, and evolutionary process automation engine for *Universities and Higher Educational Institutions*.
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) refers to a type of software used to manage day-to-day business activities such as accounting, procurement, project management, risk management and compliance, and supply chain operations.
- ERP in a University can improve management and administration.
- It has been implemented at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra, a participating unit under the *World Bank-supported Technical Education Quality Improvement Program (TEQIP).*

3.100 PM e-VIDYA

- *Union Finance Ministry* has announced several initiatives to boost Education Sector.
- A comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA will be launched which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education.
- This will enable multi-mode access to education, and includes:
  1. **DIKSHA (one nation-one digital platform)** - nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content in school education for all the states/UTs.
  2. **TV (one class-one channel)** where one dedicated channel per grade for each of the classes 1 to 12 will provide access to quality educational material.
  3. **SWAYAM** online courses in MOOCS format for school and higher education.
  4. **IITPAL** for IITJEE/NEET preparation.
  5. Air through Community radio and **CBSE Shiksha Vani podcast.**
  6. Study material for the *differently abled* developed on **Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY)** and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.
  7. **Manodarpan initiative** - It is being launched to provide *psychosocial support to students, teachers and families* for mental health and emotional wellbeing through a website, a toll-free helpline, national directory of counselors, interactive chat platform, etc.

3.101 Navigating the New Normal

- It is a *behavioural change campaign* developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, chaired by NITI Aayog CEO.
- The campaign focuses on Covid-safe behaviour, especially wearing masks, during the 'Unlock' phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The campaign has two parts - Web portal containing resources informed by behavioural science and the use of nudge and social norms theory and Media campaign focused on the wearing of masks.

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- The campaign and website were launched in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC) and the Ministries of Health and WCD.

3.102 Nasha Mukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan

- Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has released the 'NashaMukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)'.
- It is released on the occasion of 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'.
- It is a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Department.
- It has the following components - Awareness generation programmes, Focus on Higher Educational institutions, University Campuses and Schools, Community outreach and identification of dependent population, Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings andCapacity Building Programmes for Service Provider.
- As per the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 2012, different Departments/Ministries have been allocated different roles.
- While the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the Nodal agency for Drug Demand Reduction.
- The aspect of supply reduction is looked after by various enforcement agencies under Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance and State Governments and harm reduction by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- The UN General Assembly in 1987, decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- The theme for the 2020 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking "Better Knowledge for Better Care".

3.103 Accelerate Vigyan

- Recently, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), has launched a scheme called Accelerate Vigyan (AV) to strengthen scientific research mechanisms in the country.
- It aims to expand the research base, with three broad goals i.e.
    i. Consolidation/aggregation of all scientific programs,
    ii. Initiating high-end orientation workshops,
    iii. Creating opportunities for research internships.
- An Inter-Ministerial Overseeing Committee (IMOC) involving all the scientific ministries/departments has been constituted for the purpose of supporting SERB in implementing the AV scheme.
- **ABHYAAS Programme -** It is an attempt to boost research and development by enabling and grooming potential PG/PhD students by means of developing their research skills in selected areas across different disciplines or fields.
- It has two components - High-End Workshops i.e. **KARYASHALA** and Research Internships i.e. **VRITIKA.**
- **SAYONJIKA** is an open-ended program to catalogue the capacity building activities in science and technology supported by all government funding agencies in the country.
- **SANGOSHTI** is a pre-existing program of SERB for the organization of workshops.

3.104 Kisan Rail

Kisan Rail or India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train has been inaugurated recently.

- The train will transport material between *Maharashtra's Devlali and Bihar's Danapur Railway station*.
- It will carry fruits and vegetables and will make stoppages at several stations and pick-up and deliver them.
- This will help in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time.

- The Kisan Rail train with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.

3.105 Krishi Megh

- Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has launched the Krishi Megh.
- It is a step forward towards digital agriculture of New India.
- It aims to meet the services and infrastructure needs of Digital Agriculture of National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES).
- The existing Data Centre (ICAR-DC) built during 2012 shall be strengthened with cloud computing infrastructure.
- It would deploy mission critical applications such as e-Office, ICAR-ERP, Education Portal, KVK Portal and mobile apps, etc.
- **National Agricultural Research & Education System -** It is a Government of India-World Bank funded project, designed for strengthening the national agricultural education system in the country.
- The overall objective of the project is to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students that is in tune with the New Education Policy - 2020.

3.106 Bharat Air Fiber

- Bharat Air Fibre Services have been inaugurated in Maharashtra providing the residents wireless internet connections on demand.
- The Bharat Air Fibre services are being introduced by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as a part of the Digital India initiative by the Government of India. It is being scaled pan-India.
- It aims to provide BSNL fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) wireless connectivity up to a range of 20 km from the BSNL points of presence.
- The connectivity speed is 100 Mbps and BSNL is offering various broadband plans in wireline and wireless segments.
- It provides high-speed broadband to subscribers of remote areas by bridging the gap of last-mile connectivity through radio waves.

3.107 Satellite Town Ring Road

- Union Environment Ministry has recommended the grant of Environmental Clearance for the development of an economic corridor between *Tamil Nadu and Karnataka*.
- TN-KA Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), a Greenfield highway is part of BharatmalaPariyojana.
- It will be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India.
- The project will start in Dabaspet in Karnataka and end near Devarapalli village on the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border.

3.108 INDSAT Exam

- Union Ministry of HRD conducted the first ever Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020 under its 'Study in India' programme.
- It was announced in 2020-21 budget.
- Ind-SAT is an exam for grant of scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in select Indian universities.
- The scores will serve as a criterion to shortlist the meritorious students for undergraduate and post-graduate scholarships.
- EdCIL (India) Limited, a PSU under MHRD and the implementing agency of SII handled the registrations and other aspects of the examination.

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- Study in India is a programme of MHRD, foreign students come to study in 116 select higher education institutions in India for under graduate and post graduate programmes.

3.109 Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launches AI-based ASEEM digital platform to bridge demand-supply gap of skilled workforce across sectors.
- The portal and App will have provision for registration and data upload for workers across job roles, sectors and geographies.
- ASEEM will be used as a match-making engine to map skilled workers with the jobs available.
- The skilled workforce can register their profiles on the app and can search for employment opportunities in their neighborhood.
- ASEEM portal aims at supporting decision and policymaking via trends and analytics generated by the system for programmatic purposes.

3.110 SWADES Skill Card

- Union Government has launched a *skill-mapping exercise* of the citizens returning to the country under the Vande Bharat Mission.
- SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support), is the joint initiative by
  1. Ministries of skill development & entrepreneurship,
  2. Ministry of Civil Aviation
  3. Ministry of External Affairs
- It aims to create a database of qualified citizens so as to tap their skill sets and experience to fulfill the demands of Indian and foreign companies.
- The returning citizens are required to fill up an online SWADES Skills Card that will facilitate a strategic framework to provide them with suitable employment chances.

3.111 AIM iCREST

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched AIM iCREST.
- It is an *Incubator Capabilities enhancement program* for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Startups. (iCREST)
- Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators are set to be up-scaled and provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy.
- This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation at scale in India to encourage and enable holistic progress in the incubator ecosystem across the country,
- AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhwani Foundation for the program.

3.112 Zoram Food Park

- Recently, Ministry of food processing industries has operationalized the first Mega Food Park (MFP) of Mizoram.
- The Zoram Mega Food Park has been set up under the 'Mega Food Park Scheme'.
- It will boost the North-East Region's potential to become the organic destination of the world due to its rich agricultural and horticultural produce.
- A Mega food Park typically consists of supply chain infrastructure including Collection centers (CC), Primary processing centers (PPC), Central processing centers (CPC) and Cold chain
- The Scheme is based on the "Cluster" approach and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined Agri/horticultural zone and implemented by a special purpose vehicle (SPV).

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- The central government provides financial assistance up to Rs. 50 Crore per Mega Food Park (MFP) project.

3.113 Drinking Water Supply Quality Management System

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has prepared a draft standard for the supply system of piped drinking water.
- The draft is named as Drinking water supply quality management system requirements for piped drinking water supply service.
- The draft has been developed keeping in view the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission for providing safe and adequate drinking water to all rural households by 2024 through tap connections.
- **IS10500 -** It states that the drinking water after treatment should conform to the Indian Standard (IS) 10500 developed by the BIS.
- The IS 10500 outlines the acceptable limit of substances such as heavy metals, other parameters like the pH value of water, its turbidity, the total dissolved solids in it, and the color and odor.
- **District Metering Area -** It is a concept for controlling leakages in the water network in which flow meters are installed to detect leaks.
- **Water Sampling –**Water should be sampled at the treatment plant every 4 hours, at the water reservoirs for every 8 hours and random sampling at household levels.
- **Water Audit -** It is a calculation of the amount of water put into distribution against the amount that is consumed and it should be conducted on a quarterly basis.

3.114 Fish Cryobanks

- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has announced establishment of fish Cryobanks.
- The Cryomilt technology may be helpful in the establishment of fish cryobanks, which will provide good quality of fish sperm in hatcheries at any time.
- The proposed Fish Cryobanks will be established across the country at different phases.
- This would be the first time in the world when Fish Cryobanks will be established, enhancing fish production and increasing prosperity among the fish farmers.

3.115 STARS

- Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS) is a World Bank's initiative for India.
- The project aims to improve the quality and governance of school education in six States.
- States - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- It partners with Samagra Shiksha program to achieve the objective.
- It will focus directly on the delivery of education services at the State, district and sub-district levels by providing customised local-level solutions.
- It will also help improve learning assessment systems, strengthen classroom instruction and remediation, facilitate school-to-work transition, and strengthen governance and decentralised management
- It provides assistance of $500 million for the project.
- It will give special attention to students from vulnerable sections.

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