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TARGET 2024

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES - I

MAY 2023 TO
DECEMBER 2023

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Out of 100 questions asked in UPSC Civil
Services (Preliminary) Examinations, 2023,
22 questions reflected directly and
20 questions reflected partially
from the IAS Parliament

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Total number of questions directly reflected from IAS Parliament (including Target 2023 series)	22
Number of questions directly reflected from the Target Series 2023	15
Total number of questions partially reflected from IAS Parliament	20

INDEX

TARGET 2024

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES-I

⏳ May 2023 to December 2023

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 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

1.1	National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme

- It aims at providing alternative livelihoods support and entitlements to sanitation workers.

- NAMASTE's earlier name is "*Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers" (SRMS*) which is being implemented since 2007.

- **Joint initiative of** - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

- **Funding** - It is a *central sector scheme* for improving the living standards of sanitation workers in urban areas.

- **Implementation** - All 4800+ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the country, during the next 3 years (upto 2025-26) with an outlay of Rs. 349.70 crore.

- **Objectives** - Recognising sanitation workers as one of the key contributors in the maintenance of sanitation infrastructure.

- Providing them with sustainable livelihood.

- Enhancing their occupational safety through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.

1.2	Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been working towards creating an inclusive and equitable society for all its citizens especially it is working for the welfare of senior citizens.

- AVYAY is a comprehensive initiative aimed at empowering senior citizens in India.

- National Action Plan for Senior Citizen had been revamped as AVYAY and subsumed in 2021.

- **Aim** - To empower senior citizens in India by ensuring their active participation and inclusion in all aspects of life.

- To implement Section 19 and 20 of the *Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007*.

Important Schemes under Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)

- **Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC)**

  o It provides financial assistance to eligible organization's for running and maintenance of Senior Citizen Homes/ Continuous Care Homes to improve the quality of life of the senior citizens.

  o It is a Central Sector Scheme.

  o The funds are given to the implementing to the agencies, registered societies, Panchayati raj institutions, local bodies, non-governmental/voluntary organizations.

- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**

  o It provides physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to *Below Poverty Line*.

  o It is a *Central Sector* Scheme.

  o The expenditure for this scheme is being met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".

  o It is being implemented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.3	Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana

PM-DAKSH Yojana empowers millions from India's marginalized communities.

- **Aim -** To enhance competency level of the target groups to make them employable both in self- employment and wage-employment for their socio-economic development.

- **Agency -** It is a Central Sector Scheme.

- **Implemented by -** Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

- **Launch -** 2020-21.
- **Target Groups -** SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs Safai Karamcharis including waste pickers etc.
- **Age criterion** - 18-45 years.
- **Income criteria**
  - No income limit for SCs, Safai Karamcharis Including wastepicker and DNT.
  - The annual family income should be below Rs.3 lakh for OBCs and
  - Annual family income should be below Rs.1 lakh for EBCs (Economically Backward Classes).

1.4 Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS)

- The main objective of the schemes is _**Educational Empowerment of OBC & EBC students**_ by providing fellowship (financial assistance) to obtain quality higher education.
- The time period of the scheme is from _**2021-22 to 2025-26.**_
- The Scheme comprises following 2 components that includes:
  1. National Fellowship for OBC students
  2. Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)
- **National Fellowship for OBC students -** The scheme provides financial assistance to the OBC students in obtaining quality higher education leading to degrees such as M.Phil and Ph.D.
- The scheme covers all universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is implemented by the UGC itself.
- _**National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation**_ under the ministry of education implements the scheme.
- **Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for OBCs & EBCs** – A Central Sector Scheme to provide interest subsidy on the interest payable for the Education Loans for overseas studies to pursue approved courses of studies abroad at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. level.
- The scheme is implemented through the _**Canara Bank**_ (the Nodal bank for the scheme).
- 50% of the total financial assistance is reserved for women candidates.

1.5 Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM- AJAY)

PM- AJAY is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the welfare of Scheduled Caste (SC) population.

- **Launched in** – 2021-22.
- It has been framed after underline the 3 erstwhile schemes
  - Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
  - Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)
  - Babu Jagjivan Ram Chatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)
- **Objectives** - To increase the income of SC population by income generating schemes, skill and infrastructure development, reduce the poverty and increase literacy and enrolment of SCs in education institutions.
- **3 components**
  - Development of SC dominated villages into an _**'Adarsh Gram'.**_
  - _Grants-in-aid_ for district/state-level projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs.
  - _Construction of hostels_ in higher educational institutions.
- **Eligibility Criteria** - For income generating and skill development schemes, _SC persons belonging to BPL category are eligible._
- In case of infrastructure development, the _villages having 50% or more SC population_ are eligible.

1.6   New Swarnima Scheme

- **Aim** – To inculcate the spirit of self-dependence among the women of Backward Classes under term loan.

- **Eligibility** - Women belonging to Backward Classes having annual family income less than Rs.3 lakh.

- **Maximum Loan Amount** - Rs. 2 Lakh (per beneficiary)

- **Repayment** - Loan is to be repaid in quarterly instalments with maximum 8 years.

- **Rate of interest** – 5% per annum.

- **Introduced by** - National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

- **Implemented by** - State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) which act as the nodal agency.

2. MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

2.1   Scheme on minor rape survivors

- **About** - The scheme will provide shelter, food, safe transportation for court hearings, and legal aid for rape/gang rape survivors or minor girls who get pregnant.

- Under the scheme, immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including access to education, police assistance, maternity, neonatal and infant care, psychological and mental counselling, legal support and insurance cover will be provided.

- The benefits will be provided to girl child victim and her newborn under one roof.

- It will **_not be mandatory_** for the girl child victim **_to have a copy of a first information report (FIR_**) to avail benefits under the scheme.

- A case worker will be immediately designated for taking care of the girl child.

- In case a survivor does not want the child at any stage, the child will stay at Child Care Institutions and will be made available for adoption.

- The scheme aims to support minor victims under aegis of the **_Nirbhaya scheme._**

- It additionally leveraged the administrative structure of **_Mission Vatsalya_** in collaboration with state governments and child care institutions (CCIs) to actualise this support to minor victims on the ground.

- This additional support will be available at child care institutions for those **_up to the age of 18_** and thereafter up in aftercare facilities up to the age of 23.

2.2   Protocol for Management of Malnourished Children

- Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has launched a Standardised National Protocol for Management of Malnourished Children at the Anganwadi level.

- **Drafted by** - Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD) with inputs from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).

- The protocol is an integral aspect of Mission Poshan 2.0.

- **Need for a protocol** - Currently, the treatment of children with SAM is restricted to facility-based approaches.

- The protocol for the first time addressed the issue at Anganwadi levels.

- **Objectives** - To provide detailed steps for identification and management of malnourished children.

- It provides 10 step guidelines for malnutrition management like Buddy mother, Appetite testing, Growth monitoring, Nutritional management and Follow-up care.

> *As per the recent NFHS-5 (2019-21) report, 19.3% of children across the country suffer from SAM and MAM (Moderate acute malnutrition).*
>
> *1.98% children under 5 years suffer from Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM) and 4.62% suffer from Moderate Acute Malnourishment (MAM).*

Buddy Mother

- Under this, the mother of a healthy baby guides the mother of a malnourished child at an Anganwadi centre every week.

- It was first used in the state of **_Assam._**

> *India is moving towards the goal of 'Malnutrition-free India' by 2022.*

2.3   Track-Child Portal

- A scheme that enables **_tracking of the missing and found children._**

- Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for

    o   Contribution to the improvement in the wellbeing of children in difficult circumstances.

    o   Reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children.

- **_National Informatics Centre (NIC)_** has been entrusted to develop a national portal Track-Child.

- Track-Child portal has been designed and developed adhering to the guidelines provided in the following:

    o   Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000,

    o   Model Rules 2007 and

    o   Provisions laid down in the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

2.4   Nari Adalat

- It is a **_women only court_** that address individual cases and also raise awareness about social schemes.

- Though it does not hold any legal status, has its primary focus on reconciliation, grievance redressal and creating awareness of rights and entitlements.

- It is an initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development under the Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti.

3. MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

3.1   PM JANMAN Scheme

Recently, India has launched the PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan a campaign for the tribals.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- There are 75 PVTGs out of 705 STs, spread over 18 states and 1 Union Territory (A&N Islands) with around 27.6 lakh as per 2011 Census.

- **Dhebar commission-** In 1973, it created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.

- **PVTGs-** In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

- **Features-**They are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.,

Pre-agricultural level of technology	Low level of literacy
Economic backwardness	Declining or stagnant population

Characteristics of PVTGs

- **Statistics-** Highest PVTGs is present in Odisha (13) followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).

- **Chhattisgarh-** It has 7 PVTGs namely Kamar, Baiga, Pahadi Korba, Abujhmadiya, Birhor, Pando and Bhujia.

- **Scheme for Development of PVTGs-** It was established in 2008 to adopt a holistic approach to the socio-economic development of PVTGs.

- **Pradhan Mantri PVTGs Development Mission-** It was introduced in the Union Budget 2023-24 to improve the socio-economic status of PVTGs and bridging gaps in health, education, livelihoods, and basic infrastructure.
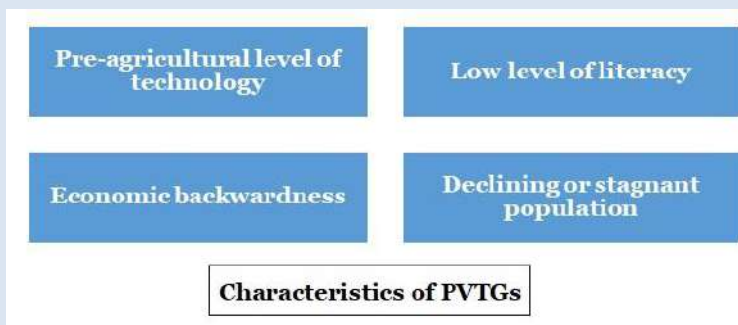
PM JANMAN Scheme

- **Launch-** On Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (Birth anniversary of Birsa Munda) in Jharkhand.

- **Objective-** To provide essential amenities (road connectivity, electricity, secure housing, clean drinking water, sanitation) and improved access to education, health, nutrition, sustainable livelihood opportunities.

- The government will showcase and spread awareness of various government schemes made for the tribals.

- The scheme will be implemented by 9 ministries with *Ministry of Tribal Affairs* playing the key role.

- **Beneficiary-** Government has identified *75 tribal communities and primitive tribes* with a population of lakhs who reside in more than 22 thousand villages in the country.

- **Focus-** 11 critical interventions for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

Provisions	About
Housing	To provide 4.90 lakh pucca homes
Connectivity	Construct 8,000 kilometers of roads and Installation of mobile towers
Drinking water supply	Piped water supply for all Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) habitations.
Community water supply	It will be provided in 2,500 villages/habitations with a population of less than 20 households.
Bandhan Vikas Kendra	• It is a unit of 15 to 20 tribal self-help groups (SHGs) that collect and process minor forest produce (MFP) such as honey, tamarind, gum, etc. • The SHGs are trained and provided with equipment, working capital, and marketing support to add value to the products and sell them at higher prices.
Hostel facility	To provide 500 hostels
Health infrastructure	To provide 1000 mobile medical units for 10 districts.

Education and training	To provide vocational education and skilling centres in 60 Aspirational PVTG block.
Infrastructure	Multipurpose centres, Anganwadi centres.
Renewable energy	To provide solar off-grid system and solar lighting in streets.
Electricity	Last mile electricity connection for 57,000 households.

- **Ayush Wellness Centres**- It will be set up by the Ministry of AYUSH and AYUSH facilities will be extended to PVTG habitations through mobile medical units.

- **Skill enhancement-** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will facilitate skill and vocational training in PVTG habitations, multipurpose centres and hostels according to suitable skills of these communities.

4. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

4.1   Study in India (SII) Portal

The Study in India Portal was launched recently.

- **Study in India Programme** - A flagship project introduced by *Ministry of Education (MoE)*.

- **Aim** – It seeks to endorse India as a prime education hub for international students by inviting them to pursue their higher education in the country. It also involves partnership with educational institutes.

- **Criteria** – The institutes should be fulfilling one of the following criteria:

    1. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking (<=100)

    2. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation score (>=3.01)

    3. Institutes of National Importance (INI)

Study in India Portal
- It is a dedicated website that will provide comprehensive information about the *Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)*.
- It will present information about the academic facilities, research support, and related information.
- It will illustrate academic programs covering undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), Doctoral level programs, Yoga, Ayurveda, classical arts etc.
- The new website will have the provision for students to apply in more than one institute/course of their choice.
- It will provide an integrated ***one-stop solution*** for student registration and visa application process.

4.2   PM-USHA Scheme

Around 14 States yet to join Centre's flagship education scheme.

- Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme is the new name for the Ministry of Education's scheme to improve the quality of higher education in State Universities.

- **Aim –** To improve quality through curricular & programme changes, teacher training, physical and digital infrastructure, accreditation, and enhancing employability, while ensuring equity, access, and inclusion.

- States are required to sign a MoU with the Centre which mandates the implementation of the National Education Policy in order to avail funds for the next 3 years, under the Centre's flagship scheme for State-run higher education.

- Nearly 40% of the PM USHA budget must be borne by the States themselves, and no extra funds have been earmarked for NEP reforms.

- The MoU makes it mandatory for States to undertake the administrative, academic, accreditation, and governance reforms detailed in the NEP.

- These include an academic credit bank, entry and exit flexibility, and the Samarth e-governance platform.

- PM-USHA carries forward the vision of the earlier Rashtriya Uchstar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), to improve the access, equity and quality of higher education in States.

- It reduces the fragmentation of resources by streamlining the number of scheme components to 6.

> *Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are among 14 States and Union Territories, which are yet to sign a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Education Ministry.*

4.3 Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Program

Ministry of Education and World Bank organised a workshop on School-to-Work Transition under STARS Program.

- It is an education reform initiative in India which is financially aided by the ***World Bank***.

- It aims to ***improve the assessment system in schools*** to ensure equal education for all.

- The program comes under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE).

- The programme aims at working on similar objectives as followed by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- There are 6Indian states which will be covered under the STARS Project are: Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.

- STARS Program is carved out of ***Samagra Shiksha Scheme*** that supports school education enhancement.

4.4 SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams)

- It is an ***open learning platform*** to help students prepare for competitive exams at no cost.

- It has been launched by the Ministry of Education and IIT-Kanpur.

- The preparation material will be available in English, Hindi and other regional languages.

4.5 Malaviya Mission

- **Malaviya Mission** - It envisages ***capacity-building training for the faculty and staff*** across higher educational institutions, in the light of NEP 2020, within 2 years through multiple training centers.

- It aims to provide tailored training programme for teachers and to improve the quality of teachers' training, build leadership skills in teachers and help realize the goals of NEP.

- The Mission ***restructures*** the existing Scheme of capacity building of teachers in Higher Education such as UGC-HRDCs and PMMMNMTT centers.

- **UGC-HRDC** - The University Grants Commission's (UGC) Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) cater to the teachers working in India's non-technical Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

- Under the Mission, the HRDCs will now be known as Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centres.

- **PMMMNMTT** - Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT) is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2014.

4.6 Yuva Sangam

- Ministry of Education has launched the 3rd phase of Yuva Sangam under *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign.*

- The students within the age group of 18 to 30 will get multi-dimensional exposure in 5 broad areas.

- Paryatan (tourism), Parampara (traditions), Pragati (development), Prodyogik (technology) and Paraspar sampark (people-to-people connect) in the host States.

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) is a government initiative that promotes cultural exchange and national integration between India's states and union territories.

4.7 Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing

The National eGovernance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Education, is set to integrate Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into its existing Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform.

- **DIKSHA -** It comes under the Ministry of Education, provides *e-content for schools via an online portal* and a mobile application.

- It also has embedded assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing impairments.

- However, DIKSHA is a static content repository.

- DIKSHA features digitised National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks used national and State Boards.

- **Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) -** The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has sought the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's expertise in facilitating PAL for DIKSHA.

4.8 One Nation One Student ID (APAAR)

- **APAAR** – *Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry* is a special ID system for all students in India, starting from childhood.

- Each student would get a lifelong APAAR ID.

- **Registration** – It is *voluntary, not mandatory*.

- A consent form needs to be signed by the student or parents in case of minors regarding the usage of their Aadhaar data which will be used to verify the name and date of birth.

- **Objective** - 'One nation, One Student ID' stems from the NEP 2020 to track academic progress from pre-primary to higher education.

- To serve as a gateway to Digilocker, a digital system where students can store their important documents and achievements digitally.

- To reduce fraud and duplicate educational certificates with a single, trusted reference for educational institutions.

- **Working** – Every student with APAAR ID be linked to the *Academic Bank of Credit (ABC),* a digital storehouse of information of the credits earned by students throughout their learning journey.

> *Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) database is the government's catalogue that contains data related to schools, teachers and students.*

- On course completion, it is digitally certified and securely stored.

- Only 1st party sources will be allowed to deposit credits into the system, ensuring authenticity.

- On changing schools, the data in the ABC gets transferred to new school just by sharing the APAAR ID.

4.9   UMMEED

The Union Ministry of Education (MoE) released the draft guidelines for schools to prevent suicide among students.

- **UMMEED** - Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Empower, and Develop (UMMEED).
- **Released by** – Department of School Education, Ministry of Education.
- **Objectives**
    o To *prevent suicides* among school students
    o To serve *directions to schools* for enhancing sensitivity, understanding, and support.
    o To *de-stigmatise mental health concerns* through storytelling, rallies, posters, exhibitions, etc.
- These guidelines *align perfectly with the NEP's* (National Education Policy) vision of holistic education.
- **Plan of Action** – Setting up of School Wellness Teams and immediate response to vulnerable students.
- **Composition of SWT** – School counsellors, students, teachers, supporting staff, representative of school management committee under the leadership of school principal.

Identifying warning signs → Reporting to SWT → Counselling session by counsellors → Record maintenance and follow ups
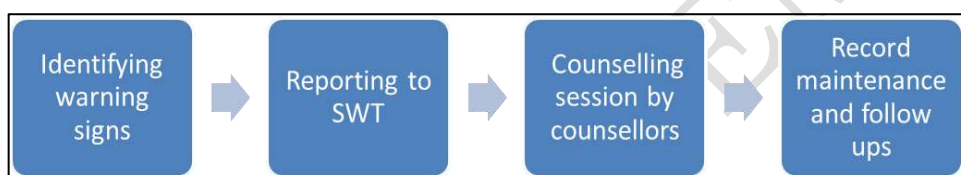
4.10   Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN)

After COVID break, Centre approves 4th phase roll-out of GIAN scheme as recommended by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA).

- It was launched in **2015-16 by Ministry of Education (MoE)**.
- **Objectives** –
    o To increase the footfalls of **international faculty in the Indian academic institutes** and to create avenue for possible collaborative research.
    o To develop *high quality course material* in niche areas, both through video and print mediums.
- **GIAN Implementation Committee** – It is headed by **Secretary (HE), MoE** to finalize and approve courses and also decide on budget allocation.
- **Coverage** – Initially, it will include all IITs, IIMs, Central Universities, IISc Bangalore, IISERs, NITs and IIITs subsequently cover good State Universities.
- **Activities** – Initially, foreign faculty be involved in delivering Short or Semester-long Courses.
- **Future prospects** – Experts allowing *video recording and optional web-casting* of course will be preferred.
- There is a plan to make the GIAN lectures available to Indian universities through an online consortium.

5. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

5.1   5 Years of Ayushman Bharat

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is organizing Arogya Manthan to celebrate 5 years of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

- It is the world's largest health assurance scheme.
- **Year of Launch** – *2018* as recommended by the *National Health Policy, 2017*
- **Ministry** - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
- **Aim** – To achieve the vision of *Universal Health Coverage (UHC)* which encompasses promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative care.

- **Funding** – *Centrally Sponsored Scheme* (expenditure incurred in premium payment will be shared between Central and State governments)

- **Coverage** - Targets *over 10 crore families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries)* based on SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census)

> *Public Health is a State Subject so states are responsible for providing effective public health to the people.*

- **Implementing Agency** – National Health Authority (NHA)

- **Components** - It has 2 components covering all 3 types of care to the people.

  - o **Health and wellness Centres (HWC)** – It covers primary care hospitalization by providing comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services.

  - o **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** – To provide a *health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year* for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

  - o It covers *up to 3 days* of pre-hospitalization and *15 days* post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.

  - o There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.

Status of Ayushman Bharat Scheme
- About 15.5 crore families are covered.
- It amounts to potential coverage of 50% of India's population.
- 11 states/UTs have pushed for 100% coverage of their respective population.
- 48% of treatments under the scheme have been availed by women.
- More than 24 crore Ayushman Cards have been created.
- It has resulted in savings of more than Rs 1 lakh crore for the beneficiaries which is often cited as Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE).
- According to the World Bank, proportion of out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare in India, at 50.59 %, is the highest among emerging economies.

  - o Benefits of the scheme are *portable* across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any *empaneled public or private hospital* in India to avail cashless treatment.

- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** – It was launched in 2021 to provide Unique Digital Health IDs (UHID) for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required.

> ***Ayushman Mitra initiative** is a part of PM-JAY where any citizen of India can voluntarily enroll themselves as Ayushman Mitra to assist patients and to coordinate with beneficiaries and the hospital.*

5.2 Ayushman Bhav Campaign

- Recently the President of India virtually launched the Ayushman Bhav campaign & Ayushman Bhava portal in Gandhinagar.

- **Aim -** To deliver healthcare services to the last mile and consolidate access and affordability for underserved populations, a leap towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and ensuring healthcare for all.

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

- **Components of Ayushman Bhav -** Ayushman - Apke Dwar 3.0, Ayushman Melas at Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs), Ayushman Sabhas.

  1. **Ayushman Apke Dwar 3.0 –** To provide Ayushman cards to remaining eligible beneficiaries enrolled under the PM-JAY scheme.

  2. **Ayushman Melas at HWCs and CHCs –** It will facilitate the creation of ABHA IDs (Health IDs) and issuance of Ayushman Bharat Cards.

  3. **Ayushman Sabhas -** These gatherings in every village and Panchayat play a vital role in distributing Ayushman cards, generating ABHA IDs, raising awareness about vital health schemes.

- It also discusses disease conditions, such as non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis (Nikshay Mitra), sickle cell disease, as well as blood donation and organ donation drives.

- This campaign is aligned with the vision of creating 'Healthy Villages' and 'Healthy Gram Panchayats,' laying the foundation for achieving Universal Health Coverage in the country.

- Panchayats that successfully saturate the health schemes will earn the prestigious title of ***Ayushman Gram Panchayat*** or ***Ayushman Urban Ward.***

- The campaign, will be implemented during the ***'Seva Pakhwada'*** initiative which strives to ensure that every individual receives essential health services and assisting government to attain the SDGs.

5.3   Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission' (PM-ABHIM)

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme aims to address ***critical gaps in health infrastructure***, surveillance, and health research.

- Aim - To help communities become self-sufficient in managing health crises and pandemics.

- It is the largest Pan-India scheme for public health infrastructure since 2005.

- It is launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and *National Health Mission.*

5.4   Arogya Manthan 2023

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is organising Arogya Manthan to celebrate 5 years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and 2 years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

- **Aim -** To have insightful discussions and deliberations on challenges, trends, and best practices related to the two schemes.

- **Hosted by -** National Health Authority (NHA) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- Both the flagship healthcare schemes aim to provide accessible, available, affordable and scalable healthcare to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India.

- **National Health Authority (NHA) -** Apex body responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

- It has been entrusted with the role of designing strategy, building technological infrastructure and implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission to create a National Digital Health Eco-system.

- National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)	Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

- **Aim –** It is a progression towards promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative aspects of Universal Healthcare.
 	
- It is a ***Centrally Sponsored Scheme*** having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission.
 	
- **Ministry -** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). It was launched to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
 	
- It consists of two components
   1. Health and wellness Centres and
   2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
	- **Launched -** 2021.
	
	- **Aim -** To develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.
	
	- It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways.
	
	- The ABDM aims to provide Unique Digital Health IDs (UHID) for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required.
	
	- National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will be the implementing Agency.

5.5	One Nation One Registration Platform

- ***National Medical Commission (NMC),*** the regulatory body for medical education and medical professionals, is all set to launch its one nation, one registration platform.

- It aims to eliminate duplication, red tape and allow the public to access information on any physician working in India through UIDs for all practicing doctors.

5.6	MedTech Mitra

- MedTech Mitra is a platform that will help the young talents of the country by holding their hands to give final shape to their research and help them in getting regulatory approval.

- It is an initiative of ***NITI Aayog, Indian Council of Medical Research in partnership with Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).***

- The platform brings together various stakeholders in the field of medical technology to enhance cooperation among various stakeholders and collaborate with them to promote progress in the health sector.

5.7	Microsites by NHA

- National Health Authority (NHA) has launched 100 microsites project under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to promote digital health and improve healthcare accessibility for all citizens.

- **Microsites -** These are clusters of small and medium-sized healthcare facilities that are fully enabled with ABDM capabilities to offer digital health services to patients.

- Microsites will digitise the entire patient journey with the establishment of ABDM adopted small ecosystem within a particular geographic area.

- **Primarily implementation -** State mission directors of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

- **Secondary -** Overall guidance and financial support provided by the National Health Authority (NHA).

- **Working -** ABDM-enabled applications will be installed in these facilities.

- Health records of the patients visiting these centres will be linked to their Ayushman Bharat Health ID (ABHA) and become part of ABDM

6. MINISTRY OF AYUSH

6.1	Yoga and Ayurveda in Neurosciences, Therapeutics and Research Approaches (YANTRA)

- It is an international conference on Integrative Medicine with a theme on models of integration in healthcare.

- It was held at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in association with Jignasa, which provides a common platform to address all aspects related to AYUSH systems.

6.2	AGNI Initiative

- AGNI – Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative

- **Objectives -** To provide a platform to Ayurveda practitioners for *reporting their innovative practices* in various disease conditions.

- To *create of a database* by identifying and collaborating with interested practitioners.

- **Nodal agency** – Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS).
- It will *document and publish* the reported practices in consultation with National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)

Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS)

- An autonomous body under ***Ministry of AYUSH***.
- **Aim** – To undertake, coordinate, formulate, develop and promote *research on scientific lines in Ayurveda*.
- **Research activities** – Medicinal Plant Research, Drug Standardization, Pharmacological Research, Clinical Research, Literary Research & Documentation and Tribal Health Care Research Programme.
- **Located at** – New Delhi
- **Initiatives**
  - **SPARK** – Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken for Undergraduate Scholars
  - **PG-STAR** – Scheme for Training in Ayurveda Research for PG Scholars for PG Scholars
  - **SMART** - Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals program for teachers

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7. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1   Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme

India have launched its 1st Indian Food and Wood certification scheme.

- **Launched by** – MoEFCC
- **Aim** – To offer ***voluntary 3rd party certification*** to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.
- To ***incentivise entities*** like State forest departments, individual farmers, or Farmer Producer Organizations, farm forestry and other wood-based industries in the value chain.
- **Certification Types**
  - Forest management (FM) certification
  - Tree outside forest management certification
  - Chain of custody (CoC) certification

> *Forest Management certification is based on the Indian Forest Management Standard, an integral part of the National Working Plan Code 2023.*

- **Overseen by** – Indian Forest & Wood Certification Council.
- **Operating agency** – Indian Institute of Forest Management in Bhopal, responsible for overall management.
- The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies under the Quality Council of India (QCI) will accredit the certification bodies.
- **Certification bodies** – It will carry out independent audits and assess entities on their adherence to the prescribed standards.

Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council

- It will act as a multi-stakeholder advisory body.
- **Composition** – Representatives from Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, FSI, QCI, IIFM, Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, State Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations and Wood-based industries

> ***Forest certification*** *seeks to authenticate the origin, legality, and sustainability of forest-based products.*
>
> ***Chain of custody (CoC) certification*** *is meant to guarantee the traceability of a forest product like timber throughout the supply chain from origin to market.*

7.2 Green Credit Program & Ecomark scheme

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced GCP and Ecomark scheme to take ahead the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement.

Green Credit Program (GCP)

- It is an innovative market-based mechanism.

- **Objective** – Incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.

- **Governance framework** – Inter-ministerial Steering Committee and GCP administrator.

- **Administrator** – Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

- **Focus** – Water conservation and afforestation.

Registration in official website www.moefcc-gcp.in → Self-verification or verification by adminstrator → Green Credit certificate

- **Digital platform** – It will streamline registration of projects, its verification, and issuance of Green Credits.

- **Green Credit Registry and trading platform** – It allows buying and selling of Green Credits.
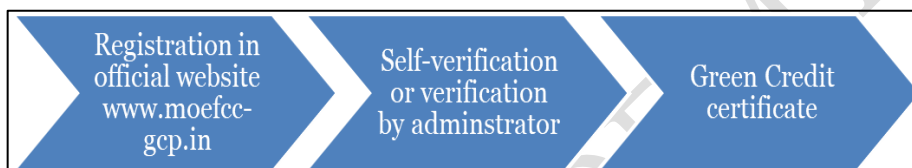
Ecomark Scheme

- It accredits products that meet specific environmental criteria with minimal environmental impact and maintains quality standards as per Indian norms.

- **Administration** – Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

7.3 Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), envisages to celebrate the World Environment Day 2023 with a thrust on the Mission LiFE.

- The ***Environmental Information System (ENVIS)*** came into existence as a plan programme in 1983.

- It has been subsumed within the revamped scheme of Environment Education, Awareness, Research and Skill Development.

- ENVIS is renamed as ***EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme).***

- EIACP serves as a one stop platform for dissemination of environmental information, policy formulation on environment and facilitation of alternate livelihoods through green skilling.

- The programme is one of the Central Sector sub-scheme being implemented in alignment with Mission LiFE.

- EIACP Hub on Status of Environment Related Issues is hosted by the Indian State Level Basic Environmental Information Database (ISBEID).

- The ISBEID is a centralised database maintained by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India for all the States.

- EIACP conducts Environmental Awareness Programs to School Children, Colleges and Universities on Environmental Important Days like, World Environment Day, World Earth Day, etc.

7.4 One Year of Project Cheetah

Recently, 1 year anniversary of India's cheetah reintroduction programme was observed with the 1st batch of 8 cheetahs from Namibia arrived on September 17, 2022.

- Project Cheetah is India's cheetah relocation programme and the 1st intercontinental reintroduction of a wild, large carnivore species.

- **Aim** - To bring in 5-10 animals every year, over the next decade, until a self-sustaining population of cheetahs is established.

- **Reintroduction-** The *African cheetahs* are translocated from the forests of South Africa and Namibia to the *Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.*

- **Implementing body -** The *National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)* under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and And Climate Change

- **Assisted by** - The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)

To know more about Cheetah reintroduction programme, click here

Cheetah

Scientific name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

Cheetahs are the fastest land animals.

Cheetah are large wild cats

IUCN Status - Vulnerable

CITES - Appendix I

Status of Project Cheetah

- **Total Imports** – 20 adult African cheetahs have been imported so far.

- **Death** – Of the 20 adult cheetahs imported, 6 of the 12 cheetahs which came from Africa have died.

- Additionally, 3 of the four cubs have died and the only remaining cub is being hand reared as its mother has rejected it.

- **Current status** - The surviving 14 adult cheetahs and 1 cub are in captivity.

- The current status doesn't indicate any progress to achieve the stated goal of Project Cheetah.

- **Additional sites being prepared** – *Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary*, both in Madhya Pradesh.

8. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

8.1   PM- KISAN

Recently, face authentication feature is enabled in PM-Kisan mobile app expansion.

- **Launch Year** - 2018.

- It is a *Central Sector scheme* with 100% funding from Government of India.

- **Features** - Under this scheme an income support of ***6,000/- per year in 3 equal instalments*** will be provided to all land holding farmer families (subject to exclusion criteria).

- The farmer can also get a loan facility in the form of short-term loans by using Kisan Credit Card (KCC).

- Definition of family for the scheme is husband, wife and minor children.

- **Identification of Beneficiaries** - State Government and UT administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.

- The fund will be *directly transferred* to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

- It has roped in *India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)* to open Aadhaar linked bank accounts for beneficiaries at their doorstep and asked *Common Services Centres* to organize village-level e-KYC camps.

PM-KISAN Mobile App

- Developed by *National Informatics Centre* in collaboration with *Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology*.

- The farmers can view the status of their application, update or carry out corrections of their Aadhaar cards and also check the history of credits to their bank accounts.

- ***Face authentication feature*** will enable beneficiary farmers to complete their e-KYC process by just scanning their face on mobile phones instead of using one-time password or fingerprints.

9. MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

9.1 Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- **PMMSY -** It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector.

- **Aim** - To double the income of fish farmers and fishers in the country and to bring about Blue Revolution.

- **Launched -** 2020.

- The PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with 2 separate Components - Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

- PMMSY is implemented in all States and Union Territories for 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Targets of PMMSY

Fish Production and Productivity
- Increasing fish production to 22 million metric tons by 2024-25 from 13.75 million metric tons in 2018-19.
- Enhancing aquaculture productivity to 5 tons per hectare from the current national average of 3 tons.
- Augmenting domestic fish consumption from 5 kg to 12 kg per capita.

Economic Value Addition
- Increasing contribution of fisheries sector to the Agriculture GVA to about 9% by 2024-25 from 7.28% in 2018-19.
- Doubling export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crores by 2024-25 from Rs.46,589 crores in 2018-19.
- Facilitating private investment and growth of entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector.
- Reduction of post-harvest losses from the reported 20-25% to about 10%.

Enhancing Income and Employment Generation
- Generating 55 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities along the value chain.
- Doubling the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.

9.2 Matsya Sampada Jagrukta Abhiyan (MSJA)

National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT) organized a workshop on Matsya Sampada Jagrukta Abhiyan recently.

- **MSJA -** It is an outreach programme that aims to reach fish farmers and 3477 coastal villages and ensures last mile connectivity.

- It disseminates information and knowledge about 9 years of achievements in the fisheries sector.

- **Duration -** 6 months Campaign

9.3 Report Fish Disease App

- To further strengthen the farmer-based reporting of diseases, Report Fish Disease App has been developed under the ***National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD).***
- The farmers can report disease cases in *finfish*, *shrimps* and *molluscs* on their farms.

- The app will be a central platform for connecting fish farmers, field-level officers and fish health experts.

- Through this app each disease case in aquatic animals are reported, investigated and scientific advice are provided.
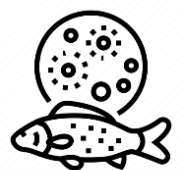
10.   MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING

10.1   Operation Greens (OG)

- It is a Central Sector Scheme established under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana.

- Launched by - Ministry of Food Processing Industries

- Implemented by - National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (***NAFED).***

- Aim - To stabilize the supply of ***Tomato, Onion, and Potato (TOP)*** crops without price volatility.

11.   MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS

11.1   Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

- The 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' was revamped as 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana' (PMJAY).

- It is launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers to provide ***quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.***

- Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Janaushadhi Kendras are opened to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.

- The Scheme is implemented by a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, which is ***Pharma & Medical Bureau of India (PMBI).***

- **Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Sanitary Napkins program** – A part of the PMBJP to make menstrual hygiene affordable and accessible for women and young girls.

11.2   Unique package for farmers

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a unique package of innovative schemes for farmers during 2023.

- **Urea Subsidy Scheme** - The CCEA approved continuation of Urea Subsidy Scheme to ensure constant availability of urea to the farmers at the same price of Rs 242/ 45 kg bag excluding taxes and neem coating charges.

- **Nano Urea** - By 2025-26, 8 Nano urea plants with production capacity of 195 LMT of conventional urea will be commissioned.

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSKs)** - About 1 lakh Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSKs) have already come up in the country.

- For the convenience of farmers, the farm inputs are being provided as a one stop solution for all needs of farmers.

- **PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother – Earth (PM PRANAM)** - To promote alternate fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

PM- PRANAM

- **Launch-** PM-PRANAM was launched in Union Budget 2023–24.

- **Aim-** To promote the balanced use of chemical and alternative fertilisers, generating awareness of regenerative agriculture (RA).

- **Objective -** To incentivise the States and UTs to promote usage of alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.

- **Budget -** PRANAM scheme has *no separate budget*, a 50% subsidy savings will be provided to States/UTs.

- *70% of the grant* provided under the scheme can be used for asset creation related to technological adoption of alternate fertilisers and alternate fertiliser production units.

- *30% grant money* can be used for incentivising farmers, panchayats, farmer producer organisations, self-help groups, etc.

- **Data-** iFMS (Integrated fertilisers Management System) data available in the Fertiliser Ministry dashboard will be used for this purpose.

Steps Taken to Promote Use of Alternate Fertilisers

- **DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) system**- It was launched in 2016 to plug leakages in fertiliser subsidy.

- 100% subsidy on various fertiliser grades is released to the fertiliser companies on the basis of actual sales made by the retailers to the beneficiaries.

- **Nano urea-** India's first liquid nano urea plant is inaugurated at Kalol, Gujarat.

- It has a shelf life of a year, and farmers need not be worried about caking when it comes in contact with moisture.

- **Urea Gold** – It is a new variety of urea that is coated with sulphur which is expected to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.

- Usage of "**Bio-stimulants**" in the Fertilizer Control Order-1985 (FCO).

- **Soil Health Card**- It was launched in 2014, gives information to farmers on the nutrient status of their soil.

- It gives recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

- **Neem-coated urea**- All the indigenous and imported urea were neem coated so as to make the urea slow release and difficult to use for non-agricultural purposes.

- **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana-** Assistance of Rs 50,000 per hectare/ 3 years is given.

- **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region**- Farmers are given assistance of Rs 25000/ ha/ 3 years for both onfarm & off-farm organic inputs, and seeds/ planting material.

- **National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm-** Financial assistance at 50% subsidy to the tune of Rs. 300/- per ha is being provided for different components.

- It includes bio-fertilizers, supply of Rhizobium culture/Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria (PSB)/ Zinc Solubilising Bacteria etc.,

- **National Food Security Mission-** Financial assistance is provided for promotion of Bio-Fertilizer (Rhizobium/ PSB) @50% of the cost limited to Rs.300 per ha.

- **INM &IPM**- Government of India has been promoting soil test based Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) under Soil Health Card Programme & Integrated Pest management (IPM) practices for judicious use of chemicals.

12. MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

12.1 "Dashboard" portal

- It is an ***Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven technology dashboard to analyze Parliament Questions*** on various parameters including member's profile.

- It also serves as a dashboard for Cabinet Notes, Acts of Parliament and Gazette Notifications of Govt. of India related to Department of Science & Technology.

- Ministry - ***Ministry of Science & Technology.***

12.2 Project TAMARA

Technology Development Board (TDB) of Ministry of Science & Technology supports the Waterbody Management Project "TAMARA" with 89 Lakhs out of 150 lakhs.

- **Project Title** - Development and Commercialization of Intelligent Water Body Management System (IWMS)-TAMARA.

- It is a smart aeration system enhanced with sensors and IoT-based technology to ***manage water quality.***

- This modern approach not only improves existing methods of treating water and wastewater but also ensures that water bodies and aquaculture ponds stay clean and healthy for everyone.

- **Agency -** M/s Bariflo Labs Private Limited, Odisha.

- This project is in line with other successful initiatives of the Govt. like Namami Gange and Jal Shakti Abhiyan that focus on revitalizing and protecting India's waterbodies.

AMRUT 2.0 mission

- It is a step towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat with aim of making the cities 'water secure' and providing functional water tap connections to all households.

- Ministry - ***Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs***

- This Mission will be run as people's program i.e. Jan Aandolan.

- Mission also targets to provide 100% sewage/ septage management in 500 AMRUT cities.

- It will co-opt women and youth for concurrent feedbacks about its progress to ensure community participation.

13. MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

13.1 Deep Ocean Mission

As part of Deep Ocean Mission, India will for the 1st time, embark on a journey to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean using an indigenously developed submersible.

- It is one of 9 missions under ***Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC).***

- **Ministry -** Ministry of Earth Sciences

- **Project duration** - 5 years (since 2021); **Funding**- 4,077 crore

- **Aim** - To help India in achieving target of over *Rs. 100 billion "Blue Economy"* through its ocean resources

> *U.S.A., Russia, China, France, and Japan have already achieved successful deep-ocean crewed missions.*

- **Objectives**
  - To develop technologies for exploration and conservation for *sustainable utilization* of marine bio resources.
  - To provide ocean climate change *advisory services.*
  - To develop *renewable energy generation techniques* to explore the avenues of desalination of water.

- **Components**
  - Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, and Manned Submersible - India's 1st manned ocean mission, *Samudrayan* was launched in 2021.
  - Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity
  - Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services

- o Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration
- o Energy and freshwater from the Ocean
- o Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology

- **Collaborative Institutions for Deep Ocean Mission**
  - o National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)
  - o National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
  - o Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE)
  - o Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
  - o National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)

> *The United Nations has declared 2021-2030 as the **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**.*

Varaha

- Varaha is ocean mining vehicle, part of Deep Ocean Mission (or) *Samudrayaan Mission*.

- MATSYA-6000 is also a part of the Deep Ocean Mission.

- It is an indigenously developed deep-ocean submersible vehicle to accommodate 3 members (aquanauts) with an operational endurance of 12 hours to 96 hours.

- Varaha is lowered to the ocean bed from a surface ship using a high-strength flexible cord system.

- Once the vehicle reaches the ocean bed, it will be able to move around while the surface ship moves in tandem.

- Over a span of 2.5 hours, the surface ship covers a distance of 120 m with Varaha.

13.2 Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) Scheme

- It is an umbrella *central sector scheme* that pertains to the atmospheric science programs of the *Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)*.

- The sub-schemes under the ACROSS scheme are multi-disciplinary in nature and will be implemented in an integrated manner through 4 institutes.

  1. India Meteorological Department (IMD)
  2. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
  3. National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)
  4. Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

Sub schemes under ACROSS

- Upgradation of Forecast System
- Weather & Climate Services
- Atmospheric Observations Network
- Numerical Modelling of Weather and Climate
- Monsoon Mission III
- Monsoon Convection Clouds & Climate Change (MC4)
- High Performance Computing System (HPCS)

14. MINISTRY OF PANCHATI RAJ

14.1 Gram Manchitra

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched *Geographic Information System* application "Gram Manchitra" to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat.

- It uses the *National Informatics Centre's (NIC)* Geographic Information System (GIS) platform of Bharat Maps.

15. MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

15.1 eSARAS

- It is an initiative of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna** - *National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)*.

- It aims to collect and organize the authentic handcrafted products from across the country.

- It is an online platform for buying handicrafts and handloom items made by rural women registered with Self Help Groups (SHGs).

- This online platform **showcases the products made by self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and federated institutions.

- The artisans get remunerated fairly with *no middlemen* to manipulate prices.

- Through this online portal, customers get access to *100% authentic handcrafted* products emerging straight from the heart of India.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) DAY-NRLM

- National Rural Livelihood Mission is also known as **Aajeevika.**

- It is a flagship poverty alleviation program implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development.**

- It aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor household to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in sustainable and diversified livelihood options for the poor.

- This is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

- The Mission seeks to reach out to around *10 crore rural poor households* in a phased manner by 2022-23 and impact their livelihoods significantly.

15.2 Nayi Chetna – 2.0

- It is a gender campaign that aims to **eradicate violence against women** and advance the rights of women and gender-diverse individuals.

- The campaign was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

- The campaign is led by *Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)* and launched in all states under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, supported by 9 ministries.

16. MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

16.1 Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Seher Campaign

- Aim- To champion the RRR's of waste management- **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**

- The RRR Centres will serve as one-stop collection centres to deposit unused or used plastic items, clothes, shoes, footwear, books, and toys.

- After collection, these items will be given to different stakeholders to be refurbished for reuse or would be made into new products.

- The campaign will also champion Mission LiFE's objective and Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM 2.0).

16.2   City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)

- It is a program conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

- The program will run for a period of 4 years, i.e., *from 2023 till 2027.*

- It envisages to support competitively selected projects *promoting circular economy* with focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level.

- The program also promotes institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the National level.

- CITIIS 1.0 was launched jointly in *2018* by MoHUA, AFD, EU, and NIUA, with three components:

    1. Component 1: 12 city-level projects selected through a competitive process.

    2. Component 2: Capacity-development activities in the State of Odisha.

    3. Component 3: Promoting integrated urban management at the national level through activities undertaken by NIUA, which was the Program Management Unit (PMU) for CITIIS 1.0.

- Technical assistance is made available under the program at all three levels.

16.3   Amplifi 2.0

- Amplifi – Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India

- Aim - To facilitate the process of achieving sustainable development by making data available on the crucial issues pertaining to development.

- It is a platform to *provide raw data across 14 sectors* for 440+ parameters for 250+ cities.

- **Coverage** – *Currently, 225 urban local bodies (ULB)* have been on-boarded, and data for 150 cities is available on the portal.

- **Target** – To cover data from more than 4,000 ULB.

- **Data collection** – Through multiple assessment frameworks like

    - Ease of Living Index (EOLI)

    - Municipal Performance Index (MPI)

    - Data Maturity Assessment Framework

    - Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework

    - Urban Outcomes Framework 2022

- It covers range of information like average annual health expenditure, slum population among others.

Urban Outcomes Framework 2022

- An initiative to *develop a transparent and comprehensive database* based on cross-city outcomes across 14 sectors.

- **Designed and developed by** – National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

- **Aim** – To *democratise data by making it accessible* to all urban stakeholders and providing opportunity to create new frameworks based on open data.

- **Significance** – It shifts the focus from the indices to the data with a comprehensive list of indicators.

- It streamlines the data to focus on data collection, and disaggregated data can be analysed by domain experts.

16.4   AAINA Dashboard for Cities

- Aim - To encourage Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country to *voluntarily submit key data* through a user-friendly data entry form on the portal

- Initiative of - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs *through Digital India Corporation* will provide handholding support to ULBs in the data submission process.

16.5 Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign

- Aim - To provide a platform for ***inclusion of women in water governance.***

- Women will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in their respective cities.

- The campaign is under the flagship scheme ***Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT***), in partnership with National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).

16.6 PM-eBus Sewa

- The scheme is about introducing around ***10,000 electric buses under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP)*** model in 169 cities across the nation.

- It will promote e-mobility and provide full support for behind-the-meter power infrastructure.

- The scheme was first announced in 2021 in the Union budget.

- **Coverage** - The scheme will cover cities having a population of *3 lakh and above* according to Census 2011.

- Under this scheme priority will be given to cities having no organized bus service.

- **Duration -** The Scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.

- The Scheme has 2 segments

    o **Segment A** – Augmenting the City bus services **-** (169 cities)

    o **Segment B −** Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI) - (181 cities).

- **Funding -** Estimated cost of the scheme is Rs 57,613 crore, of which Rs 20,000 crore will be provided by Central government and the rest will be provided by state governments.

- **Operation -** States/Cities shall be responsible for running the bus services and making payments to the bus operators.

- This scheme is different than the one that is rolled out by the *Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL)*, a wholly owned subsidiary of *Energy Efficiency Services Limited, under the Ministry of Power.*

16.7 Regional Rapid Transit System - NaMo Bharat

India's 1st indigenous mass rapid system, *RRTS covering Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut section was inaugurated.*

- Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) is a new rail-based, semi-high-speed, high-frequency commuter transit system dedicated to regional connectivity.

- RRTS, now called as ***NaMo Bharat***, was designed with a speed of *180 kmph*.

- **Aim -** To ensure sustainable urban development through better connectivity across the National Capital Region

- **Coverage** - *8 RRTS corridors* have been identified for development in the NCR.

- **Phase - I** - Out of 8, 3 corridors have been prioritised to be implemented in Phase-I

    o Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Corridor

    o Delhi-Gurugram-SNB-Alwar Corridor

    o Delhi-Panipat Corridor

- **Construction & Implementation** - National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), a joint venture of Union government and the governments of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

- NCRTC comes under the *Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs*.

17. MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION

17.1   Graphene-Aurora Program

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at Kerala recently.

- **Aim** - It aims to fill the gap between R&D and commercialization by providing a complete facility to startup and industry.

- **Implemented by** - Digital University Kerala with joint funding from Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Government of Kerala and Industry partners.

- Under this programme, Section 8 Company (not for profit) called India Graphene Engineering and Innovation Center (I-GEIC) shall be set up in Trivandrum, Kerala.

> **Graphene**
>
> - It is often referred to as a wonder material for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties.
>
> - **Discovered by** - Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov in 2004.
>
> - It is stronger than steel, very stretchable and used as a flexible conductor.
>
> - Its thermal conductivity is much higher than that of silver.
>
> - It is an ultimately thin, mechanically very strong and transparent.
>
> - **Applications -** Touch screens, light panels and solar cells.

17.2   The National Programme on AI (NPAI)

- 7 working groups of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had submitted the 1st edition of IndiaAI report.
- Umbrella programme by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

- **Aim** - For leveraging transformative technologies to foster inclusion, innovation, and adoption for social impact

- **Content repository for NPAI** - INDIAai (The National AI Portal of India)

- **Components**

  o **India Datasets Platform** - It will be one of the largest collections of anonymized datasets that will be used by Indian researchers to train their multi parameter models.

  o **India AI Compute Platform**- It is a public-private partnership project that will create substantial GPU (Graphics processing unit) capacity for our startups and researchers.

- India AI will also support the development of AI chips in partnership with the *Semicon India program*.
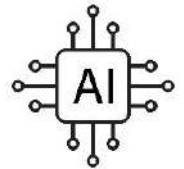
> **PILLARS OF NPAI**
>
> AI in Governance
> AI IP & Innovation
> Data for AI
> Skilling in AI
> AI Ethics & Governance
> AI Compute & Systems

> *INDIAai portal is an initiative of MeitY, National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)*

17.3   Global DPI Repository (GDPIR)

- India has launched 2 new initiatives - Global DPI Repository and Social Impact Fund to advance Digital Public Infrastructure in Global South.

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is a set of shared digital systems to deliver and provide equitable access to public and / or private services to drive development, inclusion, innovation and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- **Global DPI Repository (GDPIR)** – A virtual repository of DPI, voluntarily shared by **_G20 members_** and beyond.

- **Developed by** – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

- **Aim** - To _bridge the knowledge gap_ in the choices and methodologies required for the design, construction, deployment, and governance of DPIs.

- To showcase the _information in a standardized format_ by incorporating elements such as maturity scales, source codes and governance frameworks and c*urrently, the GDPIR features **54 DPIs from 16 countries***.

Social Impact Fund (SIF)

- It is envisioned as a _government led_, multistakeholder initiative to _fast-track DPI implementation in the global south_.

- **Aim** – To offer a platform for all stakeholders _to contribute to this fund_ and help accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) through DPIs.

- To provide upstream _technical and non-technical assistance_ to countries in developing DPI systems.

- *The **SIF India** has pledged an initial commitment of 25 million USD.*

17.4   e - Cabinet System

Tripura has launched an e-cabinet system to promote digitisation of government services and information.

- A software portal for state governments to conduct Cabinet meetings electronically.

- **Developed by** - National Information Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY).

- **Unique Features** - Automate work flow activities before, during and after Meetings.

- Enhanced level of Security, with Push & Pull features.

- Build institutional memory & knowledge repository, enabling quick search & retrieval.

- **Advantages** - Saves huge resources of Paper, fuel and manpower and Reduces carbon footprint and environmental degradation.

- Bolster e-governance and Digital India initiative and Eliminate delays.

- Increase transparency, efficiency and accountability.

> *Tripura has become the 4th state - and 2nd in the Northeast - after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, to have introduced an e-cabinet system.*

18.   MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

18.1   Sanchar Saathi

- It is a citizen-centric initiative of Department of Telecommunications that was launched in 2023.

- **Aim**- To empower mobile subscribers, strengthen their security and increase awareness about citizen centric initiatives of the Government. It is an integral part of _Digital India vision._

- **Functions-** It allows citizens to

   o **Check-** The connections registered against their names.

   o **Block-** Mobile phones which are stolen or lost,

   o **Report-** Fraudulent or unrequired connections

   o **Verify-** The genuineness of a device using the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity).

- **Keep Yourself Aware facility-** It provides latest updates and awareness material on different aspects related to end user security, telecom and information security.

- **CEIR module-** It facilitates tracing of the lost/stolen mobile devices.

- **TAFCOP module**- It allows users to check all the mobile numbers registered using Aadhaar card.

- **ASTR-** It is Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification that helps to identify fraudulent subscribers.

> Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is the technology development arm under the Department of Telecom established in 1984

18.2 PM-WANI

Internet distributed through PMWANI can be a game changer in digital connectivity.

- **PM - Wi-Fi Access Network Interface** (PM-WANI) was launched by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in 2020.

- **Aim -** To enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country, especially in rural areas.

- **Implementation -** DOT will assist all the stakeholders in implementation and proliferation of PM WANI.

- **Elements -** Various entities such as PDO, PDOA, app providers, and a central registry are parts of the scheme.

Vision areas of Digital India Programme
- Digital connectivity
- Software and services on demand
- Digital empowerment of citizens

- The Central Registry maintains the details of the App providers, PDOAs and POAs.

- The Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) provide public Wi-Fi services through PDOs spread across length and breadth of the country.

- PDOAs provides aggregate services such as authorization and accounting to PDOs.

- Public Data Offices (PDOs) (last-mile providers) can be found in small shops, local establishments, and even households.

- PDOs establish, maintain, and operate PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi Hotspots.

- No licence or permit is needed for operators to start operations.

- App Provider will develop an Application to register users and discover and display PM-WANI compliant Wi-Fi Hotspots.

- *Data PM-WANI App* is the PM-WANI compliant app which help users to easily navigate and discovering PMWANI Wi-Fi hotspots.

- **Benefits -** PM-WANI accelerates high-speed unlimited internet penetration, bridging the digital divide and empowering communities.

- It nurtures the growth of local nano entrepreneurs throughout the country.

18.3 ASTR and CEIR

- The government developed AI and face recognition tool ASTR claims to detect phone frauds.

- The 'Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification' is an artificial-intelligence-based facial recognition tool shortly known as ASTR.

- ASTR is developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under ***Ministry of Communications & Information Technoloy***

- Mobile connections obtained using fake/ forged documents are then used for cyber-frauds.

- ASTR is designed to identify SIMs issued using fraudulent/forged documents.

- It has the capability of running checks on subscriber databases of telecom operators to deduce multiple connections associated with the same person.

- ASTR used various techniques of facial recognition and data analytics.

- **Facial Recognition -** In 2012, DoT had issued an order to all telecom operators to share their subscriber database including users' pictures with them.

> The DoT allows an individual to take 9 legitimate mobile phone connections using a single identity proof

- These images constitute the core database on which authorities are running their facial recognition algorithm using ASTR.

- The subscribers' images are encoded using convolutional neural network (CNN) models.

- A face comparison is carried out for each face against all faces in the database, and similar faces are grouped under one directory.

- **Action Taken -** the DoT prepares a list of numbers obtained through fraudulent means.

- The list of connections is shared with telecom operators to block.

- The same list is also shared with banks, payment wallets, and social media platforms for disengaging these numbers from their respective platforms.

Centralized Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)

- CEIR was launched by Department of Telecom for blocking stolen/lost mobiles.

- The system is integrated with the Telecom Service Providers and Law enforcement Agencies.

> IMEI is a 15-digit unique numeric identifier of mobile devices assigned before their sale in India

- **Working -** The user submits the IMEI number along with the copy of police complaint of lost/stolen phone on the portal.

- The information is verified and then the system blocks the stolen mobile phones from being used in Indian networks.

- The system allows Law Enforcement Agencies to trace the stolen device if still in use.

- On recovery of stole devices, the user can unlock the device on the portal.

- **Benefits -** The system prevents use of stolen/lost mobiles.

- It also prevents mobile devices with inaccurate or forged IMEIs being used in Indian networks.

19. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

19.1   Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme II

Government kicks off contractual dispute settlement scheme, which allows contractors and suppliers to government and its undertakings can file claims by October 31.

- **Vendors –** The Centre launched a settlement scheme for contractual disputes with vendors or suppliers to government and its undertakings.

- The scheme set an October 31 deadline for firms to submit their claims for consideration.

- The scheme is termed Vivad se Vishwas II — (Contractual Disputes)' in Union Budget 2023-24 and the Department of Expenditure had indicated the guidelines for its operation.

- **Cutoff date –** For disputes to be considered for settlement, the aggrieved party should have secured an arbitral award by January 31, 2023, with the cut-off date set at April 30 in case of Court orders.

- **Available to –** The scheme will apply to all domestic contractual disputes where one of the parties is either the Government of India or an organisation working under its control.

- **GeM –** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has developed a dedicated web page for implementation of this scheme and eligible claims shall be processed only through GeM.

Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme I
- In the 2020-21 Budget, this scheme was introduced to put an end to pending direct tax disputes at various appellate forums paving way for efficient revenue collection.   - It waives of the interest, penalty & prosecution for those persons who settle their dues by March 31, 2021.   - It is modelled on the lines of Sabka Vishwas scheme, which met with reasonable success in closing numerous litigations in indirect tax demands.   - As per the Standing Committee on Finance, there are 4,83,000 disputes cases pending before the Commissioner (Appeals), the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, High Courts & Supreme Court.   - The *Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act*, 2020 was enacted on 17th March, 2020 with the objective: - To reduce pending income tax litigation   - To generate timely revenue for the Government   - To benefit taxpayers by providing them peace of mind, certainty and savings because of time and resources that would otherwise be spent on the long-drawn and vexatious litigation process.

19.2 Mera Bill, Mera Adhikar scheme

- Mera Bill, Mera Adhikar is an invoice promotion scheme.

- **Aim -** To encourage the culture of customers asking for bills for all purchases.

- **Introduced by -** Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), ***Ministry of Finance.***

- **Pilot project in –** Assam, Gujarat and Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu.

- A few invoices would be identified by a draw of lots, for cash rewards, ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 crore, through monthly and quarterly draws.

20. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

20.1 UIDAI's initiative to prevent AePS frauds

As frauds related to the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) are high, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has turned to artificial intelligence-based systems in a bid to limit the cases.

- **Aadhar enabled payment systems –** AEPS is a bank led model which allows online interoperable financial transaction at PoS (Point of Sale / Micro ATM) through the Business Correspondent (BC)/Bank Mitra of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication.

UIDAI's Intiatives

Aadhar fingerprint technology

- The technology was rolled out in 2023 for securing Aadhaar-based transactions by the UIDAI.

> *According to Home Ministry, in 2022 there were 6.94 lakhs financial crimes, such as money laundering, bribery, corruption and different kinds of frauds.*

- The AePS enables transactions through Aadhaar authentication using just the bank name, Aadhaar number and fingerprint of the individual recorded during enrolment.

- To prevent Aeps frauds by the use of spoofed fingerprints during Aadhar authentication, the UIDAI has rolled out an in-house Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning technology.

- It is based on _**Finger Minutiae Record – Finger Image Record (FMR-FIR) modality**_ which is able to check the liveness of a fingerprint to detect the use of cloned fingerprint during the authentication process.

Facial recognition technology

- In May, 2023 Airtel Payments Bank collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to roll out a facial recognition-based authentication measure for such transactions.

- The technology has been developed in-house by the UIDAI.

20.2	Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme

- **Funding** – Central sector scheme

- **Aim -** To provide relief to poor prisoners, who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints.

- **Nodal Agency -** The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), New Delhi.

- As per the guidelines, the maximum assistance would be Rs 40,000 for undertrial prisoners and Rs 25,000 for convicted prisoners, though a higher assistance may be approved by the state- level oversight committee.

- The Home Ministry has made provision for an amount of Rs 20 crore annually which the states and UTs.

21. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

21.1	Maternity benefits for women soldiers

- Defence Ministry recently has extended the rules for maternity, child care and child adoption leaves for _**women soldiers, sailors and air warriors in the tri-services.**_

- It will entitle women soldiers, sailors and air warriors to the same maternity, childcare and child adoption leaves as female officers in the three services.

22. MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

22.1	Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana

- National Entrepreneurship Development Project.

- **Aim** - To help the street vendors and small shopkeepers to become more skilled and will empower them.

- **Launched in** - 2024.

- **Features** - The target audience are the beneficiaries of _**PM SVANidhi Yojana.**_

- It will offer comprehensive entrepreneurship training in over a period of 22 weeks, combining theoretical knowledge with practical exposure through experiential learning.

- The training will be conducted through offline, online, and hybrid modes, with certificates awarded upon completion.

- The project will be piloted initially in selected districts, with a focus on ensuring 40% participation by women.

- **Implementation** - In the pilot phase, the project will be implemented through 20 Centres of _National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD),_ Noida and 10 Centres of _Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE),_ Guwahati.

23. MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)

23.1 PM Vishwakarma

- **Aim -** Central Sector Scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople (Vishwakarmas) of rural and urban India.

- **Duration -** 5 years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28).

- **Ministry -** Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

- **Significance –** It aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of Vishwakarmas and to ensure that they are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.

- **_18 traditional trades_** will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma.

- **Benefits** - Under this scheme, Vishwakarmas will be provided recognition through

    o PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card,

    o Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and

    o Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.

Eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma

- Carpenter (Suthar)
- Boat Maker
- Armourer
- Blacksmith (Lohar)
- Hammer and Tool Kit Maker
- Locksmith
- Goldsmith (Sonar)
- Potter (Kumhaar)
- Sculptor (Moortikar, stone carver), Stone breaker
- Cobbler(Charmkar)/ Shoesmith/Footwear artisan
- Mason (Rajmistri)
- Basket/Mat/ Broom Maker/Coir Weaver
- Doll & amp; Toy Maker (Traditional)
- Barber (Naai)
- Garland maker (Malakaar)
- Washerman (Dhobi)
- Tailor (Darzi)
- Fishing Net Maker

Cabinet Decision 16 August 2023

- The scheme will further provide skill upgradation, toolkit incentive, incentive for digital transactions and marketing support.

- Participants will get a stipend of Rs.500 per day while undergoing training.

- Beneficiaries will also receive up to Rs. 15,000 to buy modern tools.

24. MINISTRY OF POWER

24.1 National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) and Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP)

Recently, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has launched NCEP and EEFP.

- **National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP)** – As a subset of Clean Cooking Scheme, it focuses on non-solar/electricity-based Induction Cook stoves, aligning with the **_Go- electric_** initiative by the **_Ministry of Power._**

- EESL will deploy 20 lakh energy-efficient induction cook stoves nationwide to accelerate the acceptance and adoption.

- **Objective** – To reduce the environmental impact of cooking methods, ensuring cleaner air and improved health for citizens.

Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP)
- **Goal** - EESL will distribute **_1 crore efficient BLDC fans_** which was initiated during the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group, 2023.
- **Objectives** - To reduce energy consumption & environmental impact.
- To enhance consumer comfort while lowering electricity bills.

- To reduce dependence on imported sources for energy and saving costs for users.

- **Partnership** - EESL has partnered with Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) for the large-scale deployment.

24.2   Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

- The *Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy* have jointly launched MAHIR.

- **Aim -** To facilitate indigenous research, development and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.

- **Fund** - By Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Central Public Sector Enterprises under 2 Ministries.

- Planned for an initial period of 5 years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

- The Mission will follow the technology life cycle approach of Idea to Product.

> *Indian power sector is going to grow at more than 7% in coming years against the increase in the electricity demand close to 10%.*

Areas Identified for Research	
• Alternatives to Lithium-Ion storage batteries	• Geo-thermal energy
• Modifying electric cookers / pans to suit Indian cooking methods	• Solid state refrigeration.
• Green hydrogen for mobility (High Efficiency Fuel Cell)	• Nano technology for EV battery
• Carbon capture	• Indigenous CRGO technology

24.3   4E Wave movement

- It is a *Student-Led National Movement for Energy Conservation* in Jammu & Kashmir.

- Aim - To promote sustainable practices and instill a sense of responsibility in individuals and communities to save energy.

25.   MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

25.1   Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)

The Centre has discontinued the sale of rice and wheat from the central pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to State governments.

- It is a government initiative to sell surplus stocks of wheat and rice under at pre-determined prices through e-auction in the open market.

- **Conducted by** – Food Corporation of India, *Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.*

- In addition to maintaining buffer stocks and making a provision for meeting the requirement of the *Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS)* and other welfare schemes, FCI sells wheat and rice in the open market from time to time.

- **Aim** - To enhance the supply of food grains during the lean season and thereby moderate the open market prices especially in the deficit regions.

- The FCI conducts a weekly auction using the platform of commodity exchange NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited).

- The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are also allowed to participate in the e-auction, if they require wheat and rice outside _Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)._

- The present form of OMSS comprises 3 schemes as under:

  o Sale of wheat to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction.

  o Sale of wheat to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction by dedicated movement.

  o Sale of Raw Rice Grade 'A' to bulk consumers/private traders through e-auction.

Reason for discontinuation	
To control price inflation	To streamline distribution channels
To ensure price stability	To make flexibility in response to market conditions
To balance stock levels	To promote market competition

- **Potential impacts**

  o It will have implications for food security and price stability in some regions.

  o It will impact certain states including Karnataka that provide free grains to the poor.

26. MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

26.1 Bhoomi Rashi Portal

- Aim – It is a single point platform for **_online processing of land acquisition notifications_** to accelerate highway infrastructure development projects in India.

27. MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

27.1 Gajraj Suraksha

- The Indian Railways has chosen the Northeast Frontier Railways to implement the Gajraj Suraksha, an indigenous technology on pilot basis to reduce the elephant–train collision in the forest areas.

- It primarily relies on **_Optical Fibre cables (OFCs)_** for quick transmission of signals.

- It is a kind of _Intrusion Detection System_ that is based on an AI algorithm.

- It uses **_pressure-wave based technology_** that detects the movement of elephants along the tracks.

28. MINISTRY OF PORTS

28.1 Sagar Samriddhi

- Sagar Samriddhi is an **_Online Dredging Monitoring System_** to bring transparency & efficiency.

  o Dredging is the removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbours, and other water bodies.

- **Aim** – To carry out dredging to accelerate 'Waste to Wealth' campaign of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

- It is developed by **_National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC)_** the technological arm of MoPSW.

- It brings in marked improvement against the old system of _Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system._

- To address the objective of carrying out dredging, the MoPSW issued 'Dredging Guidelines for Major Ports' in 2021.

- **_Waste to wealth_** is a mission by the government to identify, develop and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials and extract worth.

National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC)
• It was established under the Sagarmala Programme of MoPSW.   • **Aim** - To enable research & development for the marine sector, enabling solutions towards achieving the ultimate goal of building a robust marine industry in the country.   • Technological arm of the Ministry of Shipping, provides scientific support to ports, IWAI, and other institutions.   • This state-of-the-art centre has world class capabilities for undertaking the 2D & 3D investigations of research and consultancy nature for the Port, Coastal, and Waterways sector.

29. MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

29.1 VIKAS

- **Vikas** *– Variable and Immersive Karmayogi Advanced Support.*

- It is a blended programme with *iGOT (integrated government online training) Karmayogi* platform.

- **Aim** – For *capacity building* of Middle management civil servants in Central Secretariat.

- **Program duration** – It consists of *33 hours* complemented by 30 hours of offline training at ***Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM)***

- **Focus** – Development of functional, behavioural and technological competencies.

> *December 25 is celebrated as the **'Good Governance Day'** to mark former PM Vajpayee's birth anniversary since 2014.*

3 new features on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform

- **My iGOT** – To deliver targeted training courses for individual officer addressing their unique capacity building needs.

- **Blended Programs** - To facilitate equitable access to training methodologies and it integrate traditional offline classroom courses with online learning components.

- **Curated Programs** – To cater to diverse learning needs of the ministries/departments and training institutions where the course providers will curate relevant content from the repository of iGOT.

30. MINISTRY OF CULTURE

30.1 Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar

- A pan-India initiative of Ministry of Culture under ***National Mission on Cultural Mapping***

- **Launched in** – 2023

- **Objective** - To culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 States and 7 Union Territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.

- Through MGMD, people will get an opportunity to immerse themselves in the diverse and vibrant cultural heritage of India.

- The MGMD portal showcases essential information about each village, including its geographical location, demographic aspects, description of traditional dresses, ornaments, arts and crafts, temples, fairs, festivals, etc.

Three Interlinked Programmes

Sanskritik Pratibha khoj	Hamari Sanskriti Hamari Pahchan Abhiyan	National Cultural Workplace(NCWP)
National Cultural Awareness Campaign,talent hunt, and revitalization of folk and trabal heritage.	Cultural Mapping of art practices and identifying artists and crafts persons.	NCWP will be an interactive Web portal for artists and crafts persons, culminating in an online platform for cultural Service Provider.

31.   MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

31.1   Bharat Organics

- Union Minister for Cooperation has recently launched the 'Bharat Organics' brand of ***National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL).***

- ***6 products*** under the brand were tur dal, chana dal, sugar, rajma, basmati rice, and Sonamasoori rice.

- About 50% of profits from the sale of organic products through NCOL will be transferred directly to member farmers.

32.   MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

32.1   National Judicial Data Grid platform

- It is an ***online repository of data related to the backlog of cases*** and the pace at which courts at various levels, from taluka to the national level, process and resolve these cases.

- It is established as part of the ***"eCourts Project"*** in 2020.

- **Developed by -** National Informatics Centre (NIC) and in house team of Supreme Court.

- **Ministry -** It gets its data from ***Ministry of law and justice***.

- **Updation -** Until now, the platform has been collecting data only up to the level of high courts, and now the top court will be uploading cases to the platform in real-time.

- **Technology -** The platform allows litigants to access case status information for a vast number of cases by utilising ***elastic search technology***, a distributed search and analytics engine built on Apache Lucene, which is commonly used for log analytics, full-text search, security intelligence, business analytics, and operational intelligence use cases.

- NJDG provides case data for both ***civil and criminal cases.***

- **Functions -** Operates as a monitoring tool with the primary functions of identifying, managing, and reducing case backlog.

World Bank praised the National Judicial Data Grid in the Ease of Doing Business report for 2018, that it made possible to generate case management reports, thereby making it easier to enforce contracts.

- In the context of land disputes, NJDG has integrated Land Records data from 26 States to track related cases.

32.2 Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Judicial Infrastructure

Nyaya Vikas portal was created for monitoring the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Judicial Infrastructure

- The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the **_State Governments_**.
- To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Aim** - It aims for the _development of Infrastructure Facilities_ for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States.
- It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary.
- **Year** - The scheme being implemented since 1993-94.
- For monitoring the status of the projects 3 broad monitoring mechanisms have been provided.
    1. High Court Level Monitoring Committee at State level
    2. Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, required to meet every 6 months
    3. Nyaya Vikas Online monitoring system.

33. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

33.1 Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign

- It is envisaged as a culminating event of '_Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'_ celebration of 75 years of Indian Independence.
- **Aim** – To honour the memory of brave men and women who laid down their lives for the country by installing special inscriptions.
- Under this campaign, several programmes will be organised in the memory of immortal martyrs.
- **Amrit Kalash Yatra** – 7,500 pots carrying soil from different corners of the country will be brought to the national capital along with saplings.
- **Amrit Vatika** – It is a unique garden built by fusing the soil and saplings that would arrive in 7500 urns.
- It will be built near the National War Memorial and will become a grand symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat'.
- **Vasudha Vandhan** – It envisages every gram panchayat or village renewing Mother Earth by planting 75 saplings of indigenous species and developing an Amrit Vatika.

33.2 Mera Yuva Bharat

- My Bharat will be platform for _youth development and youth-led development._
- It will provide equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat.
- It was unveiled on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31 which is celebrated as _National Unity Day every year._
- **Beneficiaries** – Youth in the age group of _15-29 years_ including those located overseas.
- It is in line with the definition of youth in the National Youth Policy.
- **Issue** - _No financial remuneration_ will be given.

> *India has 40 crore people in the age group of 15-29 years*

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) Platform

- Launched for youth of the country on the National Unity Day (October 31).

- It aims to facilitate youth development and youth-led development.

- It is a **_'Phygital Platform'_** (physical + digital) comprising physical activity along with an opportunity to connect digitally.

- Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body, will benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years.

34. MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

34.1 Paat-Mitro

- The **_Ministry of Textiles_** launched "Paat-Mitro", a mobile application, developed by **_Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI)_** during 'Jute Symposium'.

- The app is to support jute farmers and provides information about agronomy and Minimum Support Prices, as well as the latest agricultural practices.

- It also includes information about jute category standards and Jute-ICARE (Jute- Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise).
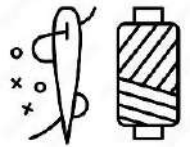
35. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

35.1 Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) seeks an increase in corpus of Startup India Seed Fund Scheme as it accelerates pace of funding to incubators for supporting early stage companies across India.

- **_Ministry of Commerce and Industry_**

- DPIIT has created Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) with an outlay of INR 945 Crore.

- It helps to provide financial assistance to startups for Proof of Concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.

- Seed Fund offered to such promising cases can have a multiplier effect in validation of business ideas of many startups, leading to employment generation.

- It will support an estimated 3,600 entrepreneurs through 300 incubators in the next 4 years.

- The Seed Fund will be disbursed to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.

36. OTHER INITIATIVES

36.1 Namo Drone Didi

- The scheme aims to provide drones to **_15,000_** selected Women SHGs during the period **_2023-24 to 2025-2026_** for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose.

- It is a **_Central Sector Scheme_** where 80% of the cost of the drone will be provided by the union government.

- The scheme will help infuse advance technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhance crop yield and reduced cost of operation for the benefit of farmers.

- Subsidy of 80% of Drone Cost or a Maximum of Rs. 8 Lakh will be provided.

- Nominal Interest Rate of 3% will be payable on the loan.

- Training to fly drone will also be provided.

- Women SHGs can use this drone for rental purpose to provide services to farmers.

36.2   Poshan Innovation Platform (PIP)

- **Aim** - To improve the nutritional status of mothers and children under 5 years of age, at the last mile.

- Launched by - *India Nutrition Collaborative* in partnership with the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

- India ranked 111 of the 125 in the Global Hunger Index 2023.

36.3   Shakti Scheme

- *Karnataka government* has recently launched the Shakti scheme.

- Sakthi Scheme offers *free travel to women and transgender* people in government-run buses in the state of Karnataka.

- The government has also reserved 50% of the seats for men in all RTCs, except BMTC services.

- The scheme follows the footsteps of *Delhi, Punjab and Tamil Nadu*, which have introduced similar initiatives.

36.4   Khela Hobe Scheme

- It is a scheme to provide employment to the people of *West Bengal* on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

- It is a *100-day job scheme like MGNREGA.*

36.5   Build for Bharat Initiative

- Announced by - *Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)* with Google Cloud India, Antler in India, Paytm, Protean and Startup India.

- Aim- To tackle diverse challenges in digital commerce, promoting industry innovation to develop practical solutions in this space.

36.6   SPARK Project

- Sparking Disability Inclusive Rural Transformation (SPARK) Project
- Aim - To help people with disabilities, especially women and youth with disabilities, become active participants.

- Implemented by - *The ILO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD*), in collaboration with the Women's Development Corporation in Maharashtra.

- Through this project, persons with disabilities were trained as Disability Inclusion Facilitators (DIFs).

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a United Nations agency that works to eradicate poverty and hunger in developing countries.

36.7   QR codes on Food Products

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended the inclusion of a QR (quick response) code on food products.

- It shall be a part of front-of-pack labelling (FOPL) warning labels, a mandate of FSSAI since 2019 to alert and educate consumers in making an informed choice

- **Need for QR** – India is _one of the largest markets of packaged foods_ in the world owing to increased preferences for it.

- Pre-packaged foods are _often high in fat, salt, and sugar_ which increases the risk of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD).

- **Legal backing**

  o The _FSSAI's Food Safety and Standards_ (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

  o The _Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act_, 2016.

- **Significance** – Improve food manufacturer's brand image, customer loyalty, and operational efficiency.

QR Code Statistics 2022

- Released by a private entity, QR TIGER

- _US, India and France are the top 3_ nations in usage of QR codes.

- Among respondents, 57% scanned a food QR code, 38.99% of want to see QR codes and 67% agreed that these codes make life easier.

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