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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

TARGET 2025

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES - II

IMPORTANT SCHEMES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

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Out of 100 questions asked in UPSC Civil
Services (Preliminary) Examinations, 2024,
19 questions reflected directly and
19 questions reflected partially
from the Shankar IAS Parliament

Total number of questions directly reflected from IAS Parliament (including Target 2023 series)	19
Number of questions directly reflected from the Target Series 2023	14
Total number of questions partially reflected from IAS Parliament	19

INDEX

TARGET 2025
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES - II

Central Sector Schemes	Centrally Sponsored Scheme
• They are 100% funded by the Union government and implemented by the Central Government machinery. • Central sector schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List.	• In these schemes, a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States and the implementation is by the State Governments. • These are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage States to prioritize in areas that require more attention.

VOCABULARY

Words	Meaning	Words	Meaning	Words	Meaning
Yojana	Plan	Ujala	Light	Kalyan	Welfare
Vikas	Development	Sadak	Road	Khanij	Mineral
Shiksha	Education	Kendra	Centre	Hunar	Skill/Talent
Suraksha	Security	Mitra	Friend	Sugamya	Accessible
Swasthya	Health	Bal/Shishu	Child	Paryatan	Tourism
Krishi	Agriculture	Beti, Ladli	Girl Child	Antyodaya	Upliftment
Fasal	Harvest	Nari, Mahila	Woman	Sarvodaya	Development of all
Khet	Agricultural Field	Yuva	Youth	Awas, Manzil	Home/Dwelling
Kisan	Farmer	Paramparagat	Traditional	Dharohar	Historical Value
Jal	Water	Aushadhi	Drug/Medication	Avishkar	Invention/Research
Jan	People	Saksharta	Literacy	Protsahan	Boost/Promote
Bima	Insurance	Sahakar	Co-operation	Bijli	Power/Electricity
Kosh	Fund	Ekta	Unity	Matritva	Motherhood
Dhan	Wealth	Rojgar	Employment	Ayushman	Longlife
Dham	Abode	Udyami	Entrepreneur	Sagar	Ocean

1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

1.1   Namo Didi Drone Scheme

Recently, the government has approved the Namo Drone Didi scheme for the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

- **Namo Drone Didi** – It is a _central sector scheme_ aiming to empower women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by equipping them with drone technology to provide agricultural services.

- **Launch** – By Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in 2023

- **Umbrella scheme** – Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY – NRLM).

- **Aim** – To ***provide drones to selected Women SHGs*** for rental services to farmers for agriculture purposes like application of liquid fertilizers and pesticides.

- **Target** – To provide ***15,000 drones*** during the period 2024-25 to 2025-26 and during the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute drones _to 3090 SHGs in the 1st phase._

- **Budget** – _Rs. 1261 Crores_ from 2023-24 to 2025-26.

- **Implemented by**

   o   Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare (DA&FW).

   o   Department of Rural Development (DoRD).

   o   Department of Fertilizers (DoF).

- State level Committee is responsible for selection of appropriate clusters for drone usage, selection of the progressive women SHGs under DAY - NRLM in the States.

- **Key Features**

   o   Financial support and Accessibility

   o   Collaborative Effort

   o   Cluster-Based Implementation

   o   Specialized Training for Women SHG Members

   o   Infrastructure and Support from LFCs

- **Training**- It also includes _mandatory drone pilot training_ and additional _training for agriculture purpose_ for nutrient and pesticide application for one of the members of these women SHGs.

- Provisions are also made to train other member/ family member of the SHGs as drone assistant.

Benefits of **Namo Drone Didi Scheme**
1. Empowerment of Women
2. Enhancement of Agricultural Efficiency
3. Skill Development and Knowledge Expansion
4. Community and Networking Opportunities

Key Features of Namo Didi Drone Scheme:
- Subsidy to Women's Day SHGs for purchase of drone
- 80% of drone cost as subsidy up to 8 lakhs
- Loan facility from the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for the remaining cost of the drone
- Chance to earn an additional 1 lakh per annum through drone
- Easy loan @ 3% interest rate
- Drone Pilot training is a part of the Drone Package

- **Significance** – It is expected to generate an _additional income of at least Rs. 1 lakh per year_ for each SHG, contributing to economic empowerment and sustainable livelihood generation.
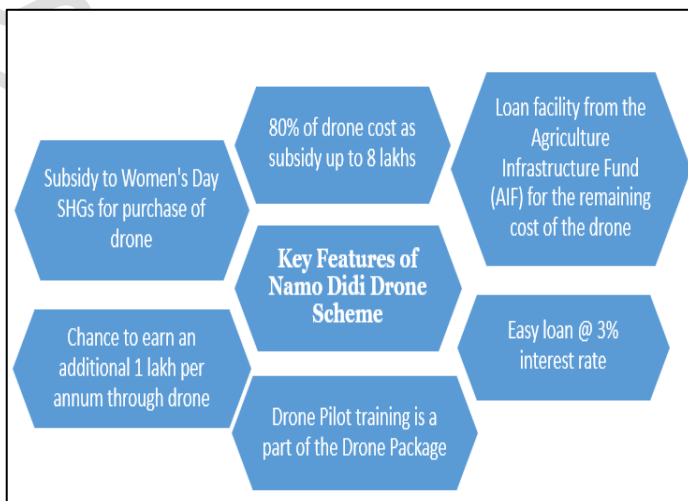
2. MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

2.1   Matsya Seva Kendras (MSKs)

The need for strengthening last-mile fisheries and aquaculture extension services is highlighted recently by the Government of India.

- It is a _fisheries extension and support services_.

- **Launched in** – _2020._

- **Aim** – To provide a _one-stop solution for fishers and fish farmers_ through a range of extension services provided by trained aquaculture professionals.

- **Umbrella Scheme** – Pradhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY).

- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

- **Government assistance** – Upto 60% covers women and weaker sections.

- **Fund dispersal** – Funds have been provided _to State governments and Union Territories_ for operationalising _102 such Kendras_.

- **Functions** – It establishes lab for _water, soil, and microbial analysis_ to conduct request-based disease tests.

- It focuses on _capacity building_ for fishers/fish farmers on varied seed/feed inputs backed with the required technology infusion.

India's Fisheries Sector
- **National Fish Production** – It has witnessed an 83% since 2013-14, that stands at a record 175 lakh tons in 2022-23. - With 75% of this coming from inland fisheries. - India is the _2nd largest fish and aquaculture producer_ globally.

- **Future proposals** – Government advises MSKs to mobilise start-ups, cooperatives, fish farmers' producer organisations, joint liability groups, and self-help groups to share best practices.

Other initiatives of Fisheries Extension Services

- **Sagar Mitras** – They are deployed in coastal States and U.T.s as a vital _interface between the government and sea-borne fishers_.

- **National Fisheries Digital Paltform** – It is a platform _to formalize the fisheries sector_.

- **AquaBazaar** – It is a _nationwide virtual learning platform_, initiated by National Fisheries Development Board.

- It enables experts to clarify basic concepts and provide practical demonstrations to fishers on breeding/seed production of commercially important fish.

Compile Information on	Disemminate Information on
- Daily marine catch - Price fluctuations - Marketing needs at fish landing centres/harbours	- Local regulations - Weather forecasts - Natural calamities - Hygienic fish handling - Potential fishing zones in the seas.

2.2 New Blue Revolution Initiatives

The Union Minister for the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying recently discussed the government initiatives on the New Blue Revolution in the Lok Sabha session.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- **Launched-** September 2020.

- **Duration-** FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

- **Aim-** It aims to bring about the Blue Revolution through _sustainable and responsible development_ of the fisheries sector in India.

- **Objective-** The scheme targets activities that have the potential to _create employment opportunities_, including seaweed and ornamental fish cultivation.

- It also emphasizes advancements in breeding techniques to ensure high-quality brood, seed, and feed, as well as the diversification of species.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

- Objectives- To create and modernize capture & culture fisheries infrastructure
- To create of Marine Aquaculture Infrastructure
- To create and modernization of Inland Fisheries Infrastructure
- To reduce post-harvest losses and improve domestic marketing facilities through infrastructure support
- To bridge the resource gap and facilitate completion of ongoing infrastructure projects
- Support- Concessional finance and interest subvention up to 3% per annum for a repayment period of 12 years.
- It creates employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakhs fishers'/fishermen/ fisher folks and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.

3. MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

3.1   Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers recently released a report on Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development in the Northeast Region.

- The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is an extended component of ***Soil Health Management (SHM)*** under the ***National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).***
- **Launched in-** 2015.
- **Scheme type –** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- **Aim –** It aims at supporting and ***promoting organic farming***, in turn resulting in the improvement of soil health.
- To reduce the cost of agriculture to farmers through sustainable integrated organic farming systems thereby enhancing farmer's net income per unit of land.
- To protect the environment from hazardous inorganic chemicals by adopting eco-friendly low-cost traditional techniques and farmer-friendly technologies
- **Objective –** To produce agricultural products free from ***chemicals and pesticide*** residues by adopting eco-friendly, low-cost technologies.
- **Funding pattern –** Under the scheme in the ratio of ***60:40*** by the Central and State Governments respectively.
- In the case of North Eastern and Himalayan States, Central Assistance is provided in the ratio of 90:10 (Centre: State) and for Union Territories, the assistance is 100%.
- **Target –** The Scheme targets to form 10,000 clusters of 20 ha each and bring nearly two lakh hectares of agricultural area under organic farming by 2017-18.
- **Exclusions –** All farmers with less than 2 ha of land are eligible for applying to the scheme.
- **Participatory Guarantee System –** The scheme supports Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India) for organic certification, which relies on mutual trust and local relevance, involving both producers and consumers.
- PGS-India operates independently of Third-Party Certification.

4. MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

4.1   Recent changes in UDAN scheme

The union government has launched Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme version 5.4 of scheme.

- UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) is a _regional airport development_ scheme launched in April 2017.

- **Aim -** To make air travel affordable and widespread, particularly in remote and underserved regions of the country.

> *India is the world's third-largest market in aviation sector.*

- **Nodal Ministry-** Union Minister for Civil Aviation.

- The scheme is part of the broader _National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)_ and focuses on enhancing air connectivity to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

- **Objective -** To connect small and medium cities with big cities through air service.

- **Funding -** Under the UDAN scheme, the airfare for a one-hour journey by a 'fixed wing aircraft' or half an hour's journey by a helicopter for about 500 km, has been fixed at Rs.2500/-.

- The government compensates in the form of _Viability Gap Funding (VGF)_ to airlines for losses due to low fares.

4.2   UDAN 5.4

- The government will look to operationalize 12 additional airports under UDAN.

- This includes new airports in 8 states and Union Territories, covering diverse locations from Shibpur in Car Nicobar to Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh.

- **Relaxed norms of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** – There will be no need for a wardrobe license, and compliance requirements have also been reduced.

- Water dromes are for landing and take-off of seaplanes.

- The extension of the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under the RCS to seaplane operations would provide the initial fillip to the Operators.

- **Seaplanes -** They are amphibian aircraft that can take off and land on the sea.

- **Regulatory framework for seaplane operations** – It was established in 2008, is now completed.

- Seaplanes imported for non-scheduled operator permit (NSOP) operations incur duty of less than 5%.

5.   MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

5.1   Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)

Recently, the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has signed an agreement with NICDC Logistics Data Services Ltd. (NLDS) to integrate its APIs with Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).

- **ULIP** – It is a _digital gateway_ that allows industry players **_to access logistics-related datasets_** from various government systems through API-based integration.

- **Launched** – By Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2022.

> _PM Gati Shakti_ is the National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, launched in 2021 to transform India's infrastructure and connectivity.

- **Objectives** – To create a **_nationwide single window logistics platform_** for end-to-end visibility.

- To develop a logistics gateway by integrating information available with various Government agencies across the value chain.

> _National Logistics Policy_ was launched in 2022 to lower the cost of logistics from the existing 13-14% and lead it to par with other developed countries.

- To provide visibility for optimal usage of various modes of transportation.

- To provide data which can be utilized by the stakeholders for simplification of complicated processes like compliance, document filing, certifications, and approvals.

- To offer a *platform for data exchange* among government and private entities who are directly or indirectly involved in the Indian Logistics eco-system.

  o Currently, the platform integrates with 41 systems from 11 ministries via **_125 APIs_**, covering over 1800 data fields.

- **3 key components**

  o Integration with existing data sources of ministries

  o Data exchange with private players

  o Unified document reference in the supply chain

- **Significance** – It is a *part of the 'National Logistics Policy* (NLP).

Benefits to Stakeholders

Shipper	• Real Time Inventory Management • Real-time cargo movement monitoring • Identification of cheaper logistics modes
Service Providers	• Stakeholder Documentation • End-Customer Services • Organized Information
Transporters	• Demand Identification • Transparency & Visibility
Government Authorities	• Planning Tool • Effective & Transparent • Easy Of Doing Business • Optimized Utilization

- It is in line *with the vision of 'PM Gati shakti'*.

- It is a significant step towards enhancing transparency, operational efficiency, and innovation in India's logistics sector.
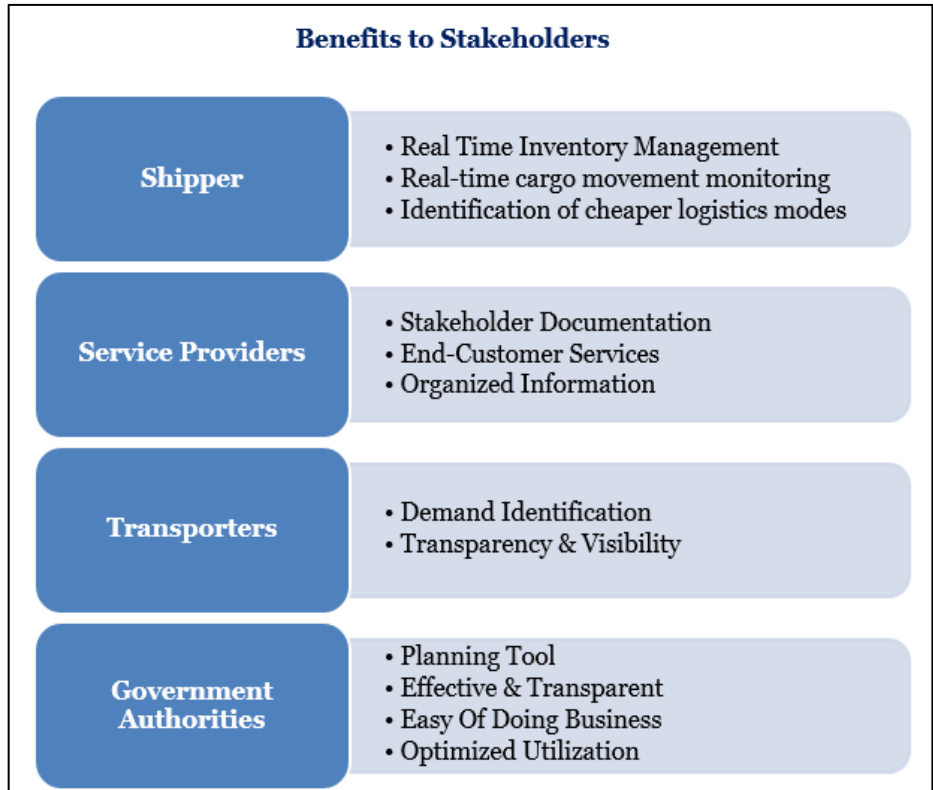
5.2   Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG)

According to a recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Commerce Ministry needs to properly monitor the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme.

- **EPCG Scheme** – It **_allows the import of capital goods_** for pre-production, production and post-production **_at zero customs duty_**.

- It is *one of the earliest export promotion schemes* that is presently in operation.

- **Established in** – 1992.

- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- **Administered by** – Regional Licensing Authorities (RLAs) under the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

- **Governed by** – Foreign Trade Policy (FTP).

- **Objective** – To *facilitate the import of capital goods* to produce quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme

Importing Machinery to our Country → Duty-Free Capital Goods Under EPCG Scheme → Exporting Products from our Country

- **Imported capital goods**

  o Computer systems and software are part of Capital Goods,

  o Spares, moulds, dies, jigs, fixtures, tools & refractories

  o Catalysts for initial charge plus one subsequent charge

- **EPCG License** – It is granted to exporters to import capital goods at a concessional rate of customs duty.

- The licensees have to *fulfil 2 types of Export Obligation (EO),* which are:
    - Average export obligation for preceding 3 years exports.
    - Specific exports 6 times the duty saved amount in 6 years.
- **Coverage** – It covers the following:
    - Manufacturer exporters with or without supporting manufacturer(s),
    - Merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturer(s) and
    - Service providers, including Common Service Provider (CSP).
- **Pre-Requisite** – An ***Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) is required*** to be eligible under the scheme.
- **Exemption** - Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and Compensation cess on the import of capital goods are exempted until 31 March 2020.

5.3 SWAYATT Initiative on GeM

SWAYATT Initiative on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is celebrating its 6th anniversary in public procurement.

- **SWAYATT –** Startups, Women & Youth Advantage through eTransactions.
- **Launched in** – 2019, by *Ministry of Commerce and Industry*.
- **Objectives** – To *establish direct market linkages* to annual public procurement for startups, women entrepreneurs, Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and youth, especially those from backward sections of the society.

> *Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform launched in 2016, for the procurement of goods and services by the government. It addresses the challenges of "access to market", "access to finance" and "access to value-addition" through proper e-market linkages in public procurement.*

- To enhance ease of doing business.
- **Focus**
    - Facilitating the training and on boarding of last-mile sellers
    - Developing women entrepreneurship
    - Encouraging participation and small-scale businesses in government procurement.

> *GeM signed a MoU with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO), representing over 9,500 women entrepreneurs, on February 19, 2025.*

- **Activities** – It comprises *"Startup Runway" and "Womaniya" storefronts* for dedicated listings, ensuring wider visibility of startups, women entrepreneurs and youth.
- **Progress** – Women entrepreneurs comprise 8% of the total seller base on GeM, with cumulative 1,77,786 Udyam-verified women micro, and small enterprises (MSE) registered on the GeM portal.
- **Future target** – GeM *aims to on-board 1 lakh DPIIT-registered start-ups*, doubling women entrepreneurs and raising their procurement share from 3.78%.

6. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

6.1 Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)

PM-WANI framework is making significant strides in enhancing internet accessibility across India, with over 18.19 lakh unique users and 58.55 petabytes (PB) of data consumed.

- **Aim –** To accelerate the proliferation of internet services by setting up public Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Under the PM-WANI framework, Public Data Offices (PDOs) establish, operate, and maintain WANI-compliant WI-Fi Hotspots.
- It is based on their techno-commercial considerations and deliver internet services to subscribers.

- PDOs need to partner with a ***Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)*** to deliver internet services.

- **Launched by -** *Department of Telecommunication* in December 2020.

- The scheme *encourages local shops and establishments to provide Wi-Fi for last-mile internet delivery* which does not require a license or charge a registration fee.

- **Accessibility –** To access public hotspots under PM-WANI scheme one needs to download a relevant App that shows the available networks.

- The user can then choose from a list of available connections and make a payment to use the network.

- The user can access the network till his/her balance is exhausted.

- PM-WANI ecosystem consists of 4 parts:
    o Public Data Office (PDO)
    o Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)
    o App Provider
    o Central Registry

- The central registry overseen by the Centre for Development of Telematics maintains details of App Providers, PDOs and PDOAs.

- **Benefits –** WANI Wi-Fi architecture can lead to enhanced internet penetration which could lead to an increase in gross domestic product.

- It can scale up internet access in rural areas, thereby narrowing the digital divide.

- Can generate jobs in small- and medium-scale sectors.

- Could provide affordable internet access to the mass underserved section of society and help boost digital India.

7. MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

7.1 Right to Repair Portal

The Union government recently collaborates with automobile associations and partner companies to onboard them onto the Right to Repair Portal in India.

- **About-** The Right to Repair Portal India aims to empower consumers by
    o Providing easy access to repair information,
    o Promoting reuse,
    o Contributing to the circular economy, and
    o Reducing e-waste efficiently.
- **Nodal office-** Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

SECTORS COVERED FOR RIGHT TO REPAIR

Farming Equipment | Mobiles / Electronics Displays data storage components | Consumer Durables | Automobiles Equipments

- **Aim-** To uphold ***consumer rights*** and respond to evolving concerns regarding ***hassle free product repairs***.

- Under this framework, it would be mandatory for manufacturers to share their product details with customers so that they can either repair them by self or by third parties, rather than only depending on original manufacturers.

7.2   E-Daakhil Portal

Recently, the Centre launched an E-Daakhil portal across all states and the union territories of India.

- **Aim -** It is an innovative online platform ***to streamline the consumer grievance redressal process***.

- **Launched on** – *7th September 2020.*

- **Launched by** – National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NSDRC).

- Its operational now in every state and UTs making a truly ***Pan-India Initiative***.

- **Ministry -** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

- **Features –** It offers an intuitive and easy-to-navigate interface, allowing consumers to file complaints with minimal effort.

- It allows consumers to file complaints, track their cases' progress, and make payments.

- Its nature ensures a paperless and transparent system for the entire grievance redressal process.

- **Eligibility** – Any consumer or advocate can sign up on the e-Daakhil platform with the required authentication.

- **Benefits –** It is an inexpensive, speedy and hassle-free mechanism for filing consumer complaints.

> *e-jagriti is a new initiative designed to automate consumer cases' filing, tracking, and management.*

- It is an efficient and convenient way for consumers to approach the relevant consumer forum without their physical presence.

- It is accessible to consumers across all regions, from metropolitan cities to remote areas.

- It empowers consumers and enhances the efficiency of the consumer grievance redressal system.

- It is a game-changer in promoting consumer rights and ensuring timely justice.

National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NSDRC)

- It is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988.

- **Under -** Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

- **Head Quarters -** New Delhi.

- **Headed by -** Sitting or a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a sitting or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court.

- **Section 21 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986**

  o   It posits that the National Commission shall have jurisdiction to entertain a complaint valued more than 2 crore and

  o   It also has Appellate and Revisional jurisdiction from the orders of State Commissions or the District as the case may be.

- **Section 23 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986**

  o   It provides that any person aggrieved by an order of NCDRC, may prefer an Appeal against such order to Supreme Court of India within a period of 30 days.

- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019 –** It is the *first and only act* enabled ordinary consumers to secure less expensive and often speedy redressal for their grievance.

8.   MINISTRY OF CULTURE

8.1   National Culture Fund

The Union Minister for Culture recently discussed the National Culture Fund's functioning in the Lok Sabha session.

- The National Culture Fund (NCF) is a trust that facilitates donor institutions in supporting the ***protection, restoration, conservation, and development*** of India's tangible and intangible cultural heritage in partnership with the government.

- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Culture.

- **Establishment-** As a Trust under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 in 1996.

- **Objectives**- Manage and utilize the Fund for the conservation, maintenance, promotion, protection, preservation, and enhancement of monuments.

- Provide training and support the development of specialists and cultural administrators.

- Expand existing museums and build new ones to ***create or accommodate special galleries.***

- Document cultural expressions and forms that are becoming obsolete or facing extinction.

- **Composition-** The NCF is managed by a Governing Council chaired by the Minister of Culture, with up to ***25 members*** to set policies.

- An Executive Committee led by the Secretary of Culture, with up to 11 members, executes these policies.

- **Role of NCF –** NCF partners with Corporations, NGOs, etc., to implement heritage preservation projects, allowing donors to specify project details, locations, and implementing agencies.

- To prevent delays in PPP projects, the Project Implementation Committee, led by the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India or Ministry of Culture officials, regularly monitors progress.

- NCF accepts donations from ***Corporations, PSUs, Trusts and Individuals*** for maintaining and preserving centrally protected monuments and cultural projects.

- Donors must comply with the terms and conditions of the MoU for each project.

8.2   Museum Grant Scheme

Recently, the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism in Lok Sabha mentioned about the top 10 states receiving maximum amount of grants under Museum Grant Scheme during the last 5 years.

- It is a *financial assistance scheme* for development and management of museums in India.

- **Launched in** – ***2013***, by the Ministry of Culture.

- **Objectives** – To *set up new Museums* at the regional, state and district level.

- To *strengthen & modernize* the existing museums.

- To *digitize art objects* in the museums across the country for making their images/catalogues available over the website and,

- To improve capacity building of Museum professionals.

- **Scope** – It provides financial assistance under different categories.

- **Coverage** – It covers Museums managed by
  - Central Government
  - State Governments
  - Societies

Scope under Museum Grant Scheme

- Museums having collections of Antiquities, Numismatics, Paintings, Ethnological collections, Folk art and others including Art & Crafts, Textiles, Stamps etc.

- Online Virtual Museums displaying objects in any or all of the above disciplines.

- Theme based Museums.

- Virtual Experiential Museums (VEM).

- Projects of National Importance.

- o Autonomous bodies
- o Public Sector Undertakings
- o Local Bodies
- o Trusts
- **3 components for funding**
  - o Development and Establishment of Museums at the regional, state and District level
  - o Digitization of Museum Collections
  - o Capacity building and training of Museum Professionals
- **Monitoring** - The museums granted financial assistance under the scheme would be required to send *yearly footfall in the museums for 5 years* after the completion of the project.

> *Museums* are a repository of a nation's culture as they connect the past with the present and the future. They conserve artefacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance and makes them available for public viewing through exhibits.

8.3   Project PARI (Public Art of India)

Recently, the Ministry of Culture launched Project PARI at the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Delhi.

- **Aim** - It seeks to bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of artistic heritage (lok kala/lok sanskriti) while incorporating modern themes and techniques.

- **Nodal Ministry** – *Ministry of Culture*.

- **Executed by –** The *Lalit Kala Akademi* and the *National Gallery of Modern Art*.

- The first intervention under Project PARI is taking place in *Delhi*.

- The project aims to provide a platform to uplift the aesthetic and cultural outlook of Delhi while adding grandeur to the rich historical legacy of our national capital.

- The artworks and sculptures draw inspiration from World Heritage Sites such as Bhimbetka and the 7 natural World Heritage Sites in India find a special place in the proposed artworks.

- Traditional art forms as well as sculptures, murals, and installations have been created under this beautification project.

- More than *150 visual artists* from all over the country have come together to create the various wall paintings, murals, sculptures, and installations being prepared under this project.

- Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testimony of Bharat's NARI SHAKTI.

World Heritage Committee (WHC)
• The WHC decides on inscription of new sites into the _**UNESCO World Heritage List**_.
• India will be hosting the meeting for the _**first time**_ in July, 2024.
• The number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India grew to _**42**_ with the '_**Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala**_' added recently.
• These sites include 34 in the cultural category, seven in the natural category and one mixed property.
• Currently, India has the _**6th largest number of (UNESCO) sites in the world**_.
• The countries that have 42 or more world heritage sites are _**Italy, Spain, Germany, China and France**_.

9.   MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

9.1   Srijan portal

Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has notified the 5th Positive Indigenization List on the Srijan Portal.

- It is a _non-transactional online portal for promoting indigenization in defence production_.
- **Aim -** It aims to partner the private sector in indigenization efforts of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), and the Armed forces.
- **Ministry -** Ministry of Defence.
- **Launched in -** 2020.
- DPSUs/OFB/SHQs can display the items on this portal, which they have imported or going to import, each item having a sizeable importable value.
- The Indian Industry will show their interests in those items for which they can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through a joint venture with OEMs.
- The concerned DPSUs/OFB/SHQs, based on their requirement of the items and their guidelines & procedures will interact with the Indian industry for indigenization.

10.   MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

10.1   DigiLocker

The 10th and 12th standard students from the CISCE board as well as 10th standard students from the State Board of Tamil Nadu can get their 2024 results from Digi Locker.

- It was launched _**in 2015**_, operates as an app to store users' digital records in a public cloud.

- **Launched by** – Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).

- **Umbrella programme** – Digital India programme.

As of early May 20254, the app has over 270 million registered users, while nearly 6.7 billion documents like Aadhaar, PAN records, and driving licenses have been retrieved through it.

- **Aim** – To _digitally empower the citizen_ by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet.

- **Authenticity** – They are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016.

- It helps in keeping at bay fake, poor quality print copies, and outdated documents that miss key details.

- **Better mobility** – It eliminates the need to carry separate sets of documents while they are on the move as it can be fetched or stored in a local device.

- **Ensures safety and security** – 2048 Bit RSA SSL encryption, multi-factor authentication (OTP verification), consent systems, timed log outs, and security audits.

- **Protects privacy** – As per the Google Play Store's data, no Digi Locker data is shared with 3rd parties and is encrypted in transit.

- **Challenges** – Restricted to people using smartphones and digitally literate people.

- The app needs the *submitted details to match the issuer's data* exactly making it difficult to fetch documents for those with multiple names, aliases, inconsistent spellings.

- Even subtle changes like capitalised letters and initials can lead to failure.

- There is *no uniformity* in how different government authorities and law enforcement bodies in India review official documents as still many insist on being shown he original hard copies.
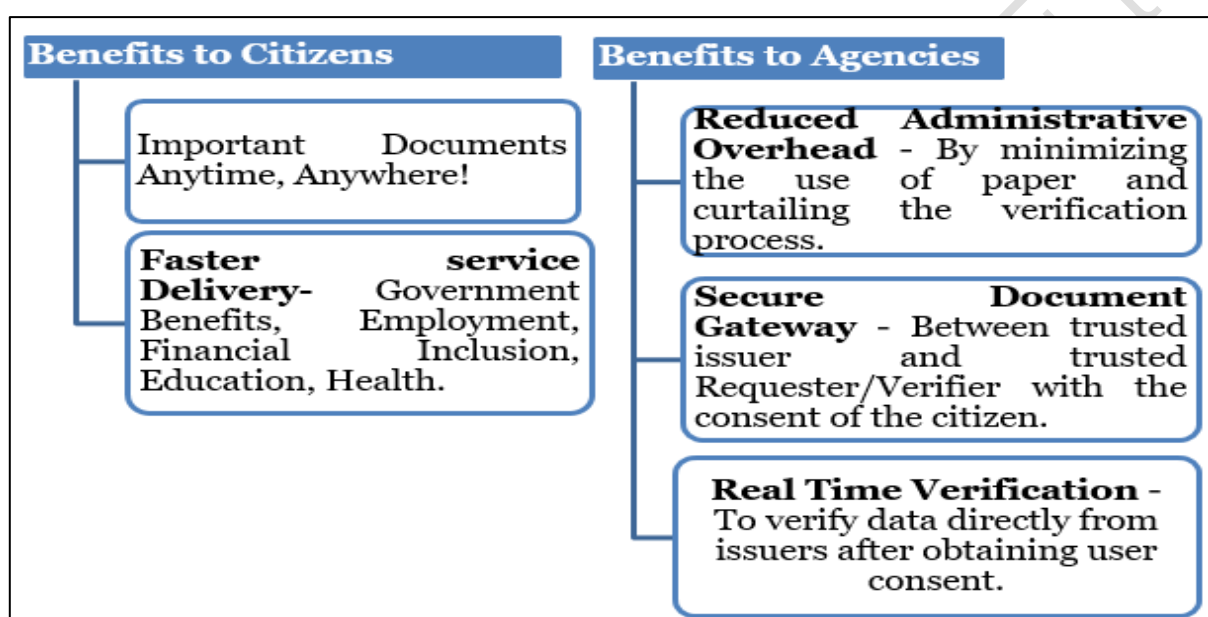
10.2 SAMRIDH Scheme

The 2nd Cohort of SAMRIDH Scheme was launched recently.

- **SAMRIDH -** Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth.

- It is a flagship programme for startups acceleration under National Policy on Software Products - 2019.

- **Launched in –** August 2021.

- **Aim –** To support 300 tech Start-Ups in *3-year duration* with cohort size of *5-10 Start-Ups*.

- **Implemented by -** MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH), Digital India Corporation (DIC).

- **Funding -** One-to-one matching funding support of *up to Rs.40 lakh*.

- **Eligibility -** Have been in the business of incubation for more than 3 years and supported more than 50 start-ups of which at least 10 have received non-public investment.

- **Accelerators -** Registered as section 8 company under companies act 2013/societies registered under Societies Registration Act (Not-for-profit).

- The Accelerator should have an experience of running startup program cohorts with activities.

Startup accelerators	Incubators
These programs are *for startups that are already running* and are looking to scale quickly.	These organizations *help entrepreneurs develop their business ideas* and bring them to market.

They offer mentorship, capital, and connections to investors and business partners.	They focus on building the foundational elements of a startup, such as market research, product development, and business model validation.
Accelerators *typically last 1 to 6 months* and are cohort-based, with a public pitch event or demo day at the end.	Incubators can provide support *for a longer period* of time, and don't have a specific duration attached to the transformation.

SALIENT Features

The SAMRIDH Scheme provides start-ups which already have brilliant solutions and proof of concept for their product, better facilities to enhance their product using innovative technologies for the market with a solid business plan.

The SAMRIDH scheme supports existing and upcoming Accelerators to select and accelerate potential IT based start-ups to scale for solving India's problems creating positive social impact.

The SAMRIDH Scheme provides start-ups with a platform to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.

Once a Start-up gains traction, there is a gap in accessing the growth stage funding to scale up the operations, and SAMRIDH Scheme is filling up this gap for the start-ups.

11.   MINISTRY OF FINANCE

11.1   Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

A report recently released shows that the ECLG scheme extended liquidity support of over ₹3.68-lakh crore to 1.19 crore businesses in just a 3-year tenure between May 2020 and March 2023.

- **Aim** - It was aimed to support businesses and individuals affected by the ___COVID-19 pandemic___.

- **Launch** - 2020.

- **Ministry** - It is under the operational domain of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services (DFS).

- The scheme aims to provide emergency funding to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic.

- It is a ___part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan___.

- **Objective** - The scheme is designed to ease the financial burden by providing an additional source of funding with minimal interest rates and extended repayment terms.

- **Funding** - The overall ceiling initially announced for ECLGS was Rs 3 lakh crore which was subsequently enhanced to Rs ___4.5 lakh crore___.

- However, ECLGS being a ___demand-driven scheme___, sanctions are made by lending institutions based on assessment of borrower's requirement and their eligibility.

- **Guarantee -** The scheme provides a 100% guarantee on the credit facilities extended by banks and financial institutions.

- **Interest rates** - The government has capped the interest rate under ECLGS scheme at

    o ***9.25% for Banks*** and Financial Institutions and

    o ***14% for Non-Banking Financial Institutions***.

- This scheme also offers a ***one-year moratorium*** on payment of principle component.

- **Implementation** – The scheme is administered through public sector banks, private sector banks, and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

12. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

12.1 Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP)

The government recently released a report that 1,862 disease outbreaks were reported to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, with Kerala reporting the highest number last year.

- **IDSP** – The Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a decentralized, state-based program in India that aims to detect and respond to disease outbreaks early.

- It is now part of the ***National Health Mission.***

- **Launch** – It was launched in ***2004*** with assistance from the ***World Bank***.

- **Ministry -** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- **Mandate** – It is mandated with surveillance and response to outbreak prone communicable diseases.

- **Functions:**

    o **Early warning –** Detect early warning signs of disease outbreaks so that effective responses can be initiated quickly.

    o **Data collection –** Provide data to monitor the progress of disease control programs and allocate health resources more effectively.

    o **Information sharing –** Facilitate the sharing of relevant information with health administration, communities, and other stakeholders.

    o **Disease trends –** Detect disease trends over time and evaluate control strategies.

    o **Training –** Train health and social workers to help implement the program.

- **Surveillance units –** The IDSP has established:

    o Central Surveillance Units (CSUs) in Delhi,

    o State Surveillance Units (SSUs) in state and union territory headquarters and

    o District Surveillance Units (DSUs) in all districts.

- It has also established a referral lab network in 9 states that links medical college labs and other major centers with adjoining districts to provide diagnostic services for epidemic-prone diseases.

- **Data Management** – Under IDSP data is collected on epidemic-prone diseases on weekly basis (Monday–Sunday).

- The information is collected on 3 specified reporting formats, namely

    o "S" (suspected cases),

    o "P" (presumptive cases) and

    o "L" (laboratory confirmed cases).

- It is filled by Health Workers, Clinicians and Laboratory staff respectively.

- The weekly data gives information on the disease trends and seasonality of diseases.

- **IDSP Portal –** It is a one stop portal which has facilities for data entry, view reports, outbreak reporting, data analysis, training modules and resources related to disease surveillance.

- About 90% of Districts are now reporting disease surveillance data in the portal.

12.2 Extended Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

The extended Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has been recently launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).

- **Launch year**- 2016

- **Nodal agency** – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

- **Objectives**- To *improving the quality and coverage of Antenatal Care (ANC)* including diagnostics and counselling services as part of the *Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) Strategy*.

- To provide free, comprehensive *antenatal care on the 9th of every month* to *all pregnant women* in their *2nd/3rd trimesters* at designated public health facilities by medical officers.

- **Beneficiaries** - Special focus on adolescent and early pregnancies.
- **Activities covered** - *Diagnosing services* for conditions like anaemia, gestational diabetes, and hypertension.
- Providing *nutritional supplements* at health centres.
- *Appropriate birth planning* and complication readiness.
- Identification and *line-listing of high risk pregnancies* based on medical history.

> *PMSMA's 'I Pledge For 9'Achievers Awards 'was initiated to recognize the contribution of private sector doctors who volunteered for the PMSMA scheme.*

- **Recent changes** – The list of high-risk pregnancy categories is *expanded from 10 to 25*.
- **High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) categories**- HIV, syphilis, severe anemia, pregnancy-induced hypertension, gestational diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism, tuberculosis, malaria, previous LSCS, cephalo-pelvic disproportion, bad obstetric history, twins/multiple pregnancy, hepatitis B, abnormal fetal heart rate, teenage pregnancy, high fever, RTI/STI, history of stillbirth, congenital malformation, negative blood group, early primi, elderly primi, grand multipara, and short stature.

12.3 Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently said that it doubles the direct benefit transfer from Rs.500 to Rs.1,000 per month in the NPY for the entire duration of treatment, and initiating the disbursement of Rs. 3,000.

- **Launched in** – 2018.

- It is a scheme that provides ***financial support*** to tuberculosis (TB) patients under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP).

- **Eligibility –** All TB patients who are registered or notified on the ***NIKSHAY portal on or after April 1, 2018*** are eligible.

- **Benefits** – Patients receive a monthly incentive of ***INR 500*** for anti-TB treatment till the completion of treatment.

> ***Nikshay*** *is a web-based patient management system for tuberculosis (TB) control in India.*

- The first benefit of INR 1500 to be given upon diagnosis of a person with TB on Ni-kshay.

- Second benefit of Rs 1500 will be generated upon completion of 84 days (3 treatment months) from the date of treatment initiation followed by subsequent generation of benefit at Rs 500 for every month of the treatment extension period.

- All patients who are receiving treatment from ***both public and private sectors*** are eligible to receive the benefit.

- **Payment method –** It is paid in cash and deposited into the patient's Aadhaar-enabled bank account.

- For paediatric patients, the money is deposited into the account of the patient's parent or guardian. In some states, the incentive is provided in-kind, such as food baskets.

- **Follow-up –** To ensure treatment adherence, patients must undergo a follow-up examination after the first instalment.

- If the patient dies, the person/valid relative is eligible to receive the amount.

- It is implemented across ***all States and UTs*** in India.

13. MINISTRY OF AYUSH

13.1 Scheme for Promotion of International Cooperation for AYUSH

The Ministry of AYUSH recently has rolled out several initiatives to foster the growth of Ayurveda products.

- It is a *Central Sector Scheme* for promotion of International Cooperation (IC Scheme) with the mandate to promote and strengthen awareness about Ayush Systems of Medicine.

> *At present 260 students from following 32 countries are taking Ayush education in different institutes under **Ayush Fellowship Scheme**.*

- **Objectives** – To facilitate international promotion, development and *recognition of AYUSH* (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy).

- To *foster interaction* of stakeholders and market development at international level.

- To *support international exchange* of experts and information.

- To give *boost to Ayush products*/ services / education/ research/ training globally.

- To promote *academics and research* through establishment of Ayush Academic Chairs in foreign countries

AYUSH chairs

- **Aim** – To advance academic exchange, research, and public awareness of AYUSH, leading to its recognition & acceptance in the host country.

- **Establishments** – It results either from *bilateral efforts or the willingness of a foreign* institution to host the AYUSH Chair.

Initiatives	Measures
Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy	MoUs with 24 foreign nations.
AYUSH Academic Chairs in foreign nations	MoUs with 15 International Institutes
Research/Academic collaboration	Regular MoUs at Institute level
42 AYUSH Information Cells	In 38 foreign nations
International AYUSH Fellowship/Scholarship Program.	Scholarships to foreign nationals studying AYUSH courses in recognized AYUSH institutions in India

- A Chair MoU is then signed between the foreign university and an institute under the Ministry of Ayush.

- Subsequently, an AYUSH expert with the requisite qualification is selected.

- The Chair is then deputed to the foreign university.

- **Responsibilities**

  o **Ministry of AYUSH** – Provides the salary and travel costs.

  o **Host foreign university** – Provides rent-free accommodation and local hospitality to the Chair.

- **Duration** – The chair is deputed *initially for 1 year*, and extendable up to 3rd year.

- **Functional academic AYUSH Chairs** – Bangladesh, Australia, Mauritius, Latvia, and Malaysia.

13.2 National Ayush Mission (NAM)

Recently, the Ministry of Ayush launched a film series titled "Ayush for All: Holistic Health Care through National Ayush Mission" on National Ayush Mission (NAM).

- **National Ayush Mission (NAM)** – It is a ***Centrally Sponsored Scheme*** launched in ***2014*** for implementing through States/UTs.

- **Aim**:

  o To strengthen Ayush healthcare services.

  o Promote preventive care through Ayushman Arogya Mandir.

- o Integrate Ayush systems into mainstream public health.

- o Development of Ayush educational institutions.

- **Funding Pattern**

  - o For North Eastern States and Himalayan States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir - Centre 90% and State 10%

  - o For the rest of the States and UTs - Center 60% and State 40%.

- **Performance-based budgeting** – In order to incentivize good performing States/UTs, performance-based budgeting has been made.

- **Achievements** – Supported for the establishment of,

- 167 Integrated Ayush Hospitals

- 416 upgraded Ayush Hospitals

- 5036 dispensaries

- 16 new Ayush educational institutions

- 3883 Yoga Wellness Centres

- 1055 Ayush Grams

- 12,500 Ayushman Arogya Mandi

- Essential Ayush medicines were supplied to 996 hospitals and 12,405 dispensaries each year.

Components of NAM	
Mandatory Components	**Flexible Components**
 • Ayush Services • Ayush Health and Wellness Centres • Educational Institutions • Quality Control of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs • Medicinal Plants	• Yoga Wellness Centre • Tele Medicine • Sports Medicine through AYUSH • information regarding on-going activities • Reimbursement Testing Charges • Ayush Awareness Program • Reorientation Training Program • Naturopathy Hospital

- **Significance** – It is a significant initiative in revolutionizing healthcare delivery in distant corners of the country.

- It is bridging the gap in healthcare access, promoting a holistic wellness model and continues to transform lives.

- These initiatives are transforming public health and improving access to preventive and promotive care across the nation.

14. MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

14.1 Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), 2024

The Ministry of Heavy Industries has recently launched the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024 to boost green mobility and EV manufacturing in the country.

- **Aim** – It aims to *boost the adoption of two-wheeler and three-wheeler electric vehicles for commercial purposes* and provide the necessary support for developing and manufacturing EVs in India.

- **Launched in** - March 2024.

- **Launched by** - *Minister of Heavy Industries*.

- **Implementation Period -** 1 April 2024 - 31 July 2024.

- **Objective -** To improve sales of two and three-wheeler electric vehicles.

- **Eligibility -** Two-wheeler and three-wheeler EVs must be registered under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

EMPS 2024 vs FAME		
Feature	**EMPS 2024**	**FAME II**
Subsidy Level	Up to Rs. 10,000	Up to Rs. 22,500
Initial Purchase Cost	Higher due to lower subsidies	Lower due to higher subsidies
Impact on Manufacturers	Increased cost pressure	Lower cost pressure

- **Beneficiaries** - Two-wheeler EVs, three-wheeler EVs, e-rickshaws, e-carts.

- **Subsidies -** Up to Rs. 10,000 will be provided for each two-wheeler EV, up to Rs. 25,000 for each small three-wheeler EV, and up to Rs. 50,000 for each large three-wheeler EV.

- The ministry has adopted the ***Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)*** under this scheme to encourage domestic manufacturing and strengthen the EV supply chain.

14.2   EV as a Service' Programme

Recently Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban launched 'EV as a Service' programme.

- **EV as a Service** – It is a subscription-based access to electric vehicles, eliminating the high upfront costs of purchasing an EV.

- **Aim** – To boost e-mobility in government offices to deploy 5,000 E-Cars in government departments over the next two years.

- Advancing the adoption of electric cars in Central and State Government ministries/departments, CPSE's and institutions.

- **Nodal Agency** – Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

- **Flexible procurement model** – Govt. offices can choose E-Cars that best align with their operational requirements.

- **Benefits**

  - Supports the government's environmental sustainability vision.
  - Aligns with India's ambitious goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070.
  - Cuts carbon emissions.
  - Reduces reliance on fossil fuels.
  - Bolsters India's energy security.

- CESL has already deployed nearly 2000 nos. of E-Cars across India and is also facilitating the deployment of approx. 17,000 E-Buses.

> ### Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)
>
> - **Convergence** – It is a green energy focused subsidiary venture of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
>
> - **Functions** – It offers interventions to solve multiple gap areas in the energy ecosystem by amalgamating independent sectors such as electricity, transport, home appliances.
>
> - It introduces models for adaptation at scale through government partnerships and innovative financing such as carbon markets.

PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)

- **Aim**- To accelerate EV adoption and establish essential charging infrastructure across the country, promoting cleaner and more sustainable transportation.

- **Financial outlay** – Rs. 10,900 crore over a period of 2 years.

- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).

- **E-Vouchers** – It facilitates accessing incentives by consumers, providing a seamless experience for both consumers and manufacturers.

- The scheme portal will generate an e-KYC Aadhaar FACE authenticated e-Voucher for the customer at the time of purchase.

- A link to download the e-Voucher shall be sent on the registered mobile number of the customer.

- **Eligible EV Categories under the scheme**

  - e-2 Wheelers (e-2Ws)
  - e-3 Wheelers (e-3Ws) including registered e-rickshaws & e-carts and L5
  - e-Ambulances
  - e-Trucks

- o   e-Buses
- o   Charging infra
- o   Upgradation of Testing Agencies

15.   MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

15.1   National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP)

Recently, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development stated the initiatives taken for National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) to promote online safety.

- **NCRP** – It is an initiative **to facilitate victim's complainants to report** cybercrime complaints online.

- **Established on** – **2019, under Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)** to deal with all types of cybercrime in the country.

- **Objective** – To *enable public to report incidents* of cyber-crimes, with special focus on cyber-crimes against women and children.

- **Nodal Ministry** – *Ministry of Home Affairs*.

- **Statutory backing** – Cyber-crime cases are handled under

  - o   Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023

  - o   Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012

  - o   Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act)

> *'Police' and 'Public Order'* are State subjects as per the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

- The revamped version of the portal allows reporting of all types of Cybercrimes.

Crimes Related to Women/ Child	Other Crimes
• Child Pornography (CP) • Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) or sexually explicit content such as Rape/Gang Rape (CP/RGR) content.	• Mobile crimes, Online and social media crimes. • Online financial frauds, ransomware, cryptocurrency crimes • Online cyber trafficking.

- **Monitoring Agency** – The *States/UTs are primarily responsible* for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes including cyber-crime through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

- **Features** – Special focus on content reporting of online Child Sex Abuse Material/Rape-Gang Rape incidents.

- National/State/District-Level monitoring dashboards.

- *Online status tracking facility* for the complainant.

- *Cyber Volunteers* registered as Cyber Awareness Promoters.

15.2   Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme

Recently, Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme has been revised.

- **Launched on** – 15 August **1972**.

- **Aim** – To provide for grant of **pension to living freedom fighters or their (as of the martyrs) eligible dependents**.

- **Nodal Ministry** – *Ministry of Home Affairs.*

- **New changes** – The *existing dearness relief system* based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers, which was followed until now to freedom fighters' pension
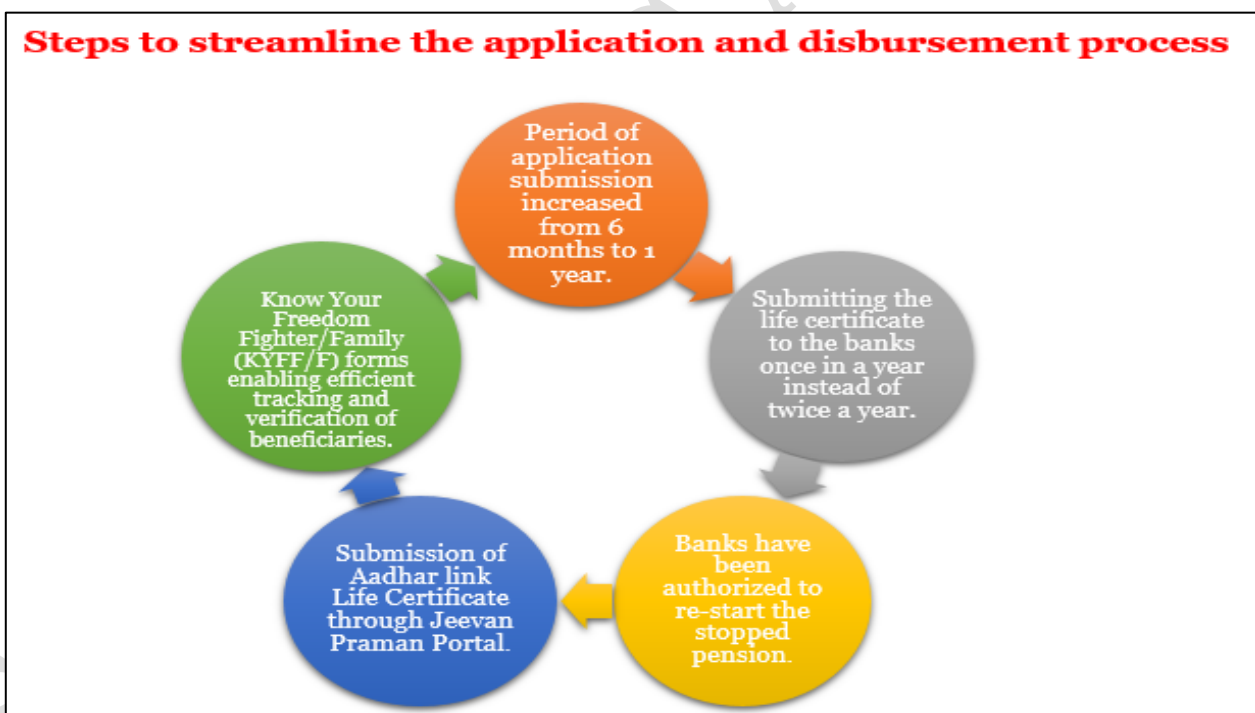
> *Dearness allowance* is a cost-of-living adjustment that the Government pays to public sector employees and pensioners. It is calculated as a percentage of the basic salary to curb the effect of inflation.

is replaced by ***dearness allowance system*** applicable to Central Government employees twice a year.

- **Eligibility** – A person who had suffered a *minimum imprisonment of 6 months* in the mainland jails before Independence.

- A person who remained *underground for more than 6 months*.

- A person interned in his home or externed from his district, provided the period was 6 months or more.

- A person whose property was attached and sold due to participation in the freedom struggle.

- A person who was *permanently incapacitated* during firing or lathi charge.

- A person who *lost his job in Central or State Government* by means participation in the national movement.

Category	Benefits
• Freedom Fighters/Spouse/one companion.	• Free life time railway passes to travel by any train.
• Freedom fighters/eligible dependents.	• Free medical facilities run by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
• Freedom fighters/eligible dependents/one companion.	• Free transit stays at State Bhawan.
• Freedom fighters.	• Collectors directed to regular enquire about the well-being.

Benefits – It extended to all the freedom fighters.

Steps to streamline the application and disbursement process

- Period of application submission increased from 6 months to 1 year.
- Submitting the life certificate to the banks once in a year instead of twice a year.
- Banks have been authorized to re-start the stopped pension.
- Submission of Aadhar link Life Certificate through Jeevan Praman Portal.
- Know Your Freedom Fighter/Family (KYFF/F) forms enabling efficient tracking and verification of beneficiaries.

16. MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

16.1 Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

Recent report found that districts with more toilets constructed under SBM corresponds with fewer infant deaths.

- **SBM** - A massive mass movement that seeks to create a _Clean India by 2019_.

- **Components**

  o **SBM Rural** - Implemented by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

  o **SBM Urban** - Implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- **Swachh Bharat Mission Phase I (2014-12019)**

  o **Launched in** - October 2, 2014.

  o **Objective** – _Eliminate Open Defecation_ by 2 October 2019.

- **Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II (2019-2025)**

  o **SBM Urban 2.0** – Launched in 2021 to achieve _Garbage Free Status for all cities._

  o **SBM Gramin 2.0** – To transform _all the villages from ODF to ODF Plus Model_.

- **Performance** - From 2014 to 2020, the government constructed 109 million household toilets and declared that more than 600,000 villages were free from open defecation.

- **Relation between SBM & IMR** - Districts with over 30% toilets constructed under SBM corresponded with 5.3 fewer infant deaths and 6.8 fewer child deaths per 1,000 births.

- Every _10% increase in district-level toilet access_, corresponded with:

  o A reduction in district-level _IMR by 0.9 points_

  o A reduction in district-level _U5MR by 1.1 points_.

16.2   Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCCs)

According to a recent study by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) created safe environment for women across 93 smart cities.

- **ICCCs** – It is the _real-time monitoring systems operationalized in 100 the Smart Cities._

- It works as the brain and nervous system for city operations.

- **Launched in** – _2015,_ by _Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs_.

- **Umbrella Scheme** – Smart Cities Mission (SCM).

- **Aim** – To enable collation of information and collaborative monitoring, thus helping in the analysis of data for quicker decision making.

- **Integrated departments** – Police, Traffic Police, Health, Water, Solid Waste management, Irrigation department etc. have been integrated with ICCCs.

- 30 out of 100 smart cities have the following in traffic and transportation management

- Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS), Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS), Red Light Violation Detection (RLVD) & Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (AnPR).

- **Intelligent operations capability** – It shall ensure _integrated data visualization,_ real-time collaboration and deep analytics.

- **Significance** – It have been successful in improving _surveillance_, enhancing _safety and security of citizens,_ preventing and resolving crimes etc.

Study Findings

- 93 smart cities had the installation of _over 59,802 CCTV cameras and emergency call boxes_ in the country.

- **Chennai and Tumakuru** – Leveraged advanced monitoring systems, integrating safety cameras with ICCCs.

- **Nagpur** – _14% decline in overall crime_ rates post-implementation of surveillance measures.

- Women in these 3 cities increased confidence in assessing public spaces.

17. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

17.1 National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN)

In several Indian states, mothers of young children have education beyond Grade 10, making them valuable assets for NIPUN.

- It is a national mission to ensure that all children in India have **_foundational literacy and numeracy skills_** by the end of grade 3 by 2026-27.

> *NEP 2020 aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035.*

- It is one of the components of the NEP 2020.

- **Launched in-** 2021.

- **Nodal agency-** The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

- **Objectives-** Ensure all children can read with comprehension and have basic numeracy skills by the **_end of Grade 3._**

- NIPUN Bharat focuses on holistic development, goes beyond traditional classroom learning.

- It recognizes that students are multi-dimensional and addresses their cognitive, emotional, physical, and social growth.

- It focuses on different domains of development, such as physical and motor development, socio-emotional development, literacy and numeracy development, cognitive development, and life skills.

- These domains are interrelated and interdependent and will be reflected in a Holistic Progress Card.

State-wise mother education data

- In Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana, 30-40% of mothers of young children have schooling beyond Grade 10.

- In Tamil Nadu, this figure is close to 43%.

- In Himachal Pradesh, it is over 54%.

- **_Kerala_** tops the list with nearly 72% of these mothers having high school education.

17.2 Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme

The Ministry of Education has increased the funding for the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme by 13.70%.

- It is a **_centrally sponsored scheme_** under which one hot cooked meal is served to students studying in Balvatika (preschool) and **_Classes 1 to 8._**

- It is _served in Government and Government-aided schools on all school-days_.

- The Scheme aims at providing nutritional support and enhancing school participation of students.

- It was earlier known as **_Mid-Day Meal Scheme_** in schools.

- **Ministry –** Ministry of Education.

- It aims to address 2 of the pressing problems for the majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by improving the nutritional status.

- **Nutrition norm per child per day:**
  - **For Primary -** Calorie – 450; Protein - 12 gms
  - **For Upper Primary -** Calorie – 700; Protein - 20 gms

- **Objectives -** Improving the nutritional status of eligible children in Government & Government aided schools.

- Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.

- Providing nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought-affected and disaster affected areas during summer vacation.

17.3   Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) finalised the guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Higher Education.

- RPL is a platform to provide **recognition to the informal learning or learning through work** to get equal acceptance as the formal levels of education.

- It is a *skill certification component to enable Indian youth* to take on industry relevant skill certification.

- Through RPL, such individuals can access higher education, earn formal qualifications, and improve their employability.

- **Established Under** – Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

- **Implementing Agency -** PIA can be any legal entity such as SSC, Industry Association, Training Partner, Government Body, NGO and Corporate, except Assessment Agency.

- **Objectives** - Align the competencies of the un-recognized workforce of the country to the standardized National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

- Enhance the employability and/or entrepreneurial opportunities of an individual.

- Provide opportunities for reducing inequalities based on privileging certain forms of knowledge over others.

- PMKVY assess candidates and provides a certificate and *monetary reward* on successful completion of assessments.

- Average monetary reward would be around **Rs.2, 200** per candidate.

- **Important Eligibility Criteria**

- Age between 18-45 years.

- Prior experience in the job role for which they want RPL certification as specified by the SSCs for those job roles.

- Fulfils other criteria related to work experience as defined by the SSCs.

> **University Grants Commission**
>
> - It is a *statutory organization* under the Ministry of Education.
> - Established in –1956.
> - Aim - To coordinate, determine, & maintain standards of teaching, examination, & research in university.
> - It became an important pillar of higher education.
> - It *advises the Central and State Governments* regarding measures for the development of Higher Education.
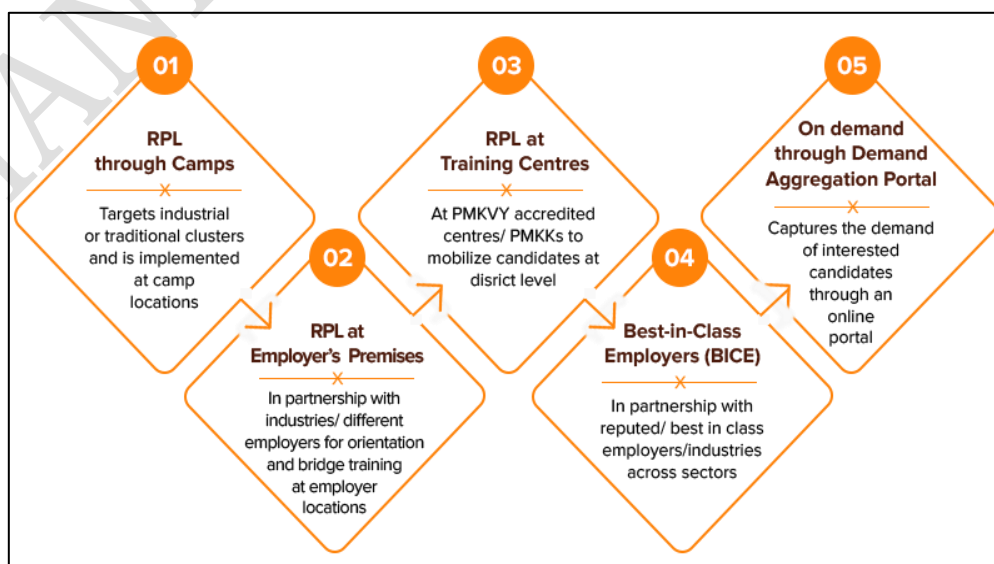
18.   MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

18.1   Employment-Linked Incentive Scheme

The Union Minister of Labour and Employment has called for the swift, mission-mode implementation of the Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme.

- **Launched in** - *Union Budget 2024*.
- **Umbrella scheme** – Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes announced in the budget.
- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Labour and Employment
- **Aim –** To boost employment in the formal sector.
- To recognise first-time employees and provide comprehensive support to *both employees and employers*
- **Target** – *4.1 crore youth* over a five-year period.
- **Budget allocation-** Rs 2 lakh crore, as part of the Prime Minister's package for 5 key schemes & initiatives.
- **3 ELI Schemes**

Scheme A - First-time employment
• **Benefit-** One-month salary as a direct benefit transfer to first-time workforce entrants in all formal sectors.   • **Payment-** Up to Rs. 15,000, disbursed in three instalments.   • **Eligibility-** Employees earning up to Rs. 1 lakh per month.   • **Impact-** Expected to benefit approximately 2.1 million young people.
Scheme B - Job creation in manufacturing
• **Benefit-** Specified incentive for EPFO contributions for both employees and employers during the first four years of employment.   • **Eligibility-** Aims to support 3 million new employees and their employers by reducing EPFO contribution burden.
Scheme C - Support to employers
• **Benefit-** Government reimbursement of up to Rs. 3,000 per month for two years towards EPFO contributions for new employees.   • **Eligibility-** For employees hired at a salary of up to Rs. 1 lakh per month.   • **Impact-** Expected to encourage the hiring of 5 million additional workers.

- **Significance-** Along with employment creation, also promote women's workforce participation, support MSMEs in creating jobs, and strengthen capital infrastructure.

19.   MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

19.1   Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme

Recently, the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme was in the news.

- **Aim-** It *aims to enhance MSME capacity and coverage* by fostering innovation, improving processes, enhancing market access, promoting greening initiatives and supporting women-owned enterprises.
- **Nodal agency-** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **Launched in** - 2022.

- **Objectives**-
    - o Accelerating Centre- State collaboration in MSME promotion and development.
    - o Enhancing effectiveness of existing Ministry of MSME schemes for technology upgradation.
    - o Strengthening Receivable Financing Market for MSMEs and enhancing effectiveness of Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro & Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), and promoting guarantee for greening initiatives of MSEs, and women owned MSEs.
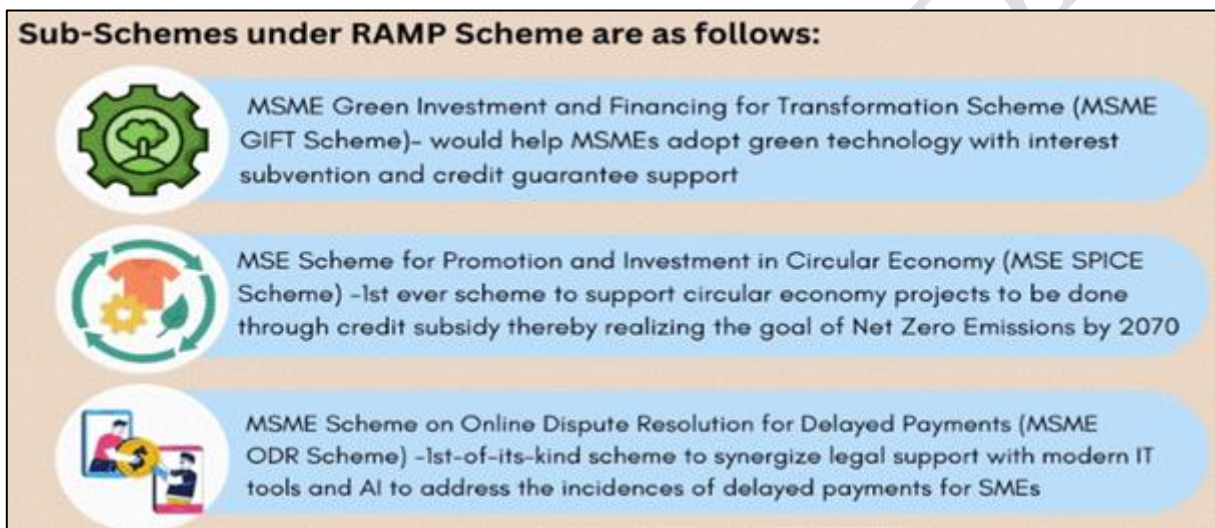   - o Reducing incidence of delayed payments to MSEs
- **Duration**- *5 years* (2021-22 to 2025-26).
- **Participant states**- *All States and UTs, except Delhi*, have shown interest in participating in RAMP.
- **Funding-** It is a *World Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme*.
- **Eligibility**- They should be registered under the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development *(MSMED) Act, 2006*.
- The MSME should have a valid *Udyog Aadhaar Number (UAN)*.

Sub-Schemes under RAMP Scheme are as follows:

- MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme (MSME GIFT Scheme)- would help MSMEs adopt green technology with interest subvention and credit guarantee support
- MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy (MSE SPICE Scheme) -1st ever scheme to support circular economy projects to be done through credit subsidy thereby realizing the goal of Net Zero Emissions by 2070
- MSME Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments (MSME ODR Scheme) -1st-of-its-kind scheme to synergize legal support with modern IT tools and AI to address the incidences of delayed payments for SMEs

19.2   Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has recently sanctioned Rs.5,000 crore as credit guarantee fund for the MSME sector through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme.

- It is a credit guarantee scheme to make available ***collateral-free Credit*** to the Micro and Small Enterprises.
- **Launched in –** 2000.
- **Established by -** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- Under the revamped CGTMSE scheme, both new and existing micro and small enterprises, including manufacturing and service enterprises are eligible for a credit facility of up to Rs. 5 crores.
- **Funding -** Contributed by the Government of India and SIDBI in the ratio of 4:1.
- **Interest Rates** - As per RBI's Guidelines is eligible for coverage under CGTMSE.
- **Eligible Activities**
    - o Manufacturing and Services including Retail trade is allowed.
    - o Educational and Training institutions, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and agriculture-related activities are not eligible
- **Loan Amount**

- o **For Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)** – Credit facility up to Rs. 500 lakh can be covered on an outstanding basis.
  - o **For Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Select Financial Institutions** – Credit facilities up to Rs. 50 lakh is allowed.
- **Guarantee Coverage -** From 75% – 85% (50% Coverage for retail activity)
- **Collateral / Third Party Guarantee -** Not required.
- **Annual Guarantee Fee for amount up to Rs. 1 crore-** Fee reduced to as low as 0.37%.
- **Benefits**
  - o Ceiling for Guarantee coverage raised from Rs. 200 lakh to Rs. 500 lakh
  - o Guarantee fee reduced to diminish the overall cost of borrowings to MSEs
  - o Micro Finance Institutions as Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) are now eligible
  - o Concessions related to fees and increased coverage to SC/STs
  - o Reduced Guarantee fee by 10% and coverage extent increased to 85% to Women, ZED Certified Units and Units in Aspirational Districts
  - o Annual Guarantee Fee structure revised and fee reduced to as low as 0.37%.

20. MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

20.1 JIYO PARSI SCHEME

Union Minister for Ministry of Minority Affairs presented the information related to Jiyo Parsi Scheme recently.

- Jiyo Parsi is a ***central sector scheme*** introduced to protect the Parsi (Zoroastrians) community who are residing in India.
- **Aim -** To reverse the declining trend of Parsi Population by adopting scientific protocol and structured interventions *to stabilize their population in India*.
- **Ministry –** Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- **Launched in –** 2013.

> *Parsi (Zoroastrians) are the group of followers in India who follows the Iranian prophet Zoroaster. They are Persian descendants.*

- **Components**
  - o **Medical Assistance –** To provide financial assistance for medical treatment under standard medical protocol.
  - o **Advocacy –** To provide for counselling of couples with fertility issues, marriage, family, drug awareness, parenting and publicity including workshops.
  - o **Health of Community –** To provide financial assistance to Parsi couples towards childcare and assistance to dependent elderly.
- **Benefits -** The beneficiaries benefited through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode after biometric authentication and other verifications by the State Governments.
- The Ministry has been providing financial assistance to numerous Parsi couples under the ***Medical and Health of Community (HOC)***.
- The scheme also offers cash assistance to encourage Parsi couples to have children.
- It applies to ***all couples,*** irrespective of their financial status.

20.2 Scholarship Schemes for Minorities

The 2024 Union budget for education empowerment of minorities was slightly decreased.

- **Existing scholarship schemes** – During last five years, the Minorities ministry has implemented *3 Scholarship schemes*.

- o   Pre-metric Scholarship

  - o   Post-Matric Scholarship

  - o   Merit-cum means Scholarship

- **2024 Union Budget** – It had *modified all the 3 scholarship schemes* and *cancelled the Maulana Azad National Fellowship* (MANF).

- **New Pre-metric scholarship** – It is *now only for students studying in classes IX and X as* free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) is provided to each and every child under Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

- **New Post-matric scholarship** – Cover all the technical and/or professional courses of *UG/PG level, except the listed institutes*.

Minorities in India	

- **New Merit-cum-Means scholarship** – Cover all the technical and/or professional courses of *UG/PG level only for the top listed institutions.*

- **National Commission for Minorities Act 1992** – It had *notified 6 communities* as minorities

- **Population** - As per the Census 2011, they are *about 19.3% of the total population* of the country

- **Discontinuation of MANF** – It was scrapped as *it overlaps with various other fellowship* schemes for higher education like

  - o   Muslims - 14.2%
  - o   Christians - 2.3%
  - o   Sikhs - 1.7%
  - o   Buddhists - 0.7%

  - o   *UGC and CSIR Fellowship Schemes* are open for candidates of all social categories and communities including minorities.

  - o   Jain - 0.4%
  - o   Parsis - 0.006%.

  - o   *Other Ministerial Fellowship Schemes* like Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs for SCs and OBCs and STs.

Ministry	Fellowship Schemes
Social Justice & Empowerment	- National Fellowship for OBC Students - Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loan for Overseas Studies for OBCs & EBCs - National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students - National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme for SC etc. candidates - SHREYAS - Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (OBC &Others) - PM YASASVI - PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India for OBCs And Others.
Tribal Affairs	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students

21.   MINISTRY OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

21.1   National Bioenergy Programme

The Union government has revised the financial assistance rates for Biomass Pellet manufacturing under the National Bioenergy Programme component.

- The programme endeavours **to promote bioenergy as a sustainable and renewable energy source**.

- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- **Objective-** To support the setting up Waste to Energy projects for the generation of *Biogas/ BioCNG/ Power/ producer or syngas* from urban, industrial, and agricultural wastes/residues.

- The program aims to establish Biomass Briquette/Pellet manufacturing plants and support non-bagasse biomass cogeneration projects in the country.

- **Aim-** To harness bioenergy for energy security, rural development, and environmental sustainability.

- It seeks to promote the use of biomass resources to generate energy, thereby reducing dependence on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change.

- **Components**
    - **Waste to Energy Programme-** This includes projects that generate energy from urban, industrial, and agricultural waste.
    - It encompasses technologies like biogas production, bio-CNG, and power generation from municipal solid waste.
    - **Biogas Programme-** This promotes the use of biogas for cooking, electricity generation, and as a vehicle fuel.

- **Central Financial Assistance-** The program provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to project developers and service charges to implementing/inspection agencies.

- The revision of CFA will enhance the utilization of Biomass in the Country including the utilization of Paddy Straw in States like *Punajb, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh* and would contribute to *Air Quality Management by avoiding stubble burning.*

BioUrja portal

• BioUrja portal has been developed as a single window platform to register and submit online applications for grant of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to Waste to Energy projects.
 	
    ○ Biogas/ BioCNG/ Power/ producer or syngas from urban, industrial, and agricultural wastes/residues,
 	
    ○ Biomass Briquette/Pellet manufacturing plants and Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration projects.
 	
• The portal also enables registered users to track the status of their submitted applications.

21.2 PM-KUSUM scheme

According to a CSE study, the PM-KUSUM scheme needs urgent recalibration to meet its 2026 targets.

- **PM-KUSUM -** Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan.

- **Launched in -** 2019.

- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- **Objectives –** To provide *financial and water security to farmers* through the installation of solar pumps & other renewable energy projects.

- To promote the *use of solar energy* in the agricultural sector and to *reduce dependence on grid electricity*, and

- To increase *farmers' income* by enabling them to sell surplus solar power.

- **Components**
    - **Component A-** Install a total of 10GV grid-connected stilt-mounted decentralized solar plants and other renewable energy-based power plants.
    - Each plant is sized up to 500KW to 2MV.
    - **Component B-** Install stand-alone solar pumps of up to 7.5HP individual capacity and worth 17.50 lakh.
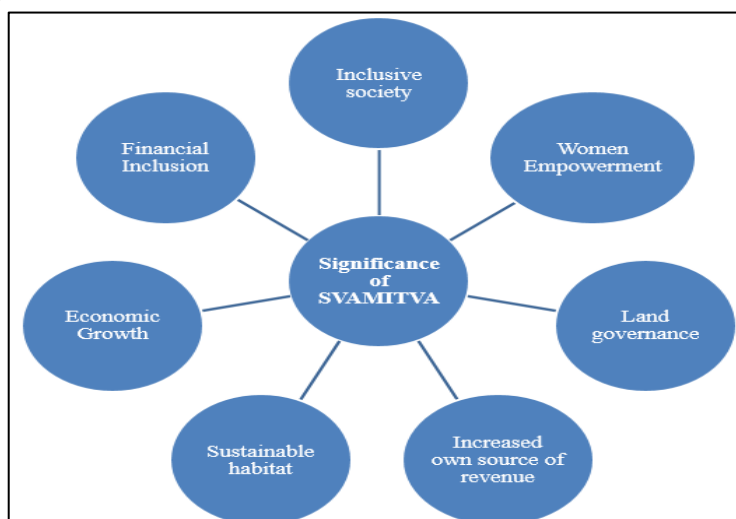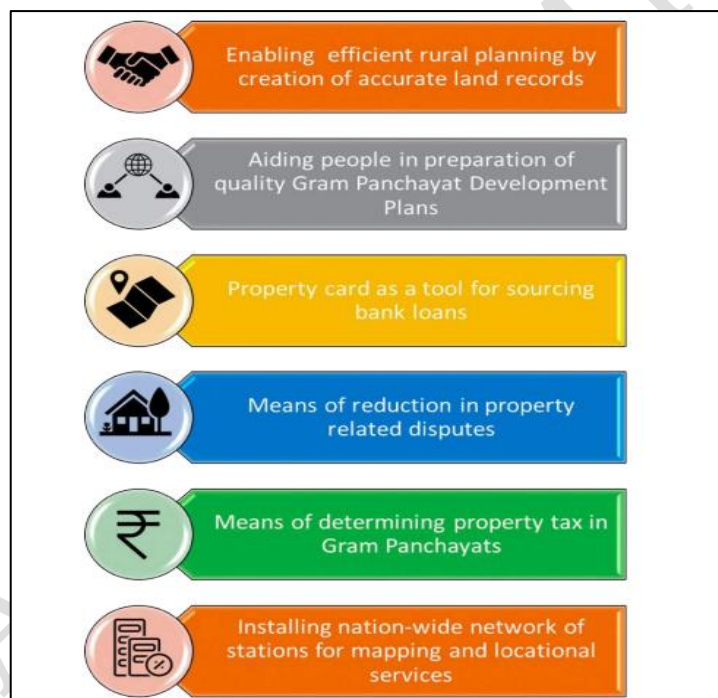
o **Component C-** Provide financial support to Solaris 10 lakh grid-connected agricultural pumps of 7.5HP of capacity each.

- **Significance –** It can reduce carbon emissions by *5.2 million tonnes*.

22. MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

22.1 SVAMITVA Scheme

The Prime Minister will grace the e-distribution of 57 lakh SVAMITVA property cards across 46,351 villages in 10 states and 2 Union Territories on 27th December 2024.

- **SVAMITVA** – Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.

- **Launched in** – *2020*, on *National Panchayati Raj Day, April 24th*

- **Launched by** – Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

- **Aim** – To drive the economic transformation of rural India by providing property owners in village Abadi areas with a *"Record of Rights*."

- **Objectives**

- **Features** – It uses *advanced drone and GIS technology* for land demarcation to foster property monetization.

- ***Property cards*** are seamlessly accessible to beneficiaries through the *DigiLocker app*, which allowing them to view and download their cards digitally.

- There is a centralized online monitoring and reporting dashboard enables real-time tracking of implementation progress.

- It is coupled with the *Continuous Operating Referencing System (CORS) network*.

- **Continuous Operating Referencing System (CORS)** network to produce high-resolution maps swiftly and accurately, revolutionizing the process of rural land demarcation.

- **Coverage** – *31 States/UTs have on-boarded* the Scheme.

- It has distributed *57 lakh SVAMITVA property cards* across 46,351 villages in 10 States and 2 Union Territories as of 2024.

- Drone survey has been completed in 3.17 lakh villages.

Enabling efficient rural planning by creation of accurate land records

Aiding people in preparation of quality Gram Panchayat Development Plans

Property card as a tool for sourcing bank loans

Means of reduction in property related disputes

Means of determining property tax in Gram Panchayats

Installing nation-wide network of stations for mapping and locational services

Significance of SVAMITVA: Inclusive society, Women Empowerment, Land governance, Increased own source of revenue, Sustainable habitat, Economic Growth, Financial Inclusion

23. MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

23.1 Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh (PAHAL) Scheme

The Union government has introduced Aadhar-based LPG customer authentication to improve beneficiary targeting in the PAHAL and Ujjwala Schemes.

- The PAHAL or Direct Benefits Transfer for LPG (DBTL) scheme is an initiative aimed at ***transferring subsidies*** directly into the bank accounts of consumers purchasing LPG cylinders.

- **Launched in -** June 2013.

- The scheme was later modified and relaunched on January 1, 2015.

- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

- **Aim-** This scheme aims to ***reduce subsidy leakage, eliminate duplication*** and ensure subsidy reaches the intended beneficiaries.

- **Eligibility-** All domestic LPG consumers who have completed the KYC process and linked their Aadhaar or bank account details with their LPG consumer number are eligible.

- The subsidy amount is directly transferred to the consumer's bank account after the purchase.

- **Subsidy-** A targeted subsidy of ***Rs.300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills*** of 14.2 Kg equivalent domestic LPG is being provided to all PMUY consumers.

- In addition, various State Governments have also been providing subsidized refills or further subsidies to PMUY beneficiaries.

- **Key Features of Scheme**
  - To streamline the subsidy distribution process for LPG cylinders.
  - To reduce misuse and diversion of subsidized LPG.
  - To ensure that the benefits reach the deserving sections of society directly.

- **Total participation-** As July 2024, more than ***30.19 crore LPG consumers are enrolled under PAHAL scheme***.
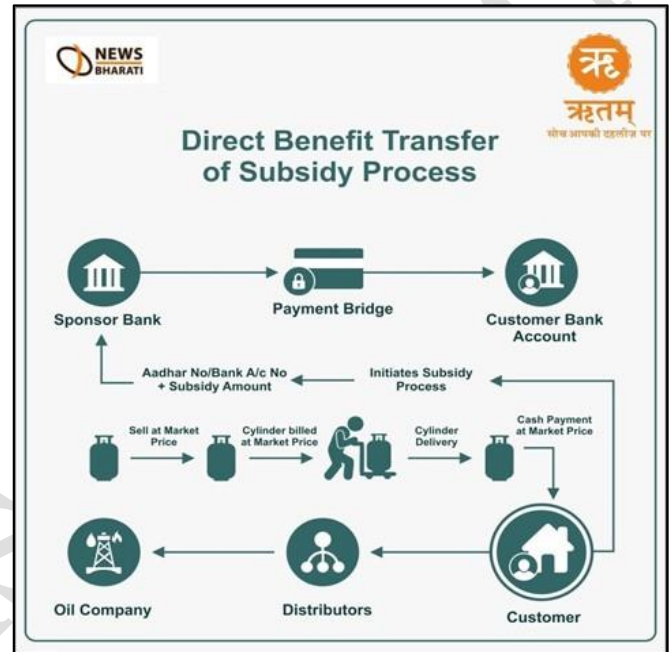
24.   MINISTRY OF POWER

24.1   Saubhagya scheme (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana)

The Meghalaya government recently issued notifications for the alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Saubhagya scheme in the state.

- It is a scheme to ***ensure electrification (24x7) of all willing households*** in the country in rural as well as urban areas.

- **Aim**
  - Last mile connectivity and electricity connection to all un-electrified households in rural areas;
  - Last mile connectivity and electricity connection to all remaining economically poor un-electrified households in urban areas.

- **Launched in –** 2017.

- **Nodal agency -** Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC).

- **Implemented by -** Ministry of Power.

- **Target -** The States and Union Territories are required to complete the works of household electrification by the 31st of December 2018 and further extended to March, 2019.

- **Beneficiaries -** The beneficiaries for free electricity connections would be identified using Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.

> *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti is a scheme designed to provide continuous electricity supply to rural India.*

- Non-poor urban households are ***excluded*** from this scheme.

- It is a concurrent program to ***Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti.***

- **Solar for remote areas -** Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible areas.

- It also includes the Repair and Maintenance (R&M) for 5 years.

25.   MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

25.1   Green National Highway Corridor Project

The Government of India and the World Bank have recently signed an agreement for the construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP).

- It is a safe, green, Climate resilient road that is built using green technologies in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

- **Launched in** – 2015.

- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

- **Aim** - To provide smooth and motor able roads with all-weather connectivity of the nearby areas.

- To promote socio-economic development as well as enhanced trade and connectivity within the region.

- To enhance the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

- **Project Period** – 2020 to 2026.

- **World Bank Fund** – USD 500 Million.

- **Features–** Conserving natural resources using cement treated sub base/reclaimed asphalt pavement.

- Promoting use of local/ marginal material such as lime, fly ash, waste plastic.

- Using bio-engineering measures for slope protection like coco fibre/Jute.

- Erosion control blanket with shrub/grass plantation and hydro seeding.
  - **Hydro seeding** - Mixture of seed, mulch, fertilizer, and water is sprayed onto the soil surface using specialized equipment.
  - It is used for controlling erosion and promoting vegetation growth on bare or disturbed soil surfaces.

- Shotcrete crib wall with vegetation, Bamboo Plantation, Hedge Brush Layer.
  - **Hedge Brush layering** is a revegetation technique, which combines layers of dormant or rooted cuttings with soil to revegetate and stabilize both streambanks and slopes.

- Use of chain mesh with grass strips, Geocell with hydroseeding etc. for slope protection.
  - Geocell is a 3- dimensional honeycomblike cellular structure.

- **Benefits -** Green technologies and bio engineering solutions reduce carbon emissions.

- Conservation of natural resources during the life cycle (construction and operation period) of the project.

26. MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

26.1 Skill India Digital Hub

The Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship recently discussed the utility and purpose of Skill India Digital Hub in the Rajya Sabha session.

- The Skill India Digital Hub was launched with a purpose to enhance skill development, education, employment, and entrepreneurship in the country.
- It offers industry-relevant courses, job opportunities, and entrepreneurship support.
- It uses a *mobile-first approach* to provide course discovery, digital skilling, and verified credentials.
- **Launched in-** September, 2023.
- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Objective-** The objective is to offer diverse skill training programs so that individuals can pursue courses and develop careers at any stage of life.
- **Features**
    o **Courses and Training Programs-** It offers a wide range of courses across various sectors like IT, manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and more.
    o **Certifications-** It provides certifications upon completion of courses, which can enhance employment opportunities.
    o **Partnerships-** The platform Collaborates with educational institutions, industry partners, and government bodies to ensure the relevance and quality of training.
    o **Skill Mapping-** It Uses data analytics to map skills in demand and align courses accordingly.
- **Achievements-** By June 2024, it registered *around 88 lakh candidates*, with 7.63 lakh for online courses.
- The platform offers *752 online courses* and 7.37 lakh minutes of digital content.
- It integrates with MSMEs and supports entrepreneurship schemes.

Initiatives on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched several initiatives, including - **STRIVE Project-** Digital content in blended mode for 14 trades and a Virtual Reality (VR) pilot in five ITIs. - **Bharat Skills Portal-** Provides e-books, question banks, and e-learning videos in 12 regional languages. - **Partnerships with IT Companies-** Collaborations with IBM, CISCO, AWS, and Microsoft to offer training in AI, Big Data, Blockchain, and Cloud Computing via the Bharatskills portal. - **Advanced Diploma Program-** A 2-year vocational program in IT, Networking, and Cloud Computing offered in collaboration with IBM.

27. MINISTRY OF TOURISM

27.1 The National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM)

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism speaks about the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) recently.

- **Aim-** The Mission seeks to unearth and preserve the vast manuscript wealth of India.
- **Establishment-** 2003.
- **Nodal agency-** Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

- **Mandate** – The Mission has the mandate of identifying, documenting, conserving, and making accessible the manuscript heritage of India.

- **Motto** – NMM is working towards fulfilling its motto, *'conserving the past for the future'.*

- **Objectives**

  o Locate manuscripts through national level Survey and Post-Survey

  o Document each manuscript and manuscript repository, for a National Electronic Database.

  o Conserve manuscripts incorporating both modern and Indigenous methods of conservation and training a new generation of manuscript conservators

  o To train the next generation of scholars in various aspects of Manuscript Studies like languages, scripts, and critical editing and cataloging of texts and conservation of manuscripts

  o To promote access to manuscripts by digitizing the rarest and most endangered manuscripts

  o To promote access to manuscripts through the publication of critical editions of unpublished manuscripts and catalogs

  o To facilitate the public's engagement with manuscripts through lectures, seminars, publications, and other outreach programs

- **Significance**

  o India possesses an estimate 10 million manuscripts, probably the *largest collection in the world*.

  o These cover a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations and illustrations.

Manuscript
- A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf or any other material dating back *at least seventy-five years* that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.   - Lithographs and printed volumes are not manuscripts.   - Manuscripts are found in hundreds of different languages and scripts.   - Manuscripts are distinct from historical records such as epigraphs on rocks, firmans, revenue records which provide direct information on events or processes in history.   - Manuscripts have knowledge content.

28. MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

28.1 Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) Scheme

PM launches Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand recently on 2nd October 2024, birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- **Aim -** Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan envisions saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood.

- The scheme focuses on the *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) population.*

> *Jharkhand, the birthplace of Adivasi icon Birsa Munda is chosen to launch the scheme as Birsa Munda is revered as Dharti Aaba, Father of the Land.*

- **Ministry** – The Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- **Fund** – It has a total outlay of Rs.79, 156 crores.

- **Coverage** – Around 63,843 villages benefitting *more than 5 crore tribal people*.

- It spread across all tribal majority villages and aspirational blocks in 30 States/UTs.

- **Implementation** – It will be by 17-line ministries of Government of India by convergence and outreach and ensures holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities.

29. MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

29.1 Scheme for Care and Support to Victims

There are many gaps in the Scheme for Care and Support to Victims.

- **Legality** – It is under Section 4 and 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of 2012.

- It is a *centrally funded* scheme from **NIRBHAYA fund** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

- **Objectives** – To provide integrated support and assistance to **minor pregnant girl child victims** under one roof.

- To facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services for long term rehabilitation.

- **Implemented through** – The State/UT Governments.

- **Eligibility** – Any *girl below the age of 18 years*, who is a victim of

  o Penetrative Sexual Assault - Section 4 of the POCSO Act

  o Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault — Section 6 of the POCSO Act

  o *Section 376, 376A-E* of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC)

- And becomes pregnant due to such assault or rape is covered.

- **Services offered**

  o Safe Transportation, Police Protection & Safe space to live

  o Health Services, medical examination

  o Counselling and Mental Health Services

  o Health Insurance Coverage

  o Education and Vocational Skills

  o Legal Aid and Assistance

  o Monetary and Other Entitlements

  o Care under Mission Vatsalya – Monetary and care

- **Challenges** – It remains silent on whether the benefits will continue to be provided if the victim of a reported case opts for a medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) or has a miscarriage.

- Victims under the POCSO Act, including those who are pregnant, do not automatically qualify as Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP).

29.2 Sample 2024 document Other initiatives

Initiatives	Description
UJJAWALA Scheme	• It is comprehensive scheme for *prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.*
Swadhar Greh Scheme	• It targets the *women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support* for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. • The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing, health and legal aid as well as economic and social security for these women.

	• Girls up to the age of 18 years and boys up to the age of 8 years would be allowed to stay in the Swadhar Greh with their mothers. • (Boys of more than 8 years of age need to be shifted to the Children Homes run under JJ Act/ICPS.)
SHe-box	• SHe-box (Sexual Harassment electronic box) is an _online platform to enable women employees to file complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace_. • It enables _both public and private sector employees_ to lodge their complaints. • It ensures the effective implementation of the **_Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013._**
Sakhi	• It is a _one-stop centre for providing medical, legal and rehabilitation facilities_ for women subjected to any kind of violence.
Jan Sampark	• It is a _monthly programme to facilitate adoption._ • **_Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)_** under MoWCD - Nodal authority.
NARI	• NARI is an online portal developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development that will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
Khoya Paya Web Portal	• It is a citizen based website to _exchange information on missing and found children._ • It has been developed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY). • There is also portal named **_'Track Child'_** that belongs to the _Ministry of Home Affairs_, but in that portal only _police communicates with the police._
Mahila E-Haat	• It is a bilingual portal provides unique direct online marketing platform leveraging technology for supporting women entrepreneurs/SHGs/ NGOs for showcasing their products / services.
Dhanalakshmi Scheme	• The objective of the scheme is to provide a set of financial incentives for families to encourage them to retain a girl child, educate her and prevent child marriage.
e-Samvad	• e-Samvad is an online portal to provide a platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

30.   MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

30.1   Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and Khelo India Scheme

The Union government had promoted sports, including football, through two key schemes, Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and Khelo India.

Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs)

- The Scheme is designed to provide **_financial and technical support_** to NSFs for the development of sports in the country.

- **Nodal Ministry-** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- **Launched in-** 2001.

- **Objectives –** To enhance the **_quality of sports_** and achieve excellence at national and international levels.
    - To provide financial assistance to athletes for training, participation in competitions, and other requirements.

- o To improve sports infrastructure and facilities.

- o To support the development of coaching standards and training programs.

- **Key Features –** It Provide financial assistance and grants for various activities, including training camps, purchase of equipment, and participation in ***international competitions***.

  - o The scheme aims to enhance the bench strength of Indian athletes by implementing a robust talent identification and development system, striving for sporting excellence, and making India a sporting powerhouse.

  - o It supports talent scouting and nurturing through scholarships and training programs.

  - o It provides funding for anti-doping awareness and testing programs.

Khelo India

- It is a national program which aims to promote sports at the ***grassroots level.***

- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- **Launched in -** 2018.

- **Aim –** It aims to revive the sports culture by building a solid framework for all sports played in India and establishing our country as a sporting nation.

- It is a national scheme for the development of sports.

- It also targets at mainstreaming sports as a tool for national, economic, community and individual development.

- **Sports disciplines –** Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Shooting, Swimming, Volleyball, Weightlifting, and Wrestling.

- **Objectives of the Khelo India Scheme**

  - o Mass youth participation in annual sports competitions through a structured competition.

  - o Identification of sports talent.

  - o Nurturing and guidance of the talent through a new set or existing sports academies either by the Central Government, state government, or in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

  - o Creation of sports infrastructure at district, mofussil, tehsil, state levels, etc.

31. MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS

31.1 Digital Life Certificates (DLCs)

The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare data show that as of March this year, there were 64.88 crore central government pensioners and 1.47 crore certificates were generated during DLC campaign.

- Jeevan Pramaan is a biometric-enabled, Aadhaar based digital service that allows ***pensioners to generate a Digital Life Certificate (DLC)*** for themselves.

- **Introduced by -** The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) in 2014.

- It is officially recognized under the ***Information Technology Act.***

- It can be generated ***online anywhere***, and is made available directly to the relevant pension-disbursing authority.

- It eliminates the need to be physically present at the pension disbursing agency or certification authority including banks and post offices.

- **Eligiblity –** Pensioners of Central Government, State Government or any other Government organization such as Defence services, Railways, public sector undertakings, and many higher education institutions, etc can take benefit of this facility.

> *The largest number of DLCs have been generated in Maharashtra so far, followed by Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.*

- **Distribution –** It is disbursed by the various government bodies forms the basis for their income and sustainability.

- From 2021 onward, face authentication has been added as an option.

- **Jeevan Pramaan version 3.0 –** UIDAI has introduced new Aadhaar Authentication Framework version (ver. 3.0) of Jeevan Pramaan Application to support the scheme.

- Every November, retirees have to submit a "life certificate" to continue to receive their pensions for ***another year***.
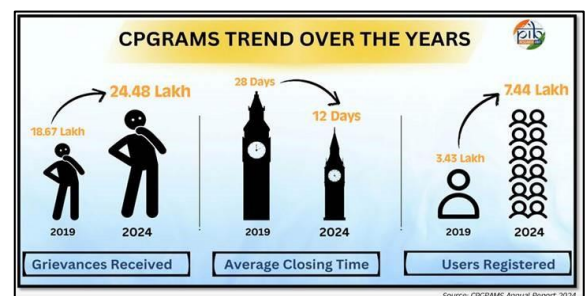
31.2	**Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**

Recently, the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) successfully resolved over 70 lakh grievances from 2022-2024.

- **CPGRAMS –** It is a 24*7 online platform for citizens to ***lodge their grievances to the public authorities*** on any subject related to service delivery.
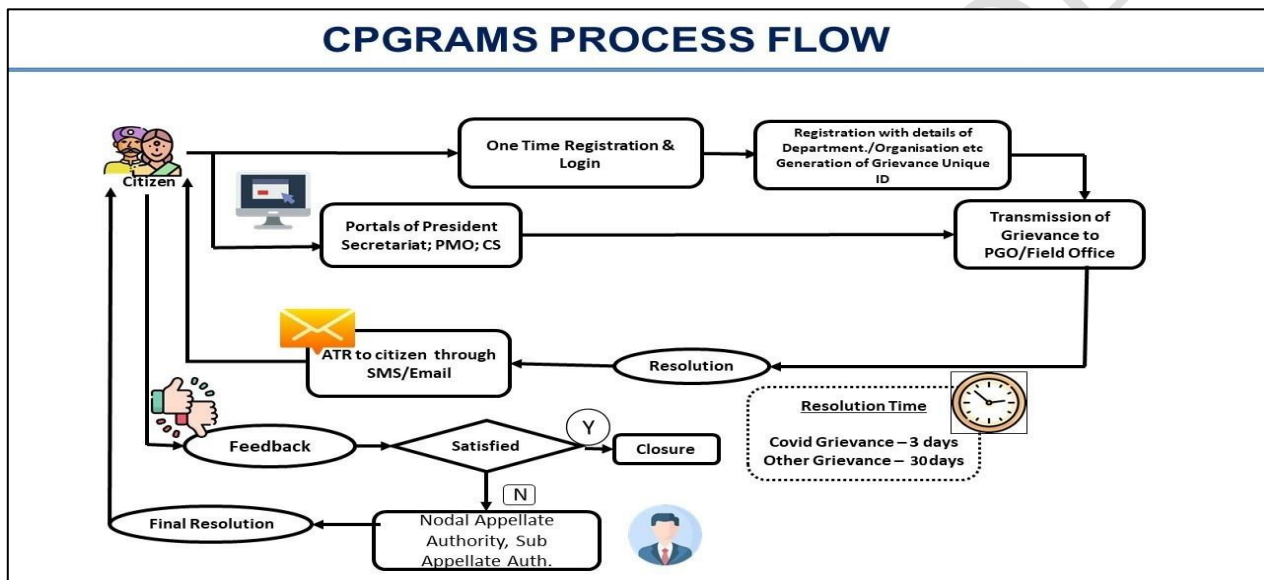
- **Launched in –** *2007*.

- **Monitored by –** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

- **Coverage –** It connects 92 Central Ministries, Departments and Organizations with 36 States/UTs.

- **Supported by –** Over 73,000 active subordinate users.

- **Organizations –** 96,295 registered.

- **Compliant filing –** Citizen can file complaints through the *web portal or mobile app or UMANG app.*

- Each complaint receives a *unique registration ID*, allowing users to track its progress.

*From 2022 to 2024, the system enabled the resolution of **70,03,533 grievances** and mapped 1,03,183 Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) as on 31 October 2024.*

- **Tracking -** *My Grievance app* serves as an independent platform for filing and tracking complaints.

- **Grievance Redressal timeline –** ***21 days***.

- **Appeal mechanism –** If a citizen is dissatisfied with the resolution, they file an appeal once the grievance is closed.

- **Matters not treated as Grievance**

o Right To Information (RTI) Matters

o Court related / Subjudice matters

o Religious matters

o Suggestions

o Service matters of Government employees.

- **Policy Guidelines 2024** – Ensuring quicker resolutions & better citizen engagement.

10-Step Reforms	
Integrated Platform	Whole of Government Approach
Nodal Officers	Feedback Call Centre
Grievance Cells	Grievance Redressal Assessment Index
Reduced Timelines	Training and Capacity Building
Escalation Process	Regular Review

Initiatives

- **4th Sushasan Saptah & Prashasan Gaon ki Ore Campaign** – It aims to resolving public grievances and improving service delivery.

  o <u>Service delivery</u> – 2.9Cr applications disposed.

  o <u>State portals</u> – 14 lakh grievances redressed.

  o <u>CPGRAMS</u> – 3.4 lakh grievances redressed.

- **NextGen CPGRAMS** – Building on *CPGRAMS 7.0*, offer features like grievance filing via WhatsApp/Chatbot, voice-to-text lodging, instant alerts and auto-escalation.

- It is set to launch on *1st July 2025*.

32. NITI AAYOG

32.1 e-FAST India (Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport – India)

NITI Aayog announced the launch of the NITI GearShift Challenge as part of the e-FAST India initiative.

- The e-FAST India initiative is the country's 1st platform to facilitate collaboration between government stakeholders and private sector partners to shape strategies and actions that support freight electrification at scale.

- **Aim** – It aims to raise awareness on ***freight electrification*** bolstered by on-ground demonstration pilots, and evidence-based research.

- **Launched by** – NITI Aayog, in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI).

- Supported by the World Economic Forum, CALSTART, and RMI India, the platform brings different stakeholders together, from across the freight ecosystem.

- e-FAST India also aimed at accelerating freight electrification in India.

- e-FAST was born from the recognition of the urgent need to decarbonize road-based freight transportation in India to realize its 2070 net zero commitments.

- **NITI GearShift Challenge** – This invites students, transport professionals, academics, and researchers to create innovative business models tackling financial, technical, and operational challenges in electric truck adoption.

- The Gear-Shift Challenge is a pivotal step towards sustainable freight transportation in India.

> *NITI GearShift Challenge, a hackathon aims to develop practical solutions to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission trucks, benefiting both the economy and the environment.*

> *Currently, around 71% of freight in India is transported by road. Freight activity is projected to increase five-fold by 2050, leading to a vehicle stock of about 50 million.*

- The program has gained support from e-FAST India knowledge partners, financial institutions, and industry forums.

32.2   EmpowHER Biz (Sapno Ki Udaan)

Recently, the EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan was launched to boost women entrepreneurship in retail.

- **Launched by** – *Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of NITI Aayog* in partnership with New Shop (India's largest 24/7 convenience retail chain) under its Award to Reward (ATR) program.

- **Launched for** – Women from Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

- **Aim** – To *empower women entrepreneurs* by equipping them with the skills and resources needed to succeed in the organized retail sector.

> *New Shop* operates a network of over 200 round-the-clock convenience retail stores which are currently present in 35 cities across 18 states. It is committed to empowering *over 10,000 entrepreneurs in India by 2030* as it continues to grow its footprint nationwide through a franchising model.

- To *create a robust retail ecosystem* that empowers women entrepreneurs and drives sustainable growth in the sector.

- **Role** – It will offer *mentorship and comprehensive training*.
    - It will cover retail management, digital tools, financial literacy and business development to aspiring women entrepreneurs.

- It also provides for financial support, or the opportunity to join the New Shop franchising ecosystem

- **Selection** – *50 participants aged 18–35 selected*, will be selected through an online application process based on specific criteria.

- *Top 20 participants receive a 100% waiver* on New Shop franchise fees.

Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)

- It is an aggregator platform.

- **Incubated in** – 2018, *by Niti Aayog*.

- **Aim** – To empower women entrepreneurs by overcoming information asymmetry and providing *continuum of support* across different pillars, such as:
    - Access to Finance
    - Market Linkages
    - Training and Skilling
    - Mentoring & Networking
    - Compliance & Legal Assistance
    - Business Development Services

- It transitioned into a *Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in 2022*.

- **Partners** – Over 30 public and private sector partners.

- **Role** – It fosters collaboration to develop scalable and impactful programs that benefit women entrepreneurs.

- Since 2023, the *'Award to Reward' initiative under WEP* offers a plug and play framework for stakeholders to develop impactful programs.

33. OTHER SCHEMES

33.1 Yuva Sahakar Scheme

- Introduced by ***National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)***.

- This is a youth friendly scheme which will attract youths to cooperative business ventures.

- The scheme will be linked to Rs.1000 crore '*Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)*'.

- It has special incentive for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women/SC/ST/PwD members.

- All types of cooperatives in operation for *at least 1 year* are eligible.

NCDC
• It is the sole statutory organization functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector.
• It is an ISO 9001:2015 compliant organization.

33.2 ULLAS Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram) – Govt Scheme

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh recently declared that Ladakh has achieved Full Functional Literacy under the ULLAS—Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

- It is also known as New India Literacy Programme (NILP).

- **Agency** – It is a ***centrally sponsored scheme*** implemented from 2022-2027.

- **Umbrella policy** – The scheme aligns with the recommendations of the ***National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.***

- **Aim –** The initiative fosters a learning ecosystem that reaches every individual, bridging the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills.

- **Targeted Group –** The scheme will cover non-literates of the age group of ***15 years*** and above in ***all state/UTs*** in the country.

- **Components of the scheme**
    - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy,
    - Critical Life Skills,
    - Basic Education,
    - Vocational Skills, and
    - Continuing Education.

- **Implemented by –** The scheme is implemented through volunteerism through online mode.

- All material and resources shall be provided digitally for easy access to registered volunteers through easily accessible digital modes through ULLAS Mobile App.

33.3 Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has approved for the "First Approach to Criticality" of the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu

- **Aim –** To ensure that ionizing radiation and nuclear energy are safe and do not pose undue risk to public health.

- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) develops and oversees the design and operation of facilities safety regulations for ***nuclear and radiation facilities.***

- **Capacity** – 500 Mwe.

- **Location** – Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

- **Establishment-** 1983.

- **Headquarters** – Mumbai, India.

- **Act** – It operates under the ***Atomic Energy Act of 1962.***

- **Key Functions-** It enforces safety standards for nuclear and radiation facilities.

  o It grants licenses for nuclear facilities and radiation applications.

  o It conducts safety inspections and assessments of nuclear plants and radiation facilities.

  o It develops and updates safety standards, codes, and guides.

  o It promotes research in nuclear and radiation safety.

  o It also Investigates and analyses nuclear incidents and accidents.

> **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor**
>
> - The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is a nuclear reactor design that is part of India's nuclear power program.
> - It represents an important step in the country's pursuit of advanced nuclear technology.
> - Unlike conventional nuclear reactors, breeder reactors generate more fissile material than they consume.
> - The PFBR is designed to convert fertile materials like Uranium-238 into fissile materials like Plutonium-239.
> - The PFBR typically uses mixed oxide (MOX) fuel, a blend of plutonium oxide and uranium oxide.

- **Organizational Structure** – The AERB is headed by a chairman Including the Board members who are experts from various fields.

- **Significance** – This authorization marks a major step towards operationalizing the PFBR, a key element of India's nuclear power program, and signifies significant progress in enhancing the country's nuclear energy capabilities.

33.4 Digital Bus initiative

The Digital Bus initiative has so far empowered young adults in remote areas with over three lakh beneficiaries.

- **Digital Bus** – These are ***mobile classrooms*** that bring IT courses, assessment, and certification, as well as access to the world of information and knowledge, to students in remote areas.

- **Joint venture** – It is between the National Digital India Mission and the NIIT Foundation.

  o **Digital India** – It was launched in 2015 for connecting rural areas with high-speed Internet networks and improving digital literacy.

  o **NIIT Foundation** – It is an Education NGO registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to provide skilling and education to underserved communities.

- **Objective**

• Reducing the Digital divide for those living in remote areas • Awareness of computers as a window to knowledge • Linkages to Government programs and initiatives • Enhancing interest-levels in learning • Introducing the multidisciplinary approach to education	• Using computers as a tool for daily tasks • Encouraging collaborative learning • Developing interpersonal skills • Providing awareness on technology amongst rural community • Providing equal opportunities for rural youth

- **Launched – 2017**

- **Components of the program**

| Provide Digital Literacy at the Village Doorstep | IT Education | Entrepreneurship Development Program | Common public utility services | Video conferencing consultation | Dissemination of Government policies |

Features of the Bus	Types of Courses
- Solar-powered 5G-enabled with computers and Internet - Camera/video capabilities - Preinstalled e-courses.	- Using e-mail, the Internet, and applications like MS Office. - Financial Literacy - Cyber Security

33.5 Bhu-Aadhar or ULPIN

Rural development ministry's portal data reveals that only 30% of the rural land parcels have Bhu-Aadhaar, Centre pushes for 100% completion by 2026.

- Bhu-Aadhaar is also known as ***Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN).***

- **Launched in** – 2021.

- **ULPIN** - It is an initiative to give a ***14-digit alpha-numeric identity*** to each land parcel. The ULPIN contains

  - State code
  - District code
  - Sub-district code
  - Village code
  - Unique plot ID number

> *DILRMP is a Central Sector Scheme aims to modernize the management of land records, reduce land/property disputes, and enhance transparency in land transactions.*

- It is generated using the longitude and latitude coordinates of the land parcel.

- It is part of the Centre's ***Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).***

- ULPIN is to streamline and bring uniformity to the process adopted by states in assigning unique identification numbers to land parcels.

- Once the ULPIN is generated, it is stamped on the physical land record document held by the owner.

- The same ULPIN will be permanently attached to the plot of land.

- Even if the land is transferred, sub-divided, or undergoes any change, the ULPIN will remain the same for that geographic boundary.

- **Objectives**

  - To assign a unique ID to each plot of land for easy identification and retrieval of records
  - To create accurate digital land records with details of land owners, plot boundaries, area, usage, etc.
  - To link land records and property registration processes
  - To facilitate online delivery of land record services
  - To assist in government planning by maintaining updated land data

- **Coverage** - ***Andhra Pradesh*** was the 1st State to complete 100% ULPIN coverage.
- The States of Karnataka, Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have achieved 60-90% ULPIN coverage.
- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam are lagging behind in ULPIN implementation due to administrative and operational challenges.

33.6 JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) Trinity

Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road, Transport and Highway recently stated that PM-Jan Dhan Yojna coupled with JAM Trinity has become the world's largest financial inclusion program.

- It is the initiative to link Jan Dhan accounts, Mobile numbers and Aadhar cards of Indians to ***directly transfer subsidies*** to intended beneficiaries and eliminate intermediaries and leakages.
- The JAM trinity was 1st proposed in the Economic Survey 2014-15.
- **Implemented in** – 2016.
- **Ingredients of JAM**
    - **Identification -** To identify beneficiaries creating Aadhar card of all the individuals was initiated.
    - **Payment -** Payment is eased by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana opening zero balance accounts.
    - **Beneficiary -** To get the money into people's hands, mobile payments were enhanced to transfer money quickly and securely.
- **Various Government schemes under JAM - Pratyaksh Hanstantarit Labh (PAHAL) Yojana -** Under PAHAL Yojna, LPG subsidies are directly deposited into the bank accounts.
- PAHAL Yojana, recently entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the world's largest direct cash transfer scheme.
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna -** Under this scheme, accident insurance worth Rs. 2 Lakh is being provided.
- The premium is just Rs.12 p.a. for each member that means even the poorest of poor Indian can afford it.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojna -** This scheme provides life insurance at just Rs. 330 per year payable to the family of the member in case of his death due to any reason.
- **Atal Pension Yojana -** Being a guaranteed pension scheme, it provides a pension of upto Rs. 5000 a month depending on the contribution.

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