UPSC-CSE Beneficial For 2023-2024

पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
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Also Available in Hindi

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Index

Vigyan -Vidushi – 2023, an initiative to address the gender

'SAGAR SAMPARK' Differential Global Navigation Satellite System to Strengthen Maritime sector.

DGNSS is a **terrestrial based enhancement system** which corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) allowing for more accurate positioning information. The launch of 'Sagar Sampark - Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS)' at 06 locations under DGLL, will **enhance the capability of the DGLL in the field of the Radio Aids to Marine Navigation.'** The DGNSS service will help mariners in safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas. This will lead to safe & efficient movement of vessels. **DGNSS is an important Radio Aid to Navigation towards fulfillment of international obligations of International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).**

After recapitalization with multiple satellite constellations like GPS and Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS), DGNSS further increases the availability and redundancy as per International standards and helps the mariners to improve their positioning within 5 meters.

The latest DGNSS system is now able to transmit corrections of GPS and GLONASS. The DGNSS significantly improves the accuracy of GPS positioning, reducing errors caused by the atmospheric inferences, satellite clock drift and other factors. This is achieved with the help of modern state of art technology receivers and latest software. The error correction accuracy has been improved from 5 to 10 meters to less than 5 meters for 100 Nautical Miles from Indian coastlines.
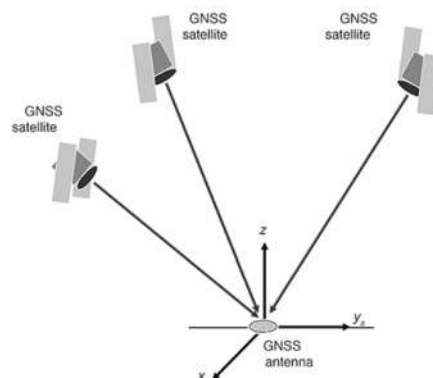
Salient Features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023

The Bill provides for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognizes both the rights of the individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

1. The Bill protects digital personal data (that is, the data by which a person may be identified) by providing for the following:

a. The obligations of Data Fiduciaries (that is, persons, companies and government entities who process data) for data processing (that is, collection, storage or any other operation on personal data);

b. The rights and duties of Data Principals (that is, the person to whom the data relates);and

c. Financial penalties for breach of rights, duties and obligations.

The Bill also seeks to achieve the following:

a. Introduce data protection law with minimum disruption while ensuring necessary change in the way Data Fiduciaries process data;

b. Enhance the Ease of Living and the Ease of Doing Business; and

c. Enable India's digital economy and its innovation ecosystem.

2. The Bill is based on the following seven principles:

a. The principle of consented, lawful and transparent use of personal data;

b. The principle of purpose limitation (use of personal data only for the purpose specified at the time of obtaining consent of the Data Principal);

c. The principle of data minimisation (collection of only as much personal data as is necessary to serve the specified purpose);

d. The principle of data accuracy (ensuring data is correct and updated);

e. The principle of storage limitation (storing data only till it is needed for the specified purpose);

f. The principle of reasonable security safeguards; and

g. The principle of accountability (through adjudication of data breaches and breaches of the provisions of the Bill and imposition of penalties for the breaches).

3. The Bill has few other innovative features:
   The Bill is concise and SARAL, that is, Simple, Accessible, Rational & Actionable Law as it—

a. Uses plain language;

b. Contains illustrations that make the meaning clear;

c. contains no provisos ("Provided that…"); and

d. Has minimal cross-referencing.

4. By using the word "she" instead of "he", for the first time it acknowledges women in Parliamentary law-making.

5. The Bill provides for following rights to the individuals:

a. The right to access information about personal data processed;

b. The right to correction and erasure of data;

c. The right to grievance redressal; and

d. The right to nominate a person to exercise rights in case of death or incapacity.

   For enforcing his/her rights, an affected Data Principal may approach the Data Fiduciary in the first instance. In case he/she is not satisfied, he/she can complain against the Data Fiduciary to the Data Protection Board in a hassle-free manner.

6. The Bill provides for following obligations on the data fiduciary:

a. To have security safeguards to prevent personal data breach;

b. To intimate personal data breaches to the affected Data Principal and the Data Protection Board;

c. To erase personal data when it is no longer needed for the specified purpose;

d. To erase personal data upon withdrawal of consent;

e. To have in place grievance redressal system and an officer to respond to queries from Data Principals; and

f. To fulfill certain additional obligations in respect of Data Fiduciaries notified as Significant Data Fiduciaries, such as appointing a data auditor and conducting periodic Data Protection Impact Assessment to ensure higher degree of data protection.

7. The Bill safeguards the personal data of children also.

a. The Bill allows a Data Fiduciary to process the personal data of children only with parental consent.

b. The Bill does not permit processing which is detrimental to well-being of children or involves their tracking, behavioural monitoring or targeted advertising.

8. The exemptions provided in the Bill are as follows:

a. For notified agencies, in the interest of security, sovereignty, public order, etc.;

b. For research, archiving or statistical purposes;

c. For startups or other notified categories of Data Fiduciaries;

d. To enforce legal rights and claims;

e. To perform judicial or regulatory functions;

f. To prevent, detect, investigate or prosecute offences;

g. To process in India personal data of non-residents under foreign contract;

h. For approved merger, demerger etc.; and

i. To locate defaulters and their financial assets etc.

9. The key functions of the Board are as under:

a. To give directions for remediating or mitigating data breaches;

b. To inquire into data breaches and complaints and impose financial penalties;

c. To refer complaints for Alternate Dispute Resolution and to accept Voluntary Undertakings from Data Fiduciaries; and

d. To advise the Government to block the website, app etc. of a Data Fiduciary who is found to repeatedly breach the provisions of the Bill.

DEFENCE

Sagar Nidhi

In a landmark event concerning maritime collaboration under the framework of Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) **between the nations of Indian Ocean Region,** scientists from Bangladesh and Mauritius embarked onboard India's research vessel 'Sagar Nidhi' to participate in the joint ocean expedition spanning nearly 35 days.

The cruise is conducted by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under Ministry of Earth Sciences. It is an outcome of the maiden CSC Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference held at Goa and Hyderabad in November 2022.

During the expedition, the scientists will collaboratively undertake research on the ocean data to predict and manage changes in the marine environment and variation in ocean parameters.

JAPAN INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE 2023 (JIMEX 23)

The seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) hosted by the Indian Navy, is being conducted at/ off Visakhapatnam from 05 -10 July 2023. This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.

Nomadic Elephant

Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event between India and Mongolia which is conducted alternatively in **Mongolia and India.**

Economy

Revised Crop Residue Management guidelines

As per the revised guidelines, techno-commercial pilot projects for Paddy Straw Supply Chain will be established under the bilateral agreement between the Beneficiary/Aggregator (Farmers, rural entrepreneurs, Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats) and Industries utilizing the paddy straw.

Govt shall provide financial assistance on the capital cost of machinery and equipment. The required working capital may be financed either by the Industry and Beneficiary jointly or utilizing the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF),** NABARD Financial or Financing from the Financial Institutions by the beneficiary. The land for storage of the collected paddy straw will be arranged and prepared by the beneficiary as may be guided by the end use industry.

Project proposal based financial assistance will be extended for machines and equipments such as Higher HP Tractor, Cutters, Tedder, Medium to Large Balers, Rakers, Loaders, Grabbers and Telehandlers which are essentially required for establishment of paddy straw supply chain.

State Governments shall approve these projects through project sanctioning committee.

Government (jointly by Central and State Governments) will provide financial support of @ 65% of the project cost, Industry as primary promoter of the project will contribute 25% and will act as the Primary consumer of the feedstock collected and Farmer or group of Farmers or Rural Entrepreneurs or Cooperative Societies of Farmers or Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), or Panchayats will be the direct Beneficiary of the project and will contribute the balance 10%.

The Outcomes of the above interventions are:

• The initiative will supplement the efforts of paddy straw management through in-situ options

• During the three-year tenure of the interventions, 1.5 million metric tonnes of surplus paddy straw are expected to be collected which would otherwise have been burnt in fields.

• About 333 biomass collection depots of capacity 4500 MT will be built in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

• Air pollution caused by stubble burning will be considerably reduced.

• It would generate employment opportunities of about 9,00,000 man days.

• The interventions will encourage a robust supply chain management of paddy straw which shall further help in making paddy straw available for various end uses i.e., power generation, heat generation, bio- CNG, etc. by Power/bio-CNG/ bio-ethanol producers.

• Establishment of supply chain would result in new investments in Biomass to biofuel and energy sectors.

Open Network for Digital Commerce to democratize digital commerce

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is a Section 8 company, under the initiative of DPIIT, with a mission to democratize digital commerce. ONDC develops and maintains the ONDC Protocol,

an open technical standard similar to UPI, HTTP and SMTP. Any two platforms that are compliant with the ONDC Protocol can interoperate without speciûcally integrating with each other's systems. The ONDC Protocol compliant applications together constitute the ONDC Network. Just as UPI enables interoperability of banks and payment platforms to transfer money, or SMTP allows people to exchange emails without worrying about which email service the recipient uses, the ONDC Protocol allows buyers and sellers to trade goods or services no matter which /platform they use, as long as the platforms are part of the ONDC Network.

The benefits of the ONDC Network include lower entry-barriers to digital commerce, providing Level playing ûeld for all e- Commerce models and unbundling of various stages of e-commerce transactions to allow new business models and opportunities. Hence, ONDC ensures an expansion of digital commerce, making it more inclusive.

The challenges with the adoption of ONDC are that the ONDC Network is enabling oûine businesses to move online for the first time, and hence this transition can be challenging. However, ONDC is providing systems for assistance and capacity building initiatives to make this transition smooth and hassle free.

ONDC promotes transparency, trust and eficiency through its design as well as operational practices including free and open-source standards and systems, decentralisation and privacy by design, participatory approach and transparency, level playing field, clear audit trail and protecting buyer and seller rights.

ONDC Network is based on open specifications namely the ONDC Protocol. Thus, any two platforms that are compliant with the ONDC Protocol can interact with each other without having to learn the other platform's specific language for handling messages and processes.

This is achieved through the ONDC Registry. The Registry is like a phonebook which one can use to ûnd other ONDC Protocol-compliant platforms. Details of all the registered platforms are in the registry after certiûcation of the compliance to the protocol and signing the agreement of participation.

The Protocol and the Registry together create a collection of e- commerce platforms that can discover, connect and interact with each other. The ONDC Network includes multiple buyer applications and seller applications all working seamlessly with each other. With this open network, buyers can discover and purchase products/services from sellers using any seller application, through a single buyer application of their choice.

Environment

International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2023)

- Held in **New Delhi**
- **The aim of the Conference is to explore how we can establish a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and foster a systemic approach for meeting the global goals for decarbonization through Green Hydrogen.** Apart from domain-specific research interactions on hydrogen production, storage, distribution and downstream applications, the conference will also discuss green financing, human resource upskilling and startup initiatives in this area. The conference will enable to share and learn from international best practices in the sector.
- Regarding skill development and employment, panelists stressed the need to upskill and reskill existing energy personnel to meet the changing requirements of the rapidly evolving green hydrogen sector.

  Efforts are underway by academic associations, private universities, and organizations like India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to design special courses and skilling programs. The Ministry of Skill Development & Education is also working on a policy to provide hands-on training in various aspects of the green hydrogen ecosystem.

- By 2030, India aims to produce 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030, with 70% earmarked for exports and the remaining 30% for domestic consumption. Five priority sectors, including fertilizer, refinery, long-haul mobility (with pilots already in place in industries such as steel, shipping, and long-haul transportation), have been identified for green hydrogen applications.

Sediments decode climate and environmental changes on Kaas Plateau around 8664 years BP

A new study of the sediments from a seasonal lake in **the Kaas Plateau in the Satara district of Maharashtra** has indicated a major shift in the Indian Summer Monsoons towards dry and stressed conditions with low rainfall during the Early-Mid–Holocene, around 8664 years BP. Sediment profile dating back to 8000 years which helped decode climatic signatures indicated a relatively reduced rainfall and weak southwest monsoon during the late Holocene (around 2827 years BP).

The observations from the study revealed that the seasonal lake is probably a product of an erosional localized shallow depression on a pediment (rock debris) developed over the crust. **As noted by UNESCO, the present "Flower Wonder" is located on a lake that dates back to the Early-Mid-Holocene period, which means it is an ancient lake that has been preserved over a long time.**

Surprisingly, there was a significant rise in the number of diatoms in between. This suggests a major shift in the Indian summer Monsoon activity during that time, possibly resulting in intermittent humid periods amidst the dry spells.

The observations of the scientists showed a decrease in rainfall and a weakened southwest Monsoon during the late Holocene (around 2827 years BP).

Heat Index

Heat index provides information about the impact of humidity on the high temperatures and thus provides a feel like temperature for human beings which can be used as an indication for human discomfort. It provides guidance towards additional care to be taken by people to reduce discomfort.

colour codes used for Experimental Heat Index are as follows:

- **Green: -** Experimental heat Index less than 35 deg C
- **Yellow: -** Experimental heat Index in the range 36-45 deg C
- **Orange: -** Experimental heat Index in the range 46-55 deg C
- **Red: -** Experimental heat Index greater than 55 deg C

Forest coverage in the country

Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially, since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR).

As per latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The forest cover has increased by 1,540 square kilometer between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 assessment. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2021 are given in Annexure.

To protect and improve the forest cover in the country, afforestation and tree plantation activities are undertaken by States/UTs. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission (GIM) to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories. Green India Mission activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16. The Ministry has also implemented Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Afforestation programme for regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining areas in the country. National Afforestation Programme is now stands merged with Green India Mission.

The Ministry is implementing **Nagar Van Yojana** (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages creation of 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 under the funds available under **Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA). The Nagar Van Yojana aims to enhance the green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas including biological diversity, provide ecological benefits and improve the quality of life of city dwellers.**

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA fund) is being utilized by States/UTs for taking up compensatory afforestation as per approved Annual Plan of Operations for compensating the loss of forest & tree cover due to diversion of forest land for developmental projects as per provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF Act) and CAF Rules, 2018.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministry such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government/UT Administration through different departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. The multi departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving and enhancing forest cover in the country.

The Ministry takes various steps to combat forest fires. The Ministry supports the efforts of the States/UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance for various forest fire prevention and management measures such as modern tools for fire extinguishing, use of communication and information technology, etc. creation and maintenance of fire lines in forest areas, engagement of fire watchers, creation of water storage structures in forest areas, strengthening of forest infrastructure, procurement of firefighting equipment, soil and moisture conservation works in high risk areas, awareness creation, incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme.

Analysis of water quality of rivers by Central Pollution Control Board

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors water Quality of aquatic resources at 4484 locations in 28 States and 7 Union Territories spread over the country.

Based on analysis of water quality data of 603 rivers on 1920 locations for the years 2019 and 2021, CPCB in year 2022, has identified 311 polluted river stretches on 279 rivers in 30 States/ UTs in the country based on indicator of organic pollution i.e. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (3mg/L

Key findings of assessment were:

- 1103 out of 1920 locations (57%) were complying with BOD criteria

- All locations monitored on 324 rivers complying with BOD criteria

- 817 river locations on 279 rivers were exceeding BOD level of 3 mg/L

Comparative evaluation of present assessment with the previous assessment carried out by CPCB indicates that there is decrease in number of polluted river stretches from 351 (year 2018) to 311 (year 2022). Assessment of water quality over the years revealed that in the year 2015, 70% of rivers monitored (275 out of 390) were identified as polluted whereas, in the year 2022, only 46% of rivers monitored (279 out of 603) are identified as polluted.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has recently released the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for Rejuvenation of 13 Major Rivers namely Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum, Luni, Yamuna, Mahanadi, Brahmaputra, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery through Forestry interventions prepared by Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. The programme interventions include tree plantation, soil and moisture conservation works in the catchment area and river front development to increase green cover and carbon sink, reduce silt load & flooding and enhance ground water recharge etc., besides generating employment.

The interventions proposed in these thirteen DPRs is under 4 major components viz (a) Implementation of Forestry Interventions, (b) Strengthening Knowledge Management and National Capacity Development, (c) Maintenance Phase including Scaling Up and Replication of Successful Models, and (d) National Coordination for Forestry Interventions and River Conservation.

Further, MoEF&CC is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State/UT Governments.

The scheme aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystems. It aims to promote mainstreaming of wetlands in developmental programming with States by supporting formulation and implementation of integrated management plans, capacity development and research. Various activities covered are interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. de-silting & de-weeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation education and awareness creation and community participation.

E-Waste Management

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) estimates the e-waste generation at national level based on the countrywide sales data provided by producers, and average life of notified electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), as mandated under the E-waste Management Rules, 2016.

Ministry has comprehensively revised the previous set of Rules and notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 in November, 2022 and the same is enforce since 1st April, 2023. These new rules intend to manage e-waste in an environmentally sound manner and put in place an improved Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime for e-waste recycling wherein all the manufacturer, producer, refurbisher and recycler are required to register on portal developed by CPCB. The new provisions would facilitate and channelize the informal sector to formal sector for doing business and ensure recycling of E-waste in environmentally sound manner. Provisions for environment compensation and verification & audit has also been introduced. These rules also promote Circular Economy through EPR regime and scientific recycling/disposal of the e-waste.

An Action Plan for enforcement of E-Waste (Management) Rules, across the country is in place and is being implemented by all the States/ UTs and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). An e-waste Management review portal has also been developed for uploading status and progress of e-waste action plan.

Climate change impact assessment
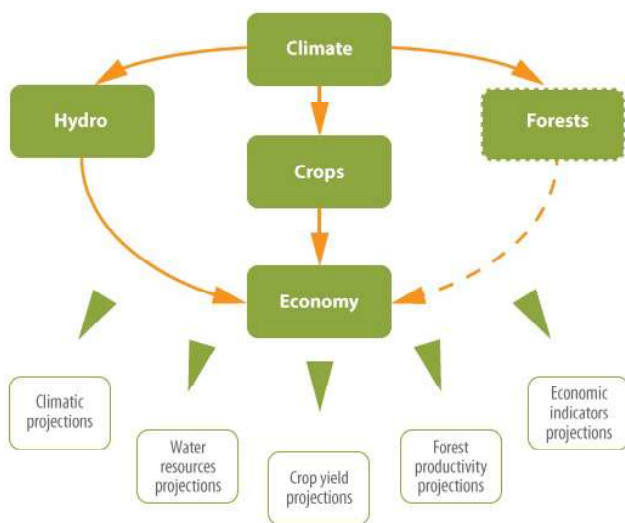
Climate change is a cross-cutting issue spanning various Ministries/ Departments and institutions under them. Studies on adverse impacts of climate change is mainly sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Sectoral aspects of climate change are also studied by different Ministries/ Departments concerning sectors like agriculture, water resources, human health, power, renewable energy, transport, urban, etc. Further, a large number of universities and government research institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Central and State Universities and their departments also carry out climate change related research.

The Government of India through its various organizations such as Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Geological Survey of India, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Central Water Commission, and National Institute of Hydrology has been carrying out regular scientific studies to monitor the changes in Himalayan glaciers. One such study conducted by MoEFCC and ISRO, monitored 2,018 glaciers between years 2000 to 2011, which showed that 87% of the glaciers showed no change, 12% retreated and 1% glaciers have advanced.

Climate change and its impact on glaciers remains a global challenge which requires global efforts and actions. Government of India is committed to protect the glaciers and has made efforts to reduce the impact through several adaptation and mitigation measures. This includes a number of programmes under National Action Plan on Climate Change. Various R&D projects are being supported for studying Himalayan Glaciers under the National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change. Several areas in the Himalayan States have also been declared as National Parks or Protected Areas, such as, Gangotri National Park, Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, and Great Himalayan National Park.

There is no established study for India providing a quantified attribution of climate change leading to increased outbreak of floods. While many studies monitor disasters such as floods, drought and heat, the science of attribution of these changes particularly to climate change is far more complex and currently an evolving subject. Most studies so far have relied on mathematical modelling of climate change impacts but these are not empirically verified.

The occurrence of floods can be attributed to various factors, including wide variations in rainfall both in time and space with frequent departures from the normal pattern, inadequate carrying capacities of rivers, river bank erosion and silting of river beds, landslides, poor natural drainage in flood prone areas, snowmelt and glacial lake out-bursts.

High Seismic Risk Zone in Himalayan Region

Various organisations of Government of India are involved in seismic zonation mapping and regular monitoring for identification of high seismic risk zone prone areas across the Country in order to mitigate their effect.

The National Centre for Seismology under the Ministry of Earth Sciences monitors the earthquake activity in and around the Country on 24x7 basis with special emphasis to the Himalayan regions having high seismic potential. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology under the Department of Science and Technology has about 70 broadband seismograph stations operational in the Northwest and Northeast Himalaya for monitoring earthquake activities, evaluation of seismic hazards, and earthquake precursory studies. Since, an earthquake can trigger landslides, landslide susceptibility and vulnerability maps by incorporating tectonic activity based on machine learning algorithms have also been prepared.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has carried out landslide susceptibility zonation mapping along with Northwest and Northeast Himalaya. ISRO has also established a network of 30 Global Navigation Satellite System based Continuously Operating Reference Stations across Himalayan belt to monitor the process of crustal deformation. In addition to above, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out research and development studies with field validation across the landslide prone areas of the Country. GSI has also installed permanent Global Positioning System (GPS) stations in different parts of the Country with an aim to monitor plate movement and also map areas with strain in homogeneity. GSI has established Seismo-Geodetic Data Receiving and Processing Centre which receives and processes real time Seismo-Geodetic Data from Remote Broadband Seismic Observatories located in various parts of the Country.

The information on seismic activities recorded by these organizations gets disseminated to all stakeholders including state and central disaster management authorities for use in regional developmental planning of hill areas and further research studies for use in the management of seismic disasters in the Country.

In order to protect the environment including mountain ranges, the Government of India has adopted the National Environment Policy in 2006. The Policy recognizes the role of mountain ecosystems in maintaining the ecological balance of the region and emphasizes upon to promote appropriate land use planning and watershed management for sustainable development of mountain ecosystems. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has established the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment as a focal agency to advance scientific knowledge and to evolve integrated management strategies for conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in the Indian Himalayan Region. Among other initiatives, the National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem under Department of Science and Technology aims at evolving management measures for sustaining and safeguarding the mountain ecosystem.

The National Remote Sensing Centre has prepared a Landslide Atlas of India in 2023 that shows landslides occurred during 1998-2022 within the hilly regions of India. The database covers landslide vulnerable regions in 17 States and 02 Union Territories of India in the Himalayas and Western Ghats. This landslide database was used to rank 147 hilly districts of India in terms of their exposure to landslide risk in terms of key socio-economic parameters. The database also highlights the advanced techniques in landslide detection, modeling and prediction.

BLENDING OF ETHANOL IN PETROL

The Government has notified the National Policy on Biofuels- 2018, which envisaged a target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol by Ethanol Supply Year 2025-26. At present, under the EBP Programme, ethanol blended petrol is being sold across all States of the country.

PRODUCTION OF BIO FUELS

As per National Policy on Biofuels- 2018, to promote the production of biofuels in the country by units located in Special Economic Zones (SEZ)/ Export Oriented Units (EoUs), import of feedstock for production of biofuels meant for export by them, is allowed without any restriction.

The detailed report on the 'Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25' provides guidance to achieve the target of 20% ethanol blending in India by 2025-26. The target of 10% ethanol blending set in the aforesaid roadmap for Ethanol Supply Year 2021-22 has been achieved.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide notification has issued "Guidelines for sale of Biodiesel for blending with high speed diesel for transportation purposes-2019". As per clause 'x' of these Guidelines, the State/UT Government authorities shall have the power to carry out regular inspections of the retail outlets selling biodiesel to ensure that the biodiesel is being made available to the customers in the right quality and quantity.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has also written to all the Chief Secretaries and Administrators of the States and UTs to look into the matter of sale of unauthorized product in the name of biodiesel and issue necessary directions to curb this menace. **Government has directed Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to sell blended biofuels as per provide BIS Specifications.**
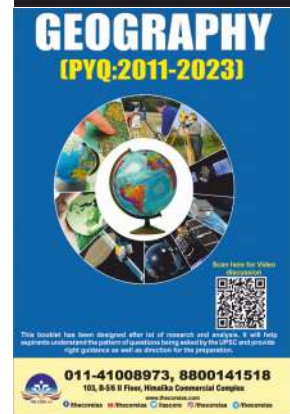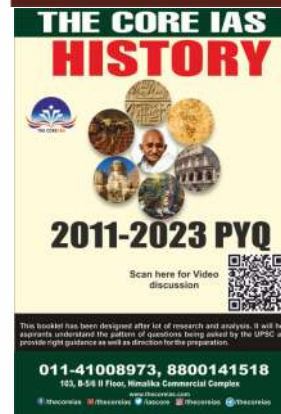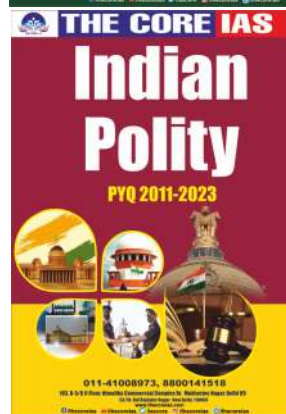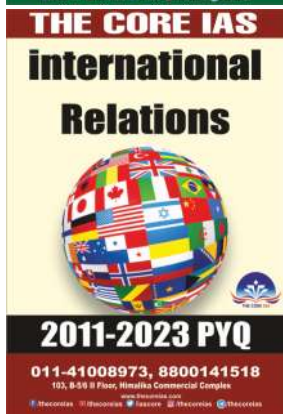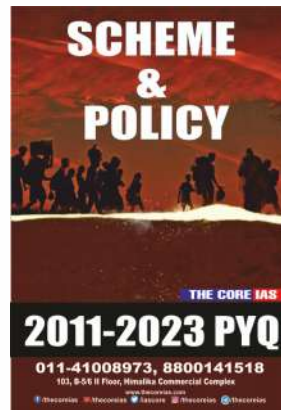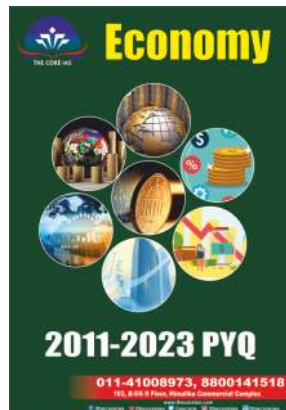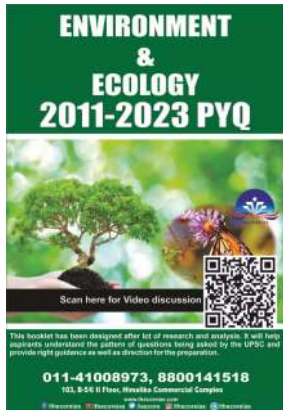
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"Ancient stitched shipbuilding method (Tankai method)"

In a remarkable initiative to revive and preserve the 2000-year-old technique of shipbuilding known as the 'stitched shipbuilding method', the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Indian Navy will oversee the implementation and execution of the entire project. As custodians of maritime security and experts in the field, the Indian Navy's involvement ensures seamless project management and adherence to the highest standards of safety and precision. Their invaluable experience and technical knowledge will play a pivotal role in the successful revival of the ancient stitching method and the construction of the stitched ship.

The stitched ship holds significant cultural value in India, given its historical importance and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship. Throughout history, India has had a strong maritime tradition, and the use of stitched ships played a vital role in trade, cultural exchange, and exploration. These ships, constructed by stitching wooden planks together rather than using nails, offered flexibility and durability, making them less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars. Although the arrival of European ships led to a shift in shipbuilding techniques, the art of stitching ships has survived in a few coastal regions of India, primarily for small local fishing boats.

Reviving and rejuvenating this fading art is crucial to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations. The proposal to construct an ocean-going wooden stitched sail ship using the ancient Indian art of stitching is a commendable initiative. The project aims to leverage the expertise of the remaining traditional shipwrights in India and showcase their exceptional craftsmanship. By sailing along ancient maritime routes using traditional navigational techniques, the project seeks to gain insights into the historical interactions across the Indian Ocean, which facilitated the flow of Indian culture, knowledge systems, traditions, technologies, and ideas.

The significance of the stitched ship project extends beyond its construction. It aims to revive the maritime memory and instill a sense of pride in India's rich maritime heritage among its citizens. Additionally, it aims to promote cultural memories among the Indian Ocean littoral countries. Thorough documentation and cataloging of the project will ensure that valuable information is preserved for future reference. This project not only represents a unique boat-building endeavor but also serves as a testament to India's diverse cultural heritage and ancient seafaring traditions.

CSAT BATCH 2024

- *with Daily assignment*
- *Updated content*

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THE CORE IAS

हिन्दी साहित्य (वैकल्पिक विषय)

उत्तर लेखन 2024

500+अद्यतन प्रश्नों के साथ बैच प्रारंभ

- भाषा खण्ड (150 अंक)
- व्याख्या खण्ड (100 अंक

विशेष फोकस

अरविंद कुमार सर द्वारा.

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National/international

Bharat Internet Utsav

Internet has emerged as an indispensable tool for connectivity, knowledge-sharing and socio-economic development. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has taken various steps to ensure affordable and high-quality internet in various parts of the country, especially in remote and commercially unviable areas to the citizens through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

To embrace the transformative role of Internet, DoT, in collaboration with MYGOV, is celebrating "Bharat Internet Utsav", **wherein citizens can share their videos upto 2 minutes on how internet has transformed lives of the people on any of the social media handles. The DoT is relentlessly working to ensure secure, reliable, affordable and high-quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development.**

IFSCA

The IFSCA is a statutory authority established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 ("IFSCA Act") with a mandate to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres ('IFSC'). GIFT-IFSC is the maiden IFSC in India. The IFSCA aims to develop a strong global connect and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform for the entire region.

Climate Policy Initiative

Climate Policy Initiative is an analysis and advisory organization with deep expertise in finance and policy. Our mission is to support governments, businesses, and financial institutions drive economic growth while addressing climate change. CPI has six offices around the world in Brazil, India, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. CPI India Private Limited has been working to support India in fulfilling its global climate change commitments though: clean energy market catalysing initiatives, such as the US India Clean Energy Finance (USICEF), India Clean Energy Finance 2.0 (ICEF 2.0), Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE), India Distributed Solar Finance initiative (IDSF), the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance (India Chapter); capacity building initiatives, such as the Center for Sustainable Finance (CSF)]; and research and analysis into transitioning into a sustainable energy future, such as Futureproofing Strategy for PSUs, and Just Energy Transition.

INDIA FRANCE

Context: Indian PM will be the Guest of Honour at France's Bastille Day parade in Paris. The visit coincides with 25 years of strategic partnerships with France.

Historical Perspective:

- 17th century, Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had a French physician named François Bernier.
- French East India Company was founded in 1664.
- 1947, France established diplomatic relations with an independent India.
- In 1948, People of French India were free to choose their political future.
- In August 1962, as per the Treaty of Cession signed in 1956, the French ceded all their possessions in India to the Indian government

Fact

- While Germany and the Netherlands recorded significant volumes – $25bn and $17bn respectively in 2019 – France's total, excluding military sales, was just over $12bn
- France ranks 11th among foreign investors in India

- French businesses are less well established in India
- Almost 1000 French companies are present in India with a total turnover of US$ 20 billion
- Supporter for India for permanent membership
- France has also been a great supporter of India for membership to all the four multilateral export control regimes, namely, the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and the Australia Group (AG).
- Roadmap for 2047 bilateral relations has three pillars: partnership for security and sovereignty; partnership for the planet; partnership for the people.

Strategic Partnership

- 1998 (emblematic of their convergence of views on a range of international issues)
- Driving force of Franco-Indian relations is elsewhere, in the sovereign realm of strategy, and indeed security, where the state's role is greater than in the economy.

Analysis

- Strategic partnership has taken on increased importance because of China's rise, particularly as manifested by a new kind of influence in the Indian Ocean. France's much EEZ in Indian ocean & India diect neighbor of China
- India's place in France's Indo-Pacific strategy,
- Indian government has helped Paris gain membership to multilateral (or 'minilateral') bodies on account of its extensive maritime footprint, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which it joined in 2020. This has resulted in bilateral military manoeuvres, the earliest of which, Varuna, has been an annual event since 2001; the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle took part in it in 2021.

- Characteristics: The relationship between the two countries is characterized by strategic autonomy, independent foreign policies, and a shared vision of a multipolar world. ("allied, but not aligned")
- Multi-dimensional: The partnership between India and France has seen advancements through joint strategic visions, logistic support agreements, and military exercises in recent times

Challenges in the relationship:

- India and France don't have Free Trade Agreement, which limits the potential for increased trade and economic cooperation.
- Trade imbalance in favour of France
- France has many times expressed concern on India's stance at WTO, Climate summit and on India's protection of intellectual property rights
- Beyond strategic competition, the two countries also strive to be identified as leaders among the "middle powers" and in redefining multilateralism

Ayush Health Services and Research Facility at Goa inaugurated

The Ministry of Ayush has established Ayush health services for health care & Ayush research facilities at Ribandar in Goa. **The facility aims to provide high-quality and affordable Ayush healthcare services to local community and also promote research in traditional medicine by developing a museum, library and a laboratory dedicated to conducting research on medicines of mineral and marine origin.**

THE CORE IAS

SCHEME

eSARAS

Taking another step of strengthening marketing support for products made by women of Self-help Groups (SHGs), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched eSARAS mobile App which will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the SHGs.

The eSARAS fulfillment centre will be managed by the Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC - a Not for Profit Company constituted jointly by Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Trust) and will be used for processing, packaging and shipping of products that customers purchase through the eSARAS Portal and eSARAS mobile App. It will handle the logistics required to bring an online order to a customer's doorstep.

eSARAS an e-commerce mobile app will be used as a more effective platform for marketing of the products made by women of self-help groups. It is an initiative conceptualized by the DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), towards the marketing of the best, authentic handicrafts and hand-looms.

Market Yard of National Importance platform

Government of India has always been supporting the idea of strengthening Agricultural Produce Markey Committees (APMCs) and making them more transparent and competitive with the advent of new edge digital technologies through improving infrastructure and services offering to the farmers.

Achievement of e-NAM has been path breaking in Agri-marketing sector. Though 1361 regulated markets have become a part of the e-NAM platform, a need has been felt that for obtaining a competitive price especially for surplus farmer produce inter-mandi and more importantly, inter-State trade is crucial and it is essential that a more concerted intervention is needed for creating a larger reach for the farmer's surplus produce through an efficient and seamless marketing system across India by promoting quality based trading with a transparent price discovery mechanism for inter-mandi and inter-State trade.

Taking a stride of policy reforms to the next level and with a vision to enhance the share of the producers in the end consumer price, Government of India had constituted a high-level Expert Committee on 21st April, 2023, to promote inter-mandi & inter-State trade through conceptualization and implementation of Market Yard of National Importance (MNI). The Committee has been assigned the task of recommending the framework for implementation of MNI.

Recently, Expert Committee has submitted a report of the Expert Committee on MNI platform. Aforesaid committee has recommended the implementation framework of MNI-P platform, legal framework & inter-state reciprocity of license and movement, dispute resolution mechanism, rollout strategy etc. This platform will provide an opportunity to farmers of the participating states to sell their surplus produce beyond its state boundaries. This platform would enable to create digital ecosystems that leverage the expertise of various segments of agriculture value chain.

Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SAMARTH)

SAMARTH is a demand driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling programme of the Ministry of Textiles formulated under the broad skilling policy framework adopted by M/o Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

The Scheme aims to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors. In addition to the entry level skilling, a special provision for upskilling/ re-skilling programme has also been operationalized under the scheme towards improving the productivity of the existing workers in Apparel & Garmenting segments. SAMARTH also caters to the upskilling/ re-skilling requirement of traditional textile sectors such as handloom, handicraft, silk and jute.

The scheme has penetrated across 28 States and 6 Union territories of the country and caters to all sections of the society including SC, ST, and other marginalized categories. Out of the skilling target of 4.72 lakh

beneficiaries allocated so far, 1.88 lakh beneficiaries have been provided training. More than 85% of the beneficiaries trained so far under the scheme are women. More than 70% of the beneficiaries trained in organized sector courses have been provided placement. The Funding pattern has also been revised with an increment of 5% in cost norms, which will give much needed additional financial support to industries imparting skill under this Scheme.

Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana: Empowering the Elderly for a Dignified Life

Ministry	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Type	Central Sector Scheme
Umbrella scheme	National Action Plan for Senior Citizen (NAPSrc) had been revamped, renamed as Atal VayoAbhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)
Aim	Addressing their financial, healthcare, and social needs, the scheme aims to empower the elderly, ensuring their active participation and inclusion in society.
Vision	Strives to create an environment for senior citizens to live a life of dignity, respect, and fulfilment, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the nation.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been working towards creating an inclusive and equitable society for all its citizens. Over the past nine years, the Ministry has launched several schemes and initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized sections of society, including students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes through Scholarships, Elderly Citizens, Safai Karmcharis, and Transgender people. The Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at empowering senior citizens in India. This scheme recognizes the invaluable contribution made by the elderly to society and seeks to ensure their well-being and social inclusion. By recognizing the invaluable contributions of the elderly to society, the government aims to empower and uplift them, ensuring their active participation and inclusion in all aspects of life.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, being the Nodal Department for welfare of senior citizens, is implementing various programs and schemes. National Action Plan for Senior Citizen (NAPSrc) had been revamped, renamed as Atal VayoAbhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) and subsumed in April 2021.

Under the umbrella Scheme, Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), an Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC) 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, especially indigent senior citizens by providing basic amenities, entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing.

Another component under the AVYAY Scheme is Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), to provide eligible senior citizens suffering from any of the age-related disability/ infirmity, with assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/ infirmity manifested such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and loco-motor disabilities. Financial criteria for beneficiaries are either the Senior Citizen belongs to 'Below Poverty Line' (BPL) category or he/ she has income up to Rs. 15,000 (Rupees Fifteen Thousand) per month.

There is a national helpline number namely Elderline for Senior Citizens. A Toll-free No. 14567 was launched on 1st October 2021 to provide free information, Guidance, Emotional Support and field intervention in cases of abuse and rescues in order to improve the quality of life of senior citizens. Elderline is operational from 8 am to 8 pm, all 7 days of the week which is active in 31 States/UTs. A total amount of Rs. 82.68 crore has been incurred during the last 3 financial years on Elderline scheme.

The Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, stands as a testament to the government's commitment to the well-being and empowerment of senior citizens in India. By addressing their financial, healthcare, and social needs, the scheme aims to empower the elderly, ensuring their active participation and inclusion in society. Through this initiative, the government strives to create an environment where senior citizens can live a life of dignity, respect, and fulfilment, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the nation.

Tele Law: Reaching the Unreached

About Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached is an e-interface mechanism to seek legal advice and consultation at a pre-litigation stage. It connects needy and marginalised in need of legal aid with the Panel Lawyers via video conferencing/telephonic facilities available at Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated at the Panchayat level. Launched in 2017, the Tele-Law service is now directly accessible through the Tele-Law Mobile App (available on Android & IOS).

Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)

MISHTI program was recently launched by Government of India with an objective to take up mangrove reforestation and afforestation along the coastal districts of India by adopting best practices that already exist in India as well as from other countries including Indonesia. This program is also envisaged to develop mangrove associated ecotourism initiatives and livelihood generation in coastal states. "MISHTI" will contribute to the efforts of 'Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)' – an intergovernmental alliance for promotion of Mangrove, of which India became its active member during the (COP27)

Currently, there is approximately 5000 sq kms of area under mangroves and through the MISHTI program an additional area of 540 sq km is proposed to be covered across 9 States and 4 Union Territories. The scheme is planned to be implemented for a period of five years from 2023-2024 to 2027-2028. MISHTI is to be implemented by converging CAMPA Fund, MGNREGS, and other sources. In Tamil Nadu total areas demarcated for mangrove reforestation/afforestation under this program is about 39 sq. km.

Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) organized an Online Orientation on 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi'.

Vidyanjali

Vidyanjali is a school volunteer management program of Ministry of Education aims to strengthen Government and Government aided schools through community and private sector involvement across the country. This initiative connects volunteers from all spheres of life including the industry.

By leveraging the expertise and resources of the PHD Chamber of Commerce, this collaboration seeks to create a powerful synergy that will positively impact the quality of education with the help of industries' efforts in CSR for schools through the Vidyanjali portal.

First ever "Credit Guarantee Scheme" for Livestock Sector for rebooting rural economy by leveraging MSMEs

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fishries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing the Credit Guarantee Scheme under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to strengthen credit delivery system and facilitate smooth flow of credit to the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) engaged in Livestock sector without hassles of collateral security. For operationalizing the scheme, DAHD has established a Credit Guarantee fund Trust of Rs. 750 crores, which will provide credit guarantee coverage up to 25% of the credit facilities extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions.

The credit guarantee scheme facilitates access to finance for un-served and under-served livestock sector, making availability of financial assistance from lenders to mainly first-generation entrepreneurs and under privileged section of society, who lack collateral security for supporting their ventures.

The main objective of the Credit Guarantee Scheme is that the lender should give importance to project viability and secure the credit facility purely on the basis primary security of the assets financed.

The establishment of credit guarantee fund trust was approved under the Prime Minister's AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package of Rs.15000 crores" Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund" (AHIDF) for incentivizing investments by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSMEs, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish (i) the dairy processing and value addition infrastructure, (ii) meat processing and value addition infrastructure, (iii) Animal Feed Plant, (iv) Breed Improvement technology and Breed Multiplication Farm (v) Animal Waste to Wealth Management (Agri Waste Management) and (vi) Setting up of Veterinary Vaccine and Drugs Manufacturing facilities.

One of the key features of the AHIDF scheme is the establishment of a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust of Rs. 750 Crores. DAHD has formed a trust with NAB Sanrakshan Trustee Company Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD for the establishment of a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for extending the credit guarantee to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises under AHIDF scheme. This fund trust established in March 2021 is the Nation's first ever fund trust under Credit guarantee scheme of AHIDF in the agriculture and Animal Husbandry sector and is a path-breaking initiative taken by DAHD which would exponentially increase the number of MSME units getting benefits of AHIDF scheme and strengthen the ecosystem for the collateral-free credit from the banks.

The credit guarantee portal has been developed as a rule based B2B portal and implemented the enrollment of eligible lending institutions under Credit Guarantee Scheme, issuance/renewal of Credit Guarantee Cover and Settlement of Claims.

Notably, the initiative of credit guarantee scheme taken by DAHD is expected to greatly increase the participation of MSMEs engaged in livestock sector leading to increased flow of credit to the sector and strengthen the MSMEs to boost the overall rural economy through strengthening the Livestock sector which is of one of the most potential sector seeking development.

Key Features of AHIDF scheme:

1. Interest Subvention of 3%
2. Loan up to 90% of the total project cost from any Scheduled Bank, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

AFFORDABLE JUSTICE FOR WEAKER SECTIONS

Government is making every effort in providing access to justice to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and other Economically Weaker sections of the society. **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities.**

For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include legal aid and advice; legal awareness programmes; legal services/empowerment camps; legal services clinics; legal literacy clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of victim compensation scheme.

To enable quick and equitable access to justice, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has launched Legal Services Mobile App on Android and iOS versions to enable easy access to legal aid to common citizens.

Further, **a scheme on Access to Justice titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" is implemented by the Government of India which aims to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation through Tele-Law ;ensure pan - India dispensation framework to deliver Pro Bono legal Services through Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme and to empower citizens through Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme.** The Scheme embeds use of technology and developing contextualized IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material in regional / local dialect to support its intervention and to achieve easy accessibility of legal services to the poor and weakest sections of the society. All these services under the scheme are provided free of cost to all citizens including the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and other Economically Weaker sections of the society.

Nai Manzil Scheme

The Government has implemented various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, specially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development. Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements various schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) namely Nai Manzil on 8th August 2015 with 50% funding from the

World Bank, to benefit the minority youth who do not have formal school leaving certificate, i.e., those in the category of school–dropouts or educated in community education institutions like Madarasas.

Technological Advancements in Crop Insurance to Empowering Farmers and Streamlining Operations in PMFBY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare today launched several new technological initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to empower farmers and streamlining the operations. With the current launches, **the relentless efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are now visible in the current tender cycle of 2023-25 and farmer enrolment during Kharif 2023, reflecting the commitment towards empowering farmers and safeguarding their livelihoods.** With the new tender cycle and ongoing enrolment, the efforts taken by the Ministry have now become visible. **These significant achievements are a testament to the government's commitment to safeguarding farmers' livelihoods and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The launch of YES-TECH manual and WINDS portal is a result of these steps, enabling accurate loss assessment and improved weather data management.**

YES-TECH Manual is a comprehensive guide developed after extensive testing and piloting in 100 districts of India. It facilitates the implementation of YES-TECH, a technology-driven yield estimation system, offering methodologies, best practices, and integration insights for accurate yield assessments at the Gram Panchayat level. On the other hand, the WINDS Portal is a centralized platform that hosts, manages, and processes hyper-local weather data collected by Automatic Weather Stations and Rain Gauges at Taluk/Block and Gram Panchayat levels. The portal enhances risk assessment and decision-making in crop insurance, agriculture advisories, and disaster mitigation, supporting the agricultural sector and rural economy.

Minister of Agriculture also announced the delinking of subsidies, which is a groundbreaking step, ensuring that farmers receive their claim payments without waiting for State actions. The Centre will now release its share of subsidies independently, providing much-needed relief and financial security to farmers.

Unveiling the WINDS, Union Minister of Earth Sciences has called for adapting Agriculture to Climate Change with a "responsive and appropriate scientific mechanism.""Unless we are prepared to face the grave challenges, the consequences can be grave."

Mapping of Crops through Satellite

The government is implementing various projects related to Crop Production Forecasting and Drought Assessment which involves use of satellite images such as Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations (FASAL) project for crop production, forecasting of field crops, National Agricultural Drought Assessment and Monitoring System (NADAMS) for Agricultural drought assessment.

FASAL and NADAMS are operationalized by Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) an attached office of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. At present, nine crops namely rice, wheat, rabi pulses, rapeseed & mustard, rabi, jowar, cotton, jute, tur and sugarcane are covered under FASAL project.

Satellite images are also used in technological support to Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and also for various operational applications under PMFBY, such as Smart Sampling for Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and Yield & Area dispute resolution.

MNCFC has been working with ISRO and Industry on developing and upscaling various geo-spatial solutions and services. Recently, an MoU has been signed between MNCFC and Pixxel Space India pvt ltd. to develop agricultural analytics models using imageries from Pixxel's hyperspectral satellites, for crop identification and mapping, crop health monitoring and soil organic carbon estimation over selected regions on pilot basis. This improves accuracy in crop estimation surveys, Disaster management and relief, Crop insurance, and Farm level advisories.

POSHAN SCHEME

POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched on 8th March 2018 with an aim to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. Recently, the efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme of Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been aligned under 'Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' (Mission Poshan 2.0), which is an integrated nutrition support programme. **It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a convergent ecosystem to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity. Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM and Wellness through AYUSH. Time-tested traditional wisdom in community nutritional practices is leveraged under Poshan 2.0 to focus on prevention of diseases and promotion of wellness through Yoga, cultivation of medicinal herbs in Poshan Vatikas, and use of AYUSH formulations to address conditions like anemia. Under Mission Poshan 2.0, fortified rice is being allocated for Supplementary Nutrition and focus is on millets and locally available nutritious food for ensuring adequate nutrition. Region-wise diet charts have been developed for pregnant women, viz., North, North-East, West, South, East and Central.**

Further, **Scheme for Adolescent Girls** under Mission Poshan 2.0 has been revised to focus on Adolescent Girls in the age bracket 14-18 years of age in North East and Aspirational Districts to adopt a lifecycle approach to malnutrition.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) provides universal coverage to pregnant and lactating mothers for direct cash benefits of Rs. 5000 for one child with an aim to promote heath seeking behaviour and for partial compensation of wage losses during the period of pregnancy and motherhood. Under Mission Shakti, the Government has decided to extend the benefit for 2nd child if it is girl child with a higher financial assistance of Rs. 6000.

As per information shared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under National Health Mission (NHM), following Schemes are implemented to provide maternal health services to all pregnant women including poor women throughout the country:

Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) provides assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting public health facilities to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery.

Under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, blood, other consumables & diet. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality antenatal check up by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.

LaQshya improves the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure that pregnant women receive respectful and quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.

Functionalization of First Referral Units (FRUs) by ensuring manpower, blood storage units, referral linkages to improve the access to quality of care for pregnant women

Setting up of **Maternal and Child Health (MCH)** Wings at high caseload facilities to improve the quality of care provided to mothers and children.

Obstetric HDU & ICU in high caseload tertiary care facilities across the country to handle complicated pregnancy.

Monthly **Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND),** an outreach activity at

Anganwadi centers for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition in convergence with the ICDS.

Birth Waiting Homes (BWH) are established in remote and tribal areas to promote institutional delivery and improve access to healthcare facilities.

Outreach camps are provisioned for improving the reach of healthcare services especially in tribal and hard to reach areas. This platform is used to increase the awareness for the Maternal & Child health services, community mobilization as well as to track high risk pregnancies.

Performance based incentives to ANMs (SBAs): ANMs trained in SBA are incentivized for attending home deliveries in pre-identified and notified villages in remote and inaccessible areas where it is difficult to bring a woman to the institution for delivery on account of geographical/climatic exigencies.

Reproductive and child health (RCH) portal is a name-based web-enabled tracking system for pregnant women and newborn so as to ensure seamless provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.

MCP Card and Safe Motherhood Booklet are distributed to the pregnant women for educating them on diet, rest, danger signs of pregnancy, benefit schemes and institutional deliveries.

As per information shared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years is implemented under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare since 2011.

The major objectives of the scheme are:

- To increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene.
- To increase access to and use of high-quality sanitary napkins by adolescent girls.
- To ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

Since 2015-16, the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme is supported by National Health Mission through State Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) route based on the proposals received from the States. Under the overall budget provided for IEC/BCC activities for Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) Mid Media/ Mass Media and IPC activities are carried out by the States/ UTs targeted at adolescent girls, influencers and community at large. Apart from the above, the Teachers, ANMs, ASHA worker and AWWs are oriented appropriately for the scheme with the budget provided for the same under RKSK.

SCHEMES FOR EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN

The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women including rural women. The Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the issue of women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they become equal partners in fast paced and sustainable national development.

Through the 73rd amendment to the Constitution of 1/3rd seats in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been reserved for women. However, today there are more than 14.50 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in PRIs, which is approximately 46% of the total elected representatives. The Government is providing training to the EWRs from time to time to build on their capacity.

Besides, in the past few years, a number of initiatives have been taken for holistic development and empowerment of women. The Government of India implements various schemes / programmes for welfare of women/ girls in which community participation plays an important role. Under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), nearly 9.00 crore women are connected with around 83.5 lakh women's self-help groups that are transforming rural socio-economic landscape in several innovative and socially and ecologically responsible ways, also availing governmental support including through collateral free loans. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) mandates that at least one third of the jobs generated under the scheme (MGNREGS) should be given to women.

National Agriculture Market or e-NAM, an online trading platform for agricultural commodities is helping women overcome or compensate the barriers they face in accessing markets. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is playing a significant role to uplift women cooperatives as large number of women are engaged and involved in cooperatives dealing with activities related to food grain processing, plantation crops, oilseeds processing,

fisheries, dairy & livestock, spinning mills, handloom and power loom weaving, Integrated Cooperative Development Projects, etc. Other schemes include Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Samagra Shiksha, Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna, Swacch Vidyalaya Mission, Swachchh Bharat Mission, etc. In order to enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. To ensure economic independence of women through skill development and vocational training, the Government has also introduced Skill India Mission.

The Anganwadi Services under Mission Poshan 2.0 is a universal scheme under which pregnant women and lactating mothers are eligible for the services including the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP). For partial compensation of wages and for promoting health seeking behavior among pregnant women and lactating mothers, Government has implemented Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) which aims to promote appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, delivery and lactation by providing cash incentives in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode to pregnant and lactating mothers.

Construction of over 11.00 crore toilets under 'Swachchh Bharat Mission', clean cooking gas connections to nearly 9.58 crore women below poverty line under 'UjjawalaYojana' and connecting over 12.59 crores out of 19.46 crores rural household with tap drinking water connections under 'Jal Jeevan Mission' have transformed the lives of women by reducing the drudgery and care burden. Prime Minister's Rural Digital Literacy Campaign (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Sakasharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) that seeks to make 6 crore persons digitally literate, by covering one member from every eligible household. Over 53% of the beneficiaries under PMGDISHA are women.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements 'Mission Shakti', an Integrated Women Empowerment Programme, as Umbrella Scheme for the Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women. The 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes namely "Sambal" for safety and security of women and "Samarthya" for empowerment of women. Under 'Samarthya' sub-scheme, a new component i.e., Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) has been included with the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/ UT and District levels for creating an environment in which women are able to realize their full potential.

STARTUP SCHEME FOR WOMEN

The Government launched 'Startup India initiative' on 16th January 2016 with an aim to build a stronger ecosystem for nurturing India's startup culture that would further drive our economic growth, support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale employment opportunities. It, inter alia, assists in strengthening women entrepreneurship, through policies and initiatives, and creation of enabling networks.

Under this initiative, entities are recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as startups as per eligibility conditions. Further, Government has also taken following measures to promote women entrepreneurship in the country:

To promote flow of both equity and debt to women led startups, 10% of the fund (Rs 1000 crore) in the Fund of Funds for Startups Scheme operated by SIDBI is reserved for women led startups.

Virtual Incubation Program for Women Entrepreneurs were conducted to support 20 women-led tech startups with pro-bono acceleration support for 3 months.

A webpage dedicated to women entrepreneurs has been designed on the Startup India portal. The page includes various policy measures for women entrepreneurs by both Central and State Governments.

Awareness and Capacity Building Workshops for women: The department conducts various workshops with a specific focus on women entrepreneurs. The workshops include deliberation on various topics and successful entrepreneurs share their entrepreneurial journeys. The participants of the sessions conducted comprised of many women, including both aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.

Through its various awareness programmes and capacity building programmes organized by the Government, and through print media and social media platforms, the Government also creates awareness about the existing schemes which support micro, small and medium entrepreneurs, including women entrepreneurs. Further, the details of various programs undertaken under Startup India initiative are as under:

Startup India Action Plan: An Action Plan for Startup India was unveiled on 16th January 2016. The

Action Plan comprises of 19 action items spanning across areas such as "Simplification and handholding", "Funding support and incentives" and "Industry-academia partnership and incubation". The Action Plan laid the foundation of Government support, schemes and incentives envisaged to create a vibrant startup ecosystem in the country.

Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme: The Government has established FFS with corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore, to meet the funding needs of startups. DPIIT is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS. The total corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore is envisaged to be provided over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles based on progress of the scheme and availability of funds. It has not only made capital available for startups at early stage, seed stage and growth stage but also played a catalytic role in terms of facilitating raising of domestic capital, reducing dependence on foreign capital and encouraging home grown and new venture capital funds.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS): The Government has established the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups for providing credit guarantees to loans extended to DPIIT recognized startups by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Venture Debt Funds (VDFs) under SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds. CGSS is aimed at providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers viz. DPIIT recognised startups.

Regulatory Reforms: Over 50 regulatory reforms have been undertaken by the Government since 2016 to enhance ease of doing business, ease of raising capital and reduce compliance burden for the startup ecosystem.

Ease of Procurement: To enable ease of procurement, Central Ministries/ Departments are directed to relax conditions of prior turnover and prior experience in public procurement for all DPIIT recognised startups subject to meeting quality and technical specifications. Further, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Startup Runway has been developed which is a dedicated corner for startups to sell products and services directly to the Government.

Support for Intellectual Property Protection: Startups are eligible for fast-tracked patent application examination and disposal. The Government launched Start-ups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) which facilitates the startups to file applications for patents, designs and trademarks through registered facilitators in appropriate IP offices by paying only the statutory fees. Facilitators under this Scheme are responsible for providing general advisory on different IPRs, and information on protecting and promoting IPRs in other countries. The Government bears the entire fees of the facilitators for any number of patents, trademark or designs, and startups only bear the cost of the statutory fees payable. Startups are provided with an 80% rebate in filing of patents and 50% rebate in filling of trademark vis-a-vis othercompanies.

Self-Certification under Labour and Environmental laws: Startups are allowed to self-certify their compliance under 9 Labour and 3 Environment laws for a period of 3 to 5 years from the date of incorporation.

Income Tax Exemption for 3 years: Startups incorporated on or after 1st April 2016 can apply for income tax exemption. The recognized startups that are granted an Inter-Ministerial Board Certificate are exempted from income-tax for a period of 3 consecutive years out of 10 years since incorporation.

International Market Access to Indian Startups: One of the key objectives under the Startup India initiative is to help connect Indian startup ecosystem to global startup ecosystems through various engagement models. This has been done though international Government to Government partnerships, participation in international forums and hosting of global events. Startup India has launched bridges with over 15 countries (Brazil, Sweden, Russia, Portugal, UK, Finland, Netherlands, Singapore, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Canada, Croatia, Qatar and UAE) that provides a soft-landing platform for startups from the partner nations and aid in promoting cross collaboration.

Faster Exit for Startups: The Government has notified Startups as 'fast track firms' enabling them to wind up operations within 90 days vis-a-vis 180 days for other companies.

Startup India Hub: The Government launched a Startup India Online Hub on 19th June 2017 which is one of its kind online platform for all stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India to discover, connect and engage with each other. The Online Hub hosts Startups, Investors, Funds, Mentors, Academic Institutions, Incubators, Accelerators, Corporates, Government Bodies and more.

Exemption for the Purpose of Clause (VII)(b) of Sub-section (2) of Section 56 of the Act (2019): A DPIIT recognized startup is eligible for exemption from the provisions of section 56 (2) (viib) of the Income Tax Act.

Startup India Showcase: Startup India Showcase is an online discovery platform for the most promising startups of the country chosen through various programs for startups exhibited in a form of virtual profiles. The startups showcased on the platform have distinctly emerged as the best in their fields. These innovations span across various cutting-edge sectors such as Fintech, EntrepriseTech, Social Impact, HealthTech, EdTech, among others. These startups are solving critical problems and have shown exceptional innovation in their respective sectors. Ecosystem stakeholders have nurtured and supported these startups, thereby validating their presence on this platform.

National Startup Advisory Council: The Government in January 2020 notified constitution of the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. Besides the ex-officio members, the council has a number of non-official members, representing various stakeholders from the startup ecosystem.

Startup India: The Way Ahead: The Way Ahead at 5 years celebration of Startup India was unveiled on 16th January 2021 which includes actionable plans for promotion of ease of doing business for startups, greater role of technology in executing various reforms, building capacities of stakeholders and enabling a digital Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS): Easy availability of capital is essential for entrepreneurs at the early stages of growth of an enterprise. The capital required at this stage often presents a make-or-break situation for startups with good business ideas. The Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization. Rs. 945 crore has been sanctioned under the SISFS Scheme for period of 4 years starting from 2021-22.

National Startup Awards (NSA): National Startup Awards is an initiative to recognize and reward outstanding startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact. Handholding support is provided to all the finalists across various tracks viz. Investor Connect, Mentorship, Corporate Connect, Govt. Connect, International Market Access, Regulatory Support,

Startup Champions on Doordarshan and Startup India Showcase, etc.

States' Startup Ranking Framework (SRF): States' Startup Ranking Framework is a unique initiative to harness strength of competitive federalism and create a flourishing startup ecosystem in the country. The major objectives of the ranking exercise are facilitating states to identify, learn and replace good practices, highlighting the policy intervention by states for promoting startup ecosystem and fostering competitiveness among states. Startup Champions on Doordarshan: Startup Champions program on Doordarshan is a one-hour weekly program covering stories of award winning/ nationally recognised startups. It is telecasted in both Hindi and English across Doordarshan network channels.

Startup India Innovation Week: The Government organises Startup India Innovation week around the National Startup Day i.e. 16th January, with the primary goal was to bring together the country's key startups, entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, funding entities, banks, policymakers, and other national/ international stakeholders to celebrate entrepreneurship and promote innovation.

PROJECTS UNDER SAGARMALA SCHEME

The Sagarmala is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to promote port-led development in the country through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes. Under Sagarmala Scheme, Ministry provide financial assistance to State Governments for Port infrastructure projects, Coastal berth projects, Road & Rail projects, fish harbours, skill development projects, Coastal community development, cruise terminal and projects such as Ro-Pax ferry services etc.

Use of Technology in Judicial Institutions

As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT development of the Indian

Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". eCourts project is being implemented in association with e-Committee Supreme Court of India and Department of Justice. Phase I of the project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-23.The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all: -

i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project

ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country.

iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed.

iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.

v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/ Litigants through SMS Push and Pull, Email, multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal, JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers and JustIS app for judges.

vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.

vii. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 3.26 crore cases have been handled by 22 virtual courts.

viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features.

ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions.

x. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling.It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.

xi. In addition to eSewaKendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.

xiii. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

PM-DevINE Scheme

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE), was announced as a new Central Sector scheme, with 100% Central funding, in the Union Budget 2022-23 with initial list of seven projects and an initial allocation of Rs. 1500 crore.

The objectives of PM-DevINE scheme are to: (i) fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti; (ii) support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER; (iii) enable livelihood activities for youth and women; and (iv) fill the development gaps in various sectors.

The time frame defined for PM-DevINE scheme projects is 2023-24 for sanction and 2025-26 for completion.

Capacity building Scheme for North Eastern Region

The Capacity Building Scheme for North Eastern Region is a Scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSD&E).This Scheme is implemented through the Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, Assam which is an autonomous Institute of the MSD&E. various capacity building programme sare funded there under as per details given below:

For Transforming Unorganized Care Giving Service Industry into Formal Service Sector Industry to extend proper provision for formal care giving services to the elderly and needy population of the NER, a project is sponsored by the North Eastern Council (NEC). Under Capacity Building, Training of Trainers (ToT) programme has been conducted and 32 master trainers have been developed for entire North East. Further, 19 training programmes have been conducted wherein 471 care givers have been developed under the project.

IIE has conducted various capacity development activities in Assam during the last five years under the Pradhan Mantri Vandhan Yojana (PMVDY) scheme which was launched on 14th April, 2018 by the Prime Minister of India, for transforming the rural and tribal economy in the future. The scheme was implemented in Assam by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in 2019 with the State Directorate of Tribal Affairs (Plains) as the Nodal Agency. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is the Sponsoring Agency of the scheme. Under PMVDY, TRIFED has sanctioned 302 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras Clusters (VDVKCs) in three phases in 33 districts of Assam. Through this scheme, the tribal communities of Assam are supported to have a sustainable livelihood, by training on how to produce value-added products from the locally available Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and subsequent sales of the same. Each Cluster would have approximately 300 Self Help Groups (SHGs) registered tribal women beneficiaries.

The current status of these VDVKCs is as follows:

Advocacy Programmes: These are primarily focused on building awareness amongst the beneficiaries about the project in general, so that the beneficiaries could participate with a definitive intent and aim to achieve the desired benefits as promised under the scheme. Advocacy programmes regarding the project has been completed in all the six VDVKCs.

Training Programmes: A total of 1208 beneficiaries have been trained via 43 Skill Development/ Value-addition training programmes. The trainings were conducted under various trades such as: Bamboo Utility, Candle Making, Water Hyacinth Products making, Agarbatti Making, Bee keeping, Nursery training, Bamboo Jewellery making, Jute products making, Bag making, Food processing, sweet making, soap making, vermi-compost producing etc.

Bank accounts have been opened for all the six VDVKCs.

Co-operative Society Formation: Application has been filed for three VDVKCs for formation of co-operative societies, while three have already been formed.

IIE has conducted various skill development programmes under different schemes/projects. In the last 3 years, a total of 35,651 participants have started their own ventures out of which most of them have started at the household level in different fields such as Agriculture, Handicraft, Handloom, Jewellery, Bakery, Beauty and Wellness etc. Out of 35,651 participants, 31,729 were women participants.

IIE is continuously supporting and promoting the products produced by its beneficiaries under the PMVDY.

- It has created a brand called **"TRISSAM"** for exclusively marketing and promoting the products produced by the beneficiaries.

- IIE has organised and promoted its beneficiaries at various exhibitions, trade fairs and buyer-seller meets.

- IIE has opened retail outlets under the Brand TRISSAM in various districts of Assam for the sales of the products produced by the beneficiaries.

- To ensure substantial online brand presence and impart the brand with a dynamic image, the PMVDY team from IIE has developed a website exclusively for the TRISSAM products, to put forward the mission and the essence of the PMVDY scheme. The website also consists of an online marketing portal to explore the potential market opportunities and customers to tap retail as well as bulk orders.

- Apart from the website, TRISSAM, its products and activities are promoted through various social media platforms.

Programmes and Schemes to Encourage Tree Plantation in Urban Areas

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken various initiatives through programmes and schemes that encourages tree plantation including urban areas in the country. **The scheme, Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) has been launched during the year 2020, for creation of Nagar Vans in urban areas, which promotes urban forestry by involving local communities, NGOs, educational institutions, local bodies, etc.**

Besides, the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), under which, in addition to other sub-missions, there is a specific sub-mission for enhancing tree cover in urban and peri-urban areas. Urban forestry is also a permissible activity under the provisions of Compensatory Fund Act, 2016 and the Rules made thereunder. Forestry/tree plantation activities including urban forestry, being a multi-departmental, multi-agency activity, are taken up cross-sectorally under various programmes/funding sources of other ministries/organizations and also through State Plan budgets.

The tree outside forest (ToF) refers to all trees growing outside recorded forest areas. The patches of 1 ha and above outside the recorded forest area and Tree Cover, both constitute the ToF. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2015 published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), MoEFCC the Tree Cover is 92,572 sq. km. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021 the Tree Cover is 95,748 sq. km. The Forest Survey of India in ISFR, 2021 have done mapping for Forest Cover in Major Mega Cities i.e. Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. The total forest cover reported in these seven major mega cities is 509.72 sq. km. Nagar Van Yojana envisages creating a Nagar Van / Nagar Vatika in each City having Municipal Corporation/Municipal council/Municipality/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for providing wholesome healthy living environment for the residents and thus contributing to growth of clean, green, healthy and sustainable cities. The salient features of Nagar Van Yojana are:

(i) Creating green space and aesthetic environment in an urban set up.

(ii) Creating awareness about plants and biodiversity and developing environment stewardship.

(iii) Facilitating in-situ conservation of important flora of the region.

(iv) Contributing to environmental improvement of cities by pollution mitigation, providing cleaner air, noise reduction, water harvesting and reduction of heat islands effect.

(v) Extending health benefits to residents of the city and

(vi) Helping cities become climate resilient.

SCHEME FOR CONSERVING SMALL RIVERS

Flow in the rivers is a dynamic parameters and depends on many sub-parameters such as rainfall, its distribution pattern, duration and intensity in the catchment, health of catchment area, vegetation and withdrawals/utilization of water. Central Water Commission (CWC) carries out the hydrological observations on rivers across the country. The annual average flow data maintained by CWC for last 20 years for major/important rivers in the country does not indicate any significant decline in water availability.

Government has taken number of steps including campaigns to make **"Jal Andolan a Jan-Andolan"** for conservation of water and rejuvenation of small rivers. Some of them are as below;

- Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (CTR)** campaign on

22nd March 2021, the World Water Day, with the theme – **"Catch The Rain, Where it falls, When it falls"** to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country during the pre-monsoon and monsoon period. **The focused interventions of the campaign included (1) water conservation and rainwater harvesting (2) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it, rejuvenation of small rivers (3) Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (4) intensive afforestation and (5) awareness generation.**

- During the campaign period of "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain"- 2022, water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures were done and Traditional water Bodies were rejuvenated. Jal Shakti Kendras were also set up.

- "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain"- 2023 was launched for implementation across the country with the theme "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water" will special focus on 150 Water Stressed Districts of the country.

- Department of Water Resources, RD& GR has instituted National Water Awards and monthly Water Heroes Contest to incentivize good practices in water conservation and ground water recharge.

- Mass awareness programs (Trainings, Seminars, Workshops, Exhibitions, and Trade Fares etc.) are conducted from time to time each year in various parts of the country to promote water conservation initiatives including rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

- The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled 'Mission Water Conservation" to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), erstwhile integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) now PMKSY- Watershed Development Component and Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/ schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, Command Area Development & Watershed Management.

- All States/UTs to emphasize efforts in the area of water conservation and water management in the country essentially for rejuvenating small rivers by engaging the communities through participatory mode. The activities include augmentation of existing water sources(s), ground water recharge, rainwater harvesting and grey water management and recharge.

- Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Amrit Sarovar Mission. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- Under **Namami Gange programme for** integrated rejuvenation of National River Ganga and its tributaries, large numbers of smaller tributaries have been mapped along with their catchment area/ watershed and wetlands. A GIS based inventory of small rivers has also been created with additional district wise information. Besides, technical hand holding through Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies led by IIT Kanpur and other academic institutions viz., IIT-BHU, BBAU, NIH as being partnering Institutions for providing scientific/ technical support.

10. Apart from these, state governments also have taken up many special programs for water conservation and rejuvenation of smaller rivers.

Employees' Provident Fund Scheme

The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 1952 is one of the three schemes framed under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952. The EPF Scheme, 1952 aims at providing social security to employees employed in an EPF covered establishment. Under the EPF, Scheme, 1952, an employee of any covered establishment drawing monthly wages up to Rs. 15,000 is statutorily required to join the fund and to contribute 12% of wages.

which includes basic wages, dearness allowance and retaining allowance, if any. The employer is also required to contribute 12% of the wages. The

Employees' Provident Fund is managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of representatives from Central Government, employers, employees and State Governments. A member of the EPF Scheme, 1952 is entitled to the benefit of withdrawal and advance for various purposes (viz. for purchase/construction of dwelling house, illness, education, marriage, Covid-19, etc.) from the EPF as per the provisions contained in the said scheme. A member is also entitled for credit of interest on his/her PF accumulations each year.

PRANDHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJNA (PMUY)

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on 01.05.2016 to release deposit free LPG connection in the name of adult woman member of poor households across the country. The target to release 8 crore connections was achieved in September, 2019. To cover the remaining poor households, PMUY phase-2 (Ujjwala 2.0) was launched in August 2021 with a target to release 1 crore additional PMUY connections, which was achieved in January 2022. Subsequently, the Government decided to release 60 lakh more LPG connections under Ujjwala 2.0 and as on 01.01.2023, the target of 1.60 crore Ujjwala 2.0 connections has already been achieved.

Under Ujjwala 2.0, a special provision has been made for migrant families who can use a self-declaration instead of Proof of Address and Ration Card to apply for a PMUY connection.

National Programme for Child Labour Free India

The Government having given consideration to various aspects of the problems of child labour enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which was amended in 2016.

The amended Act is now called the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 which inter-alia provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years in any occupation and process and adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes.

Ministry of Labour & Employment has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) comprising the representatives of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Rural Development, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Committee coordinates efforts across ministries and sectors for prevention of child labour.
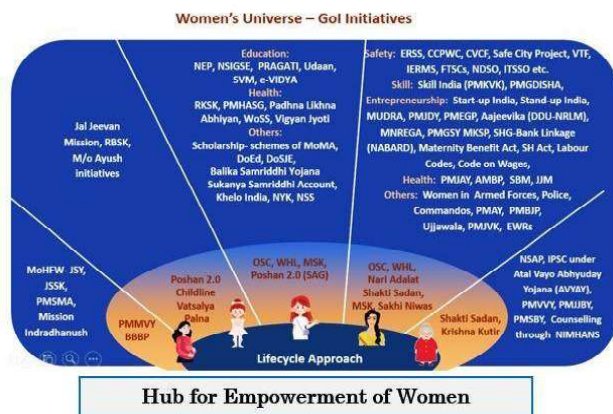
In addition, Ministry of Labour & Employment has framed model State Action Plan enumerating action points to be taken by respective State Governments for eradication of child labour including migrant, girl and SC/ST children.

Under the **Samagra Shiksha scheme** of Ministry of Education implemented by its Department of School Education & Literacy, annual plans are prepared by the States and Union Territories (UTs) based on their requirements and priority and this is reflected in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) proposals. During the appraisal of AWP&B proposals, all States and UTs are requested to conduct house hold survey annually for the purpose of identification of the Out of School Children (OoSC). This includes drop out and never enrolled children.

Under the Scheme, all the States and Union Territories (UTs) are required to conduct Household Survey for identification of Out of School Children (OoSC). This Department has developed an online module for compiling the data of OoSC identified by each State/UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the **PRABANDH Portal. T**he concerned State/UT validates the child wise information of the identified OoSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OoSC.

programme on 'Mission shakti- Hub for empowerment of women'

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) under Ministry of Women and Child Development organised the First Capacity Building Programme on 'Mission Shakti- Hub for Empowerment of Women' for State Nodal Officers and State Mission Coordinators from at NIPCCD New Delhi.

Women's Universe – GoI Initiatives

Hub for Empowerment of Women

iii. Workshops are organized in municipalities with the officers, engineers, contractors, sanitation workers etc. of urban local bodies to sensitize them about safe and healthy cleaning practices and mechanized cleaning of sewers & septic tanks. About 203 such workshops have been organized in the F.Y. 2022-23 in various urban local bodies (ULBs) pan India.

iv. A short duration training programme (RPL) is organized for the sanitation workers wherein they are trained in mechanized cleaning, safe & healthy cleaning practices, safety precautions, use of PPE kits.

To tackle hazardous cleaning specially, the Government has formulated a new scheme called 'National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem' (NAMASTE) whose objectives are as under:-

•

i. Formalization and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (MS) and Persons Engaged in Hazardous Cleaning of Sewer and Septic Tank (SSWs).

ii. Promotion of safe and mechanised cleaning of sewers and septic tanks through trained and certified sanitation workers.

NAMASTE aims to achieve the following outcomes:

• Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India

• All sanitation work to be performed by formalized skilled workers

• No sanitation workers to come in direct contact with human faecal matter

• Strengthening and capacitating Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) to ensure safe delivery of mechanized sanitation services

• Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises

• Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) and their dependents also have access to livelihoods by providing capital subsidy for purchase of sanitation related equipments.

• Increased awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered Private Sanitation Service Organizations (PSSOs) and skilled & certified sanitation workers only.

• Extending Health Insurance Scheme benefits under AB-PMJAY to SSWs & manual scavengers and their family members.

REHABILITATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGERS

SWACHHATA   SURAKSHA   SAMMAN

नये भारत का नया ऐलान
मशीन से सफाई, सुरक्षा व सम्मान

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavenger and their Rehabilitation Act 2013 bans manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Further, Government has taken the following initiatives to avoid hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks:-

•

i. Under **Swachhta Udyami Yojana of NSKFDC,** concessional loans are provided to safai karamcharis, manual scavengers & their dependants and the Urban Local Bodies & other agencies responsible for cleaning for procurement of sanitation related instruments/vehicles for complete mechanization of all cleaning operations.

ii. Under **Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)** in addition to the manual scavengers, the sanitation workers and their dependants are also provided capital subsidy upto Rs. 5.00 lakh for procurement of instruments/vehicles for mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

Occupational safety training to SSWs.

The following rehabilitation benefits have been provided under Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

- One-time Cash Assistance of Rs. 40,000/- per family has been provided to all identified and eligible 58098 manual scavengers.

- Capital Subsidy upto Rs. 5,00,000/- has been provided to 2313 indentified manual scavengers and their dependents to take up alternate self employment projects.

- Skill Development Training has been provided to indentified manual scavengers and their dependents with stipend @ Rs. 3,000/- per month during the training period. The successfully trained candidates are also provided Government recognized training certificates and assistance for sustainable employments.

- Health Insurance under Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to the families of all the identified manual scavengers.

Sangathan se Samriddhi Campaign under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission

The Ministry is implementing Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY – NRLM) across the country (except Delhi & Chandigarh) with the objective of organizing the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and continuously nurturing and supporting them. The support continues till they attain appreciable increase in incomes over a period of time, improve their quality of life and, come out of abject poverty. The Ministry organized "Sangathan Se Samriddhi Abhiyaan" (SSSA) from April 18th till June 30th 2023 with the objective to bring the left out eligible, vulnerable and marginalized rural households (HHs) into Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM.

The households with at least one deprivation as per the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC-2011) database, the households identified through the process of Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) and duly vetted by the respective Gram Sabha are the eligible households for coverage under the Mission.

Fame India Scheme

Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme Phase-II is being implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries for a period of five years commencing from 1st April,2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crore. This phase mainly focuses on supporting electrification of public & shared transportation, and aims to support through demand incentive 7090 eBuses, 5 lakh e-3 Wheelers, 55000 e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars and 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers. In addition, creation of charging infrastructure is also supported under the Scheme.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries had sanctioned 520 Charging Stations/ Infrastructureunder the Phase-I of FAME India Scheme. Further, this Ministry hasalso sanctioned 2,877 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in 68 cities across 25 States/UTs and1576 charging stations across 9 Expressways and 16 Highways under Phase II of FAME IndiaScheme.

The Government of India has taken following steps to give incentives/ subsidies on electric vehicles:

- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India): The Government notified Phase-II of FAME India Scheme initially for a period of five years commencing from 1st April, 2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crore. Under FAME-India Scheme phase-II, incentives are provided to buyers of electric vehicles in the form of an upfront reduction in the purchase price of electric vehicles.

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automotive Sector: The Government on 15th Sep 2021 approved the PLI Scheme for Automotive Sector with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 25,938 crores to support domestic manufacturing of vehicles. Electric vehicles are covered under this PLI scheme.

- PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC):The Government on 12th May, 2021

approved PLI Scheme for manufacturing of ACC in thecountry with a budgetary outlay ofRs. 18,100 crore. Thescheme envisages to establish a competitive ACC battery manufacturing set up in the country for 50 GWh. Additionally, 5GWh of niche ACC technologies is also covered under theScheme.

- GST on EVs has been reduced from 12% to 5%; GST on chargers/ charging stations for EVs has been reduced from 18% to 5%.

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) announced that the battery-operated vehicles will be given green license plates and be exempted from permit requirements.

- MoRTH issued a notification advising states to waive road tax on EVs, which in turn will help reduce the initial cost of the EVs.

National Digital Health Ecosystem

Government of India has launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) which aims to create a platform enabling interoperability of health data within the health ecosystem to create longitudinal Electronic Health Record (EHR) of every citizen.

'Privacy by Design' is one of the key guiding principles of ABDM and implemented following the principles of federated digital architecture. There is therefore no centralised repository of data. ABDM facilitates secure data exchange between the intended stakeholders on the ABDM network after the patient's consent. National Health Authority is the implementing agency of ABDM.

Under ABDM, to ensure security & privacy by design and embedding the same into the integrated solutions, Health Data Management Policy (HDM Policy) was released on 14th December 2020 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It is a guidance document, which sets out the minimum standards for privacy and data protection that should be followed by all the participants/stakeholders of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) ecosystem. Health Data Management Policy specifies that no data shall be shared with any other entity without consent of the individual .

To ensure adequate security measures, NHA has also onboarded the Ministry of Electronics and IT empanelled Tier 3 cloud service provider to design, develop, implement, operate and maintain ABDM IT solutions.

Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and Data Protection Officer undertakes a periodic review of the security safeguards and takes appropriate measures to update such safeguards.

The Union Health Ministry has adopted a holistic approach to safeguard its IT system from critical security threats across computational layers. Specific model is conceptualized considering security requirements to safeguard its IT ecosystem from a range of security threats and abiding mitigation measures covering compliance, infrastructure, application, and other security domains.

National Programme for Dairy Development

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) is implementing National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) scheme across the country since Feb-2014. The scheme has been restructured/ realigned in July 2021 for implementation from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the following two components and their respective objectives:

- The Component ''A'' of NPDD focuses on creating/strengthening of infrastructure for quality milk testing equipment as well as primary chilling facilities for State Cooperative Dairy Federations/ District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union/SHGs/ Milk Producer Companies/Farmer Producer Organizations throughout the country.

- The Component 'B' of the NPDD scheme "Dairying through Cooperatives" aims to increase sale of milk and dairy products by increasing farmer's access to organized market, upgrading dairy processing facilities and marketing infrastructure and enhancing the capacity of producer owned institutions.

Sahkar Se Samriddhi Scheme
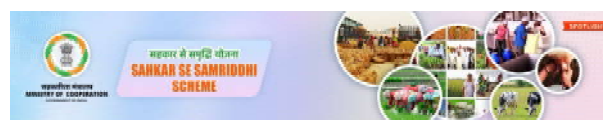
In order to realize the vision of "Sahkar se Samriddhi", strengthening cooperative movement in the country, deepening its reach to the grassroots and to enhance the performance, productivity and profitability of cooperative societies, various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Cooperation since its inception, such as:

1. **Making Primary Cooperatives transparent and economically vibrant (14 initiatives)**

- Model Bye-Laws for PACS making them multipurpose, multidimensional and transparent entities: Prepared and circulated to all the States/ UTs for adoption as per their respective State Cooperatives Act to enable PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities. Model byelaws have been adopted by 27 States/ UTs.

- Strengthening of PACS through Computerization: Process to onboard 63,000 PACS on an ERP based national software, with an outlay of ₹ 2,516 Crore started.

- New Multipurpose PACS/ Dairy/ Fishery Cooperatives in uncovered Panchayats: A plan has been approved to set up 2 lakh new multi-purpose PACS or primary dairy/ fisheries cooperatives covering every Panchayat/ village in the next five years.

- World's Largest Decentralized Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector to ensure food security: Pilot Project is under implementation to create godowns and other agri- infra for grain storage at PACS level.

- PACS as Common Service Centers (CSCs) for better access to e-services: More than 17,000 PACS onboarded as CSC to improve their viability, provide e-services and generate employment in rural areas.

- Formation of new Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs) by PACS: 1,100 additional FPOs to be formed by PACS in those blocks where FPOs have not yet been formed or the blocks are not covered by any implementing agency.

- PACS given priority for Retail Petrol/ diesel outlets: PACS have been included in the Combined Category 2 (CC2) for allotment of retail petrol/ diesel outlets. Existing PACS with wholesale petrol pump license permitted to convert into retail outlets.

- PACS eligible for LPG Distributorship for diversifying its activities: PACS have now been allowed to apply for LPG Distributorships.

- PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendra for improving access to generic medicines at rural level: PACS have been allowed to operate Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras which will provide additional income source to them.

- PACS as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samriddhi Kendras (PMKSK) for fertilizer distribution: PACS have been allowed to operate PMKSK for ensuring easy accessibility of fertilizer & related services to farmers in the country.

- Convergence of PM-KUSUM at PACS level for energy security: Farmers associated with PACS can adopt solar agricultural water pumps and install photovoltaic modules in their farms.

- PACS to carry out O&M of rural piped water supply schemes (PWS): PACS have been allowed to carry out the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of PWS in rural areas.

- Micro-ATMs to Bank Mitra Cooperative Societies for providing doorsteps financial services: Micro-ATMs now being given to cooperative societies like Dairy, Fisheries by the Cooperative Banks.

- Rupay Kisan Credit Card to Members of Milk Cooperatives: Rupay Kisan Credit Cards being provided to the members of cooperatives through Cooperative Banks for providing credit at comparatively lower interest rates.

2. **Strengthening the Urban and Rural Cooperative Banks (9 initiatives)**

- UCBs have now been allowed to open new branches to expand their business.

- UCBs have been allowed by RBI to offer doorstep services to their customers.

- Cooperative Banks have been allowed to make one-time settlement of outstanding loans, like Commercial Banks.

- Time limit increased to achieve Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets given to UCBs.

- A Nodal Officer designated in RBI for regular interaction with UCBs.

- Individual housing loan limit more than doubled by RBI for Rural and Urban Co- operative Banks.

- Rural Co-operative Banks will now be able to lend to commercial real estate/ residential housing sector, thereby diversifying their business.

- License fee for onboarding Cooperative Banks to 'Aadhaar Enabled Payment System' (AePS) has been reduced by linking it to the number of transactions.

- Non-scheduled UCBs, StCBs and DCCBs notified as Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) in CGTMSE Scheme to increase share of cooperatives in lending.

3. Relief to Cooperative Societies in Income Tax Act (6 initiatives)

- Surcharge reduced from 12 % to 7% for co-operative societies having income between Rs. 1 to 10 Cr.

- MAT reduced for cooperatives from 18.5% to 15%.

- A clarification has been issued to remove difficulties in cash transactions by cooperatives under Section 269ST of IT Act.

- A flat lower tax rate of 15% will be charged, compared with current rate of upto 30% plus surcharge, for new cooperatives commencing manufacturing activities till March 31, 2024.

- Limit increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 2 lakh per member for deposits and loans in cash by PACS and PCARDBs.

- Increase in cash withdrawal limit for cooperatives from Rs. 1 Crore to Rs. 3 Crore, per annum, without being subjected to TDS.

4. Revival of Cooperative Sugar Mills (4 initiatives)

- Relief from Income Tax to Sugar Cooperative Mills: Sugar cooperative mills not to be subjected to additional income tax for paying higher sugarcane prices to farmers up to Fair and Remunerative or State Advised Price.

- Resolution of decades old pending issues related to Income Tax of Sugar Cooperative Mills: Sugar cooperatives allowed to claim as expenditure their payments to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016–17, giving a relief of nearly Rs. 10,000 crores.

- Rs. 10,000 crore loan scheme launched by NCDC for strengthening of Sugar Cooperative Mills: Scheme can be used for setting up ethanol plants or cogeneration plants or for working capital or for all three purposes.

- Preference to Cooperative Sugar Mills in purchase of ethanol: Cooperative Sugar Mills will be put at par with private companies for ethanol procurement by Government of India under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP).

5. Three new Multi-State Societies at the National Level (3 initiatives)

- New National Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society for certified seeds: New apex multi-state cooperative seed society established under the MSCS Act, 2002 as umbrella organization for quality seed cultivation, production and distribution under a single brand.

- New National Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society for organic farming: New apex multi-state cooperative organic society established under the MSCS Act, 2002 as umbrella organization to produce, distribute and market certified and authentic organic products.

- New National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society for promoting exports: New apex multi-state cooperative export society established under the MSCS Act, 2002 as umbrella organization to give thrust to exports from cooperative sector.

6. Capacity Building in Cooperatives (3 initiatives)

- Establishment of the World's Largest Cooperative University: National Cooperative University being established for Cooperative education, training, consultancy, research and development and a sustainable and quality supply of trained manpower.

- New Scheme of Cooperative Education and Training: To strengthen the cooperative movement, build capacity of faculty of VAMNICOM, NCCT and JCTC, promote quality research and studies on important areas of Cooperative sector, etc.

- Promotion of training and awareness through National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT): NCCT conducted training programs and provided training.

7. Use of Information Technology for 'Ease of Doing Business' (2 initiatives)

- Computerization to strengthen the Central Registrar's Office: This will create a digital ecosystem for Multi-State Cooperative Societies, which will assist in processing applications and service requests in a time bound manner.

41. Scheme for computerization of office of RCSs in States and Union Territories: To increase ease of doing business for Cooperative Societies and create a digital ecosystem for transparent paperless regulation in all States/Union Territories.

8. Other Initiatives (7 initiatives)

- New National Cooperative Database for authentic and updated data repository: Preparation of a database of cooperatives in the country started to facilitate stakeholders in policy making and implementation.

- Formulation of New National Cooperative Policy: A National level committee comprising 49 experts and stakeholders drawn from all over the Country constituted to formulate the New National Cooperative Policy to create an enabling ecosystem to realize the vision of 'Sahakar-se-Samriddhi'.

- Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Bill introduced in the Parliament to amend the MSCS Act, 2002 to incorporate provisions of 97th Constitutional Amendment, strengthen governance, enhance transparency, increase accountability and reform electoral process in the Multi State Cooperative Societies.

- Inclusion of Cooperatives as 'buyers' on GeM portal: Cooperatives permitted to register as 'buyer' on GeM, enabling them to procure goods and services from nearly 40 lakh vendors to facilitate economical purchases and greater transparency.

- Expansion of National Cooperative Development Corporation to increase its range and depth: New schemes for cooperatives launched by NCDC in various sectors such as 'Swayamshakti Sahkar' for SHG; 'Deerghavadhi Krishak Sahkar' for long term agricultural credit; 'Dairy Sahkar' for dairy and 'Neel Sahkar' for fisheries.

- Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs): To strengthen the Long-term Cooperative Credit structure, the project of computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) is being undertaken.

- Refund to Investors of Sahara Group of Societies: A portal has been launched for making payments to the bona fide depositors of the cooperative societies of Sahara Group in a transparent manner after proper identification and submission of proof of their deposits and claims.

In order to evaluate the impact of the schemes and initiatives taken by the Ministry of Cooperation, regular follow up meetings through Video Conferencing are held with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and feedbacks taken and analyzed for course correction if any. Regular communications are also sent by the Ministry to the State Governments at various levels, from Apex to the level of District Cooperative Registrar. Further, meetings are held with other Ministries of Government of India for coordination on convergence of their schemes and removal of difficulties so as to enhance the performance, productivity and profitability of cooperative societies.

Industry-Academia Linkage for Cooperatives

Industry-academia linkages for the cooperative societies are ensured through continuous engagement of the sector experts and practitioners in the various training, awareness and other academic programs run by NCCT (National Council for Cooperative Training), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Cooperation.

The industry-academia linkage in training programs is built through an institutional mechanism of Program Advisory Committee (PAC) in the 19 regional and state level institutes of NCCT. PAC is headed by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the state concerned and other members of PAC include Chief Executives of State Cooperative Unions/Federations, Directors of Industries, Handlooms, Fisheries, Agriculture of the state concerned, industry sector experts, etc.

Further, seminars/webinars with industry/sector experts, lectures from practitioners, industry exposure visits and internships are also organized regularly to further strengthen industry- academic partnership in the cooperative sector.

ACROSS SCHEME
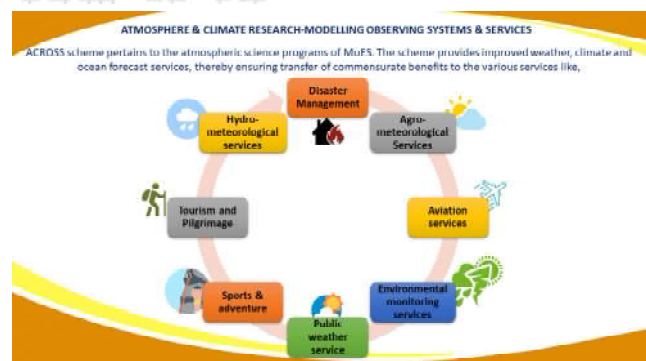
Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS) umbrella scheme is central sector scheme, pertains to the atmospheric science programs of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The entire

gamut of weather/climate prediction involves the observational systems, assimilation of meteorological observations, understanding the processes, research and development of dynamical models and providing the forecast services. **Each of these aspects is incorporated as sub-scheme under the umbrella scheme ACROSS and is implemented by four different institutions under MoES namely: India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) which implements a small part of one of the sub-schemes.**

The progress made under the ACROSS scheme are listed below:

- Development of global advanced weather prediction models and Ensemble Prediction System to generate deterministic and probabilistic forecasts at a high horizontal resolution of 12 km. In addition, regional models with higher resolution also have been developed.

- For past few years, skill of IMD's weather forecasts and warnings, especially cyclone prediction has improved substantially.

- A first of its kind high-resolution Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi has been developed to predict extreme air pollution events in Delhi. A very high-resolution (400 meters) model for operational air quality forecasts using both satellite and surface chemical data assimilation has been developed.

- Procurement of 6.8 Petaflop High Performance Computer (HPC) in 2018.

- The number of Doppler Weather Radars (DWR) network has been increased to 37.

- A Multi-Mission Meteorological Data Receiving & Processing System (MMDRPS) has been established. The system has three dedicated earth station and data receiving system to receive the data from currently operational Geostationary satellites INSAT-3D, INSAT-3DR and INSAT-3DS to be launched in year the 2021-22.

- Seventeen (17) High Wind Speed Recorders (HWSR) were installed at Vishakapatnam, Machilipatnam, Chennai, Goa, Cuddalore, Bhubaneshwar, Kakinada, Puri, Ongole, Digha, Kavali, Haldia, Pamban, Gopalpur, Kanyakumari, Veraval and Bhuj.

- Establishment of 199 new Agro-Meteorological Field Units (AMFUs) for rendering Agromet Advisories in addition to already existing 130 AMFUs.

- IMD provides agrometeorological advisories twice in a week in collaboration with Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR). A recent assessment report published by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) concluded that investments made by the Government to enhance weather and forecasting services are yielding great economic benefits to farmers, livestock rearers and fisherfolk. India's investment of nearly 1,000 crores through Monsoon Mission and High Performance Computers yielded benefits worth rupees 50 thousand crores to ~10.7 million below poverty line (BPL) agricultural households and 0.53 million BPL fisherfolk households in the country over a period of five years. Therefore, investments by Government have yielded fifty-fold gains to agricultural farmers, livestock rearers, and fisherfolk of India.

- A Lightning Location Network with sensors at 83 locations across the country has been put in place. The DAMINI LIGHTNING ALERT Mobile App has been developed and released in May 2020.

- Thunderstorm warning for 1022 stations covered all over the country as nowcast basis (3hrs forecast).

- The Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX) observational campaign, was conducted during 2018-19 and 2019-20 for understanding cloud and rainfall processes in natural and seeded clouds over the rain shadow region, and resulted in 240 hours of observations.

- The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has developed an Earth System Model (ESM) for the first time. The IITM-ESM will be the first climate model from India that participated in the Coupled Modeling Intercomparison Project-Phase 6 (CMIP6) experiments required for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report.

- A new open access book on Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region has been published in June 2020. This is the first climate change report for the Indian region from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and discusses the influence of human-induced global climate change

over the Indian subcontinent, the adjoining Indian Ocean, the Himalayas and on the regional monsoon.

• State wise reports have been prepared on rainfall changes/trends and its variability based on the recent 30 years of data (1989-2018).

• Upgradation of the forecast dissemination strategy. MoES has made a drastic improvement in the dissemination of weather-related information to all stakeholders, including the public.

Augmentation of observational network across the country along with the computing facility helped in improving the weather and climate research in the country.

VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAMME

Government has approved Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th February,2023 for comprehensive development of the select villages in 46 blocks in 19 districts of abutting northern border in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and UT of Ladakh.

The programme envisages focused areas of interventions in the select villages for creation of opportunities for livelihood generation through promotion of tourism & cultural heritage, skill development & entrepreneurship and development of cooperative societies including agriculture/horticulture, cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs etc. the interventions also include providing road connectivity to unconnected villages, housing & village infrastructures, energy including renewable energy, television & telecom connectivity. The objective of the programme is to create sufficient incentives for people to stay on in the selected villages.

In all the census villages/towns, semi urban and urban areas located with 0-10 kms. distance (aerial distance) from the first habitation at International Boundary (IB) in 16 States & 2 UTs abutting land borders, works/projects for identified gaps in essential infrastructure pertaining to road & bridges, health, Education, agriculture, sports, drinking water & sanitation, Anganwadi, community centre, small scale industries etc. have been approved under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

Select villages in blocks abutting northern border in Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh have been covered under VVP. Select villages in blocks abutting northern border in Chamoli, Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag districts have also been covered under VVP.

Scheme for Development of Minority Communities

The Government already implements various Schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, specially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements various Schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities. The schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry are as under :

A. Educational Empowerment Schemes
• Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
• Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
• Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme

B. Employment and Economic Empowerment Schemes
• Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PMVIKAS)
• National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) Scheme for providing concessional loans to minorities.

C. Special Schemes
• Jiyo Parsi: A scheme for reversing the population decline of Parsis in India.
• Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS) and Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (SWSVY).

D. Infrastructure Development Schemes
• Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

SVAMITVA Scheme

Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme is

being implemented with the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Revenue Department, State Panchayati Raj Department and Survey of India (SoI) **to provide the 'Record of Rights' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited areas in villages with issuance of legal ownership rights (Property cards/Title deeds).** Under this scheme mapping of land parcels using drone technology is done by the Survey of India. States need to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SoI for implementation of the scheme. So far 31 States/Union Territories (UTs) have signed MoU with SoI.

SCHEMES FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

The Government has taken a number of initiatives to encourage self-employment of women. Some of the initiatives are as under:

i. The Government of India is providing training to women through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes **under the Pradhan MantriKaushal VikashYojana (PMKVY).**

ii. To economically empower women, 81% of loans of sizes from Rs. 10 Lakhs to Rs. 1 crore under **'Stand-Up India' have been made available to women.**

iii. Under **'MUDRA'** (or Prime Minister's Micro-Units Development & Refinance Agency)Yojana, 68% loans sized up to Rs. 10 Lakhs have been sanctioned to women-owned and operated enterprises.

iv. Under **National Rural Livelihoods Mission,** approximately 9.0 crore women are connected with around 83 lakh women's self-help groups that are transforming the rural socio-economic landscape in several innovative and socially and ecologically responsible ways, also availing governmental support including through collateral free loans.

v. With special attention towards entrepreneurship, under the **Start-up India Initiative,** a large number of loans have been disbursed to women-led enterprises.

vi. National Agriculture Market or **e-NAM,** an online trading platform for agricultural commodities, "Kisan Call Centres" answering farmers' queries on a telephone call in their own dialect, mobile applications like KisanSuvidha are helping women overcome or compensate the barriers they face in accessing markets and extension services.

vii. **National Cooperative Development Corporation** is playing a significant role to uplift women cooperatives as large number of women are engaged and involved in cooperatives dealing with activities related to food grain processing, plantation crops, oilseeds processing, fisheries, dairy & livestock, spinning mills, handloom and power loom weaving, Integrated Cooperative Development Projects, etc.

viii. **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture imparting training for skills development to women, provide more subsidy/ assistance to women** farmers, beneficiaries as compared to general category farmers. Under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure component, women are eligible for subsidy at higher rates to procure agricultural machinery, implements and equipment under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization.

ix. To provide Government-to-Citizen (G2C) e-Services within the reach of the citizen, over 5.2 lakh Common Service Centres have been set up, thus creating the physical service delivery **ICT infrastructure.** These centres are spread across the country and provide a range of digital services in the rural areas, creating rural digital entrepreneurs of whom over 67,000 are women entrepreneurs.

x. Pradhan MantriShram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) has been launched to ensure old age protection for unorganised Workers who are not covered by any other pension scheme. The unorganised workers including women, mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio- visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.

Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken a number of initiatives to empower women through the schemes and programmes implemented in the country. The Ministry implements 'Mission Shakti', an Integrated Women Empowerment Programme, as

Umbrella Scheme for the Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period. It aims to strengthen interventions for safety, security and empowerment of women in a mission mode through institutional and convergence mechanism for greater efficiency, effectiveness and financial prudence.

The Umbrella Scheme of Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes namely "Sambal" for safety and security of women and "Samarthya" for empowerment of women. Under 'Samarthya' sub-scheme, a new component i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) has been included with the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/ UT and District levels for creating an environment in which women are able to realize their full potential. The support under the HEW provides for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counseling/training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country.

Some of major schemes of Government for promoting education and holistic development of girl child are as under:

i. **BetiBachaoBetiPadhao:**The overall goal of the BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) Scheme is to ensure survival and protection of the girl child and to ensure her education and participation.

ii. **Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalayas focuses** both on quality education and residential facilities for girl child(10-18 years) from marginalized communities belonging to SC, ST, OBC, Minority communities and BPL families to ensure smooth transition of girls from elementary to secondary and upto class XII.

iii. **Udaan programme for Girls-**Udaan is a project of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to address the low enrollment of girl students in prestigious engineering institutions and the teaching gap between the school education and engineering entrance examination through provision of free online science courses for girls in class XI and XII.

iv. **National Means-cum-Merit Scheme-** Scheme to arrest dropout of girls in school by providing girls belonging to EWS with Rs. 1000/- per month as cash incentive

v. **SukanyaSamriddhiYojana** is a saving scheme for the parents of girl child. The scheme allows parents to build a fund for the future education of their female child.SukanyaSamriddhi Account provides a higher rate of interest than other Savings Plans that offer financial security for the girl child.

SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes through the States/UTs in a predefined cost sharing norms for the betterment of children including girl child in the country. These include:

• Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) : BBBP scheme under Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti aims to prevent Gender biased sex selective elimination, to ensure survival and protection of girl child and also to ensure education of the girl child. The scheme has been expanded to cover all the districts of the country through multi-sectoral interventions focused on zero-budget advertising and encouraging greater spend on activities that have on ground impact, e.g., promotion of sports among girls, self-defence camps, construction of girls toilets, making available sanitary napkin vending machines and sanitary pads especially in educational institutions, awareness about Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PC-PNDT Act, 1994) and skilling of girls etc.

The scheme is 100% funded by the Central Government and the funds are routed through State to districts for multi-sectoral interventions. The Union Government is implementing BBBP scheme on PAN India basis. However, the state of West Bengal is not implementing BBBP scheme.

• **Saksham Anganwadi and Mission Poshan 2.0 Scheme :** The scheme aims to address Government's commitment to address the challenge of child malnutrition and maternal under-nutrition through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and create conditions and a convergent eco-system to develop practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity. Components under SakshamAnganwadi have been reorganized in primary verticals :

a. Nutrition Support for POSHAN and for Adolescent Girls; Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years];

b. Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded SakshamAnganwadis. Beneficiaries registered at AWCs are to be covered, viz., Children 6 months - 6 years of age; Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PWLM) and Adolescent Girls (14-18 years) in Aspirational Districts and NER.

c. PoshanAbhiyaan

Anganwadi services (under SakshamAnganwadi and Poshan 2.0) provides the following six services across the country through the platform of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) to the eligible beneficiaries :

i. Supplementary Nutrition (SNP)

ii. Pre-school Non-formal Education,

iii. Nutrition & Health Education,

iv. Immunization,

v. Health Check-up, and

vi. Referral Services

Three of the six services, viz., Immunization, Health check-up and Referral Services are related to health and are provided through NHM & Public Health Infrastructure. The Anganwadi Services is a universal self-selecting Scheme available to all the beneficiaries who enroll at the AWCs. The beneficiaries under this scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

POSHAN Abhiyaan: POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to address malnutrition issues across the country through components like ICT Application, Convergence, Community Mobilization, Behavioural Change & Jan Andolan, Capacity Building, Incentives and Awards, and Innovations. The Abhiyaan also aims at improving the nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. POSHAN Abhiyaan focuses on convergence among partner Ministries leveraging technology and Jan Andolan among other things, to address issue of malnutrition comprehensively. Near-real time reporting by field functionaries and improved MIS is aimed at smooth implementation of scheme and better service delivery.

The efforts under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan have been rejuvenated and converged as 'SakshamAnganwadi and POSHAN 2.0' (Mission Poshan 2.0). It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.

Poshan 2.0 focuses on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of Moderately Acute Malnourished/Severely Acute Malnourished children and Wellness through AYUSH. It rests on the pillars of Convergence, Governance, and Capacity-building. POSHAN Abhiyaan is the key pillar for Outreach and will cover innovations related to nutritional support, ICT interventions, Media Advocacy and Research, Community Outreach and Jan Andolan. Steps have been taken to improve nutritional quality and testing in accredited labs, strengthen delivery and leverage technology under the 'Poshan Tracker', a robust ICT enabled platform to improve governance with regard to real time monitoring of provisioning of supplementary nutrition for prompt supervision and management of services.

All the States/UTs have been covered under the Abhiyaan and thus implementing the scheme to ensure a holistic approach.

• **Mission VatsalyaScheme :** The Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely Mission Vatsalya Scheme to support the State and UT Governments for delivering services for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL). The Child Care Institutions (CCIs) established under the scheme support inter-alia age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, health care and counselling. The Ministry regularly follows up with the State/UT Governments so as to ensure that CCIs adhere to the standards of care as per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) provisions. Various advisories have been sent to all State/UT Governments regarding mandatory inspection of all CCIs.

Fortification of staple food items, including salt, is one of the strategies to address micronutrient deficiencies in addition to dietary diversification and micronutrient supplementation along with other measures like infection control, water and sanitation, etc. Therefore, in order to reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies including anaemia, emphasis is given on all the strategies through the Schemes/programmes implemented by the various Departments/ Ministries. These

include iron and folic acid supplementation, calcium supplementation, Vitamin-A supplementation, use of fortified food items, etc. Ministry has issued advisory to all the States/UTs to ensure use of relevant fortified food articles (wherever supplied), including Double Fortified Salt in the administration of the Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

Further, under Poshan 2.0, focus is on diet diversity, food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge and popularizing use of millets. Nutrition awareness strategies under Poshan 2.0 aim to develop sustainable health and well-being with focus on local, wholesome foods to bridge dietary gaps including deficit in the intake of micronutrients. Also, as per the Scheme Guidelines, local foods and fresh produce (green vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants and herbs), fortified rice and mandatory incorporation of millets at least once a week in meals for different categories of beneficiaries to promote health, wellness and immunity and to manage anaemia.

In order to address the issue of anaemia, the Government has approved the supply of fortified rice (fortified with Iron, Vitamin B-12 and Folic Acid) throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and in Other Welfare Schemes of Government of India in all States and Union Territories (UTs) in a phased manner. Under SakshamAnganwadi and Poshan 2.0, Fortified Rice is allocated to all the States/UTs.

Nyaya Vikas Portal

Nyaya Vikas online monitoring system has been developed with the technical assistance of National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO for collection of data on progress and completion of court halls and residential units and 3 new componentsviz; lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. Space technology has been leveraged for online monitoring through Nyaya Vikas Web Portal. For the purpose, a web portal and mobile app named "Nyaya Vikas" has been developed for monitoring of construction projects which was launched in 2018.

The State Governments have nominated Nodal Officers at State level and Surveyors & Moderators for each project to enter and upload data/information relating to ongoing and completed projects. Geotagging of projects using Nyaya Vikas mobile application has helped better monitoring of the judicial infrastructure projects. The users in States enter data through web portal and upload photographs through mobile app with geo-tagging. "Nyaya Vikas Version 2.0", with upgraded features has been launched in April, 2020.

The new version of the Mobile App which was launched in April 2020 is more user friendly and runs on iOS phones as well as Android systems. The mobile application is being used by State Surveyors to Geo-tag and upload photographs at remote locations through dimensions trapped through spatial technology. Data analysis and visualization techniques have been used in the portal.

SOCIAL SECURITY OF ELDERS

Census Report-2011, population of senior citizens is 10.38 crore, amounting to 8.6% of the total population of the country. Government of India's National Commission on Population's Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (2011-2036) for India and States, released in July 2020, states that population of senior citizens in 2036 will be 22.7 crore ie., 15% of the total population of India.

The Umbrella Scheme of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), being run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, includes components to provide financial security, healthcare, nutrition, shelter, welfare etc. for senior citizens. Under one of such components, namely, the Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC), Grant-in-Aid is given to Implementing Agencies for running and maintenance of Senior Citizens Homes where basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care, entertainment opportunities etc. are provided free of cost to indigent senior citizens. Under **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojna (RVY),** assisted living devices are distributed free of cost, in camp mode, to senior citizens belonging to the families living below the poverty line or having Rs. 15000/- as monthly income and suffering from age related disabilities. The Elderline/National Helpline for Senior Citizens (NHSC) provides free information, guidance, emotional support and field intervention in cases of abuse and rescues in order to improve the quality of life of senior citizens.

Under **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension** Scheme (IGNOAPS) of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Department of Rural Development, Government of India, monthly pension at the rate of Rs.200/- per month per beneficiary to elderly persons in the age group of 60-79 years belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, is being paid. The rate of pension is

increased to Rs.500/- per month per beneficiary on reaching the age of 80 years. The States/Union Territories are encouraged to provide top up amounts of at least an equivalent amount to the assistance provided by the Central Government so that the beneficiaries could get a decent level of assistance. At present, the States/Union Territories are adding Top up amounts ranging from Rs.50/- to Rs.3000/- per month per beneficiary under the IGNOAPS of NSAP. The assistance under NSAP pension schemes is sanctioned up to the scheme-wise, State/Union Territory-wise cap of beneficiaries under the scheme. At present, the number of beneficiaries under the IGNOAPS in the country is around 2.21 crore and the Scheme has achieved almost 100% saturation in all States/Union Territories. The States/Union Territories have the option to provide pension from their own sources in case there are more eligible beneficiaries over and above the State/ Union Territory cap under the NSAP pension schemes.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the **National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly(NPHCE) in** 2010-11 with a view to provide dedicated healthcare services to senior citizens at various level of State Health Care delivery system i.e., at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary health care, including outreach services. The Programme has two components, namely National Health Mission (NHM) i.e., Primary and Secondary care service delivery through District Hospitals(DH), Community Health Centres(CHC), Primary Health Centres(PHC), Sub-Centre/Health & Wellness Centres, and Tertiary Component i.e., these services are being provided though Regional Geriatric Centres(RGCs) located at 19 Medical colleges in 18 states of India and two National Centres of Aging(NCAs) one in AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi and another in Madras Medical College, Chennai. It also includes Research on health issues pertaining to senior citizens. Further, Government launched Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana(PMJAY) to cover 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approx. 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage of up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization. With the launch of the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana(RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme(SCHIS) have been subsumed in it. All enrolled beneficiary families of RSBY and SCHIS are entitled for benefits under the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY.

GOBARdhan Initiative Begins Reaping Good Results & Stimulating Investments In Biogas Sector

The GOBARdhan initiative of the Union Government which aims to transform "Waste to Wealth" using a "Whole of Government" approach has started stimulating investments and reaping good results by creating a nurturing ecosystem for Compressed Biogas (CBG)/Biogas through a slew of policy enablers and attractive benefits. The portal was launched for streamlining the process of registration of functional/under construction /yet to start Biogas/Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants across the country.

GOBARdhan initiative has created an enabling environment for the biogas/CBG sector as evident from the registration of more than 100 under construction CBG plants on the portal soon after it has been launched. It can be inferred that CBG/Biogas industry has started flourishing and will play a tremendous role in the energy mix of India's renewable energy portfolio. Government of India, through its policies is relentlessly working for the growth and success of the industry and to establish Biogas/CBG sector as a frontrunner of the renewable energy sector.

Green India Mission

National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The target under the Mission is 10 m ha on forest and non-forest lands for increasing the forest/tree cover and to improve the quality of existing forest. Based on the perspective plans submitted by the States and as per the availability of funds, so far seventeen States namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and one union territory Jammu & Kashmir have been taken up under GIM.

The States are considered for funding under GIM after evaluation of their perspective plan and Annual plan of operations prepared in accordance with the guidelines of GIM. The state of Telangana has not submitted their Perspective Plan and Annual Plan of Operations under GIM so far and therefore no funds have been allocated to the State under GIM. The

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, Government of India, has conducted the Evaluation of National Mission for a Green India in 2020-21 on aspects such as Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Impacts and Equity within the scheme and has further recommended the continuation of scheme.

National Forest Policy
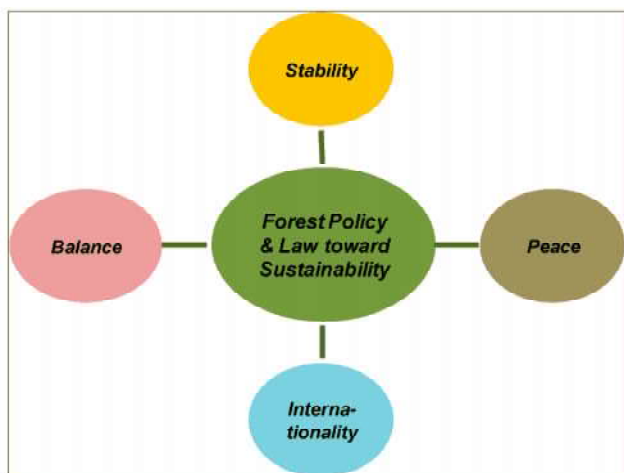
Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially, since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). **The total forest and tree cover of the country as per ISFR 2021 assessment is 8,09,537 square kilometer which is 24.62% of the geographical area of the country. The total forest and tree cover has increased by 2261 square kilometer as compared to the ISFR 2019 assessment.**

The Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, CAMPA, Nagar Van Yojana and other schemes of line ministries to increase the forest and tree cover of the country as per the mandate of National Forest Policy.

Green India Mission (GIM) activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16.

The Ministry has also implemented Centrally Sponsored Scheme, **National Afforestation programme for regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining areas in the country.** National Afforestation Programme is now stands merged with Green India Mission.

The Ministry is implementing **Nagar Van Yojana** (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages creation of 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 under the funds available under Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA). The Nagar Van Yojana aims to enhance the green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas including biological diversity, provide ecological benefits and improve the quality of life of city dwellers.

The **Compensatory Afforestation Fund** (CAMPA fund) is being utilized by States/UTs for taking up compensatory afforestation as per approved Annual Plan of Operations for compensating the loss of forest & tree cover due to diversion of forest land for developmental projects as per provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF Act) and CAF Rules, 2018.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministry such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government/UT Administration through different departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. The multi departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving and enhancing forest cover in the country.

Ministry has formulated draft National Forest Policy after wide consultations with various stakeholders, including inter-ministerial consultations and placed in public domain in 2018. The draft Policy recommends to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in forest management including resilience to climate change by forest dependent communities.

Schemes to protect Western Ghats

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is implementing a number of schemes for conservation of forest, wildlife and environment in different states and Union Territories, including Western Ghats States. These include the National Afforestation Programme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Forest Fire Prevention and Management, Project Tiger and National Mission for a Green India. Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority are also utilized for conservation of forest and wildlife in the Western Ghats.

INDEX/REPORT

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report, 2022

NITI Aayog is releasing the third edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022.

The report discusses India's export performance amid the prevailing global trade context in FY22, followed by an overview of the country's sector-specific export performance. The report further highlights the need to develop our districts as export hubs in the country and undertakes a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country.

EPI is a comprehensive tool which measures the export preparedness of the States and UTs in India. Exports are vital for simulating economic growth and development in a country, which necessitates understanding the factors which influence export performance. The index undertakes a comprehensive analysis of States and UTs across export-related parameters in order to identify their strengths and weaknesses. Developing the methodology for the index is an evolving process which constantly incorporates stakeholder feedback. Thus, the results and rankings published in this edition are not directly comparable to the previous editions, however EPI, with its insights, continues to seek to assist the States and UTs in driving policy changes which are relevant to address their specific challenges.

EPI assess the performance of the States and UTs across four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance. Each pillar is composed of sub-pillars, which in turn capture a state's performance using relevant indicators.

- Policy Pillar evaluates states and UTs' performance based on its adoption of export-related policy eco-system at a state and district level as well as the institutional framework surrounding the ecosystem.
- Business Ecosystem assesses the prevailing business environment in a state/UT, along with the extent of business-supportive infrastructure, and a state/UTs' transport connectivity.
- Export Ecosystem focuses on the export-related infrastructure in a state/UT along with the trade support provided to the exporters, and the prevalence of Research and Development in the state/UT to foster innovation.
- Export Performance is an output-based indicator which gauges the growth of a state's export over the previous year and analyses its export concentration and footprint on the global markets.

The report will be released by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog

With its ranking and scorecards, the report aims to present a comprehensive picture of a states and UT's export preparedness. It also highlights the achievements of states/UTs and encourages peer-learning among the states/UTs to uphold the spirit of competitive federalism. By improving collaboration among states and between state and Centre, India can aspire to achieve sustained economic growth and leverage its heterogeneity to foster development at national and sub-national levels.

STUDY ON GLOBAL WARMING

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) recently has published 'Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region, which contains a comprehensive assessment of the impact of climate change upon the Indian subcontinent. The highlights of the report follow:

1. India's average temperature has risen by around 0.7°C during 1901-2018.

2. Frequency of daily precipitation extremes (rainfall intensities >150 mm per day) increased by about 75% during 1950-2015.

3. The frequency and spatial extent of droughts over India has increased significantly during 1951-2015.

4. Sea-level rise in the North Indian Ocean occurred at a rate of 3.3 mm per year in the last two and half decades (1993-2017)

5. Frequency of Severe Cyclonic Storms over Arabian sea has increased during the post monsoon seasons of 1998-2018.

All India Tiger Estimation -2022: Release of the detailed Report

In 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger, an ambitious, holistic conservation project, aimed at safeguarding the nation's tiger population and preserving biodiversity. Over the past fifty years, Project Tiger has achieved commendable success, making significant strides in tiger conservation. Initially covering nine tiger reserves spanning 18,278 km2, the project has flourished into a remarkable accomplishment with 53 reserves spread across 75,796 km2, effectively covering 2.3% of India's total land area.

India currently harbors almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population.

The first phase of tiger conservation in the 1970s focused on enacting the Wildlife Protection Act and establishing protected areas for tigers and tropical forests. However, the 1980s saw a decline due to extensive poaching. In response, the government initiated the second phase in 2005, adopting a landscape-level approach, community involvement & support, implementing strict law enforcement, and using modern technology for scientific monitoring to ensure tiger conservation. This approach not only led to an increase in the tiger population, but also had several critical outcomes that included the designation of inviolate critical core and buffer areas, the identification of new tiger reserves, and the recognition of tiger landscapes and corridors.

The monitoring exercise inculcated scientific thinking amongst forest staff and employment of technology ensured transparency of data collection and analysis. India categorized tiger habitats into five major landscapes based on biogeography and interconnectivity, enabling effective ecological and management-based strategies.

With significant changes in the spatial patterns of tiger occurrence and an increase in unique tiger sightings from 2461 in 2018 to 3080 in 2022, now more than 3/4th of the tiger population is found within protected areas.

Further analysis of data, done by the Wildlife Institute of India, from both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, the upper limit of the tiger population is estimated to be 3925 and the average number is 3682 tigers, reflecting a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.

Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains witnessed a notable increase in tiger population, particularly in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra.

However, certain regions, such as the Western Ghats, experienced localized declines, necessitating targeted monitoring and conservation efforts.

Some states, including Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh, have reported disquieting trends with small tiger populations.

The largest tiger population of 785 is in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Karnataka (563) & Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444).

Various tiger reserves have shown remarkable growth, while others face challenges. Approximately 35% of the tiger reserves urgently require enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.

To preserve ecological integrity, there is need to strongly continue eco-friendly development agenda, minimize mining impacts, and rehabilitate mining sites. Additionally, fortifying protected area management, intensifying anti-poaching measures, employing scientific thinking and technology-driven data collection, and addressing human-wildlife conflict are vital steps to protect the country's tiger populations.

India's Project Tiger has made tremendous progress in tiger conservation over the past five decades, but challenges like poaching is still a threat to tiger conservation. Continued efforts to protect tiger habitats and corridors are crucial for securing the future of India's tigers and their ecosystems for generations to come.

keyword for mains

- Government is spending more than 6.5 lakh crores yearly on agriculture and farmers

- India & Panama signs MoU on Electoral Cooperation

- Atal Innovation Mission launches 'ATL Industry Visit' in collaboration with Bayer

- "Sahakar Se Samriddhi"

- Sarkar and Sahkaar (Government and cooperative) will together provide double strength to the dream of the Viksit Bharat.

- "Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat"Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India

- "Sixth GST Day with vision GST@