

# AUGUST MONTH PB

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# Green Hydrogen



- the government has notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India. The standard issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India outlines the emission thresholds that must be met in order for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources. The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods.
- After discussions with multiple stakeholders, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (i.e., including water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, drying and compression of hydrogen) of not more than 2 kg CO2 equivalent / kg H2.
- The notification specifies that a detailed methodology for measurement, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification, and certification of green hydrogen and its derivatives shall be specified by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.
- The notification also specifies that the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.
- The notification of the Green Hydrogen Standard brings a lot of clarity to the Green Hydrogen community in India and was widely awaited. With this notification, India becomes one of the first few countries in the world to announce a definition of Green Hydrogen.



- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has published 'Assessment of Climate Change in the Indian Region in 2020', which includes its comprehensive assessment of the impact of climate change on the Indian subcontinent.
- The highlights of the report are as follows:

1. India's average temperature has increased by about 0.7 degree Celsius during 1901-2018.

2. The daily rainfall extreme frequency (rainfall intensity >150 mm per day) increased by about 75% during 1950-2015.

3. There has been a significant increase in the frequency and spatial extent of droughts in India during 1951-2015.

4. In the last two and a half decades (1993-2017), the sea level in the northern Indian Ocean increased by 3.3 mm per year.

5. The frequency of severe cyclonic storms over the Arabian Sea has increased during the post-monsoon season of 1998-2018.

Steps taken by IMD:

- IMD has recently implemented Influence Based Forecasting (IBF) which predicts what the weather will do instead of what it will be like. It includes a description of the expected effects of severe weather elements and guidelines for the general public on what to do and what not to do when exposed to severe weather.
- These guidelines have been finalized in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and have already been successfully implemented for cyclone, heat wave, storm and heavy rainfall. Work is in progress to extend it to other severe weather elements as well.
- Forecasts and warnings are disseminated by e-mail on regular basis to users including disaster managers. In addition, WhatsApp groups including disaster managers and IMD officials are created and forecasts and warnings are also disseminated through this facility.

- Forecasts and warnings are uploaded on social media and website for reference of all concerned. Nowcasts related to severe weather are also broadcast through SMS to the registered users.
- In addition, whenever the situation arises, a press release is issued by the IMD and it is also disseminated by all the platforms mentioned above.
- IMD has taken various initiatives in recent years to improve the dissemination
  of weather forecast and warning services based on latest tools and
  technologies. In 2020, IMD has launched its seven services (current weather,
  nowcast, city forecast, rainfall information, tourism forecast, warnings and
  cyclone) with 'UMANG' mobile app for public use.
- In addition, in 2020, IMD developed mobile apps 'Mausam' for weather forecasting, 'Meghdoot' for agromet advisory dissemination and 'Damini' for lightning warnings.
- Recently IMD has prepared a web based online "Climate Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas of India" for thirteen most dangerous weather events that cause widespread damage, economic, human and animal loss.
- The Climate Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas will help state government officials and disaster management agencies to plan and take appropriate action to deal with various extreme weather events. This atlas also helps IMD to issue impact-based forecasts for various extreme weather events.
- For modernisation, expansion and improvement in weather and climate services, various activities are underway in IMD under the Central Sector Scheme titled "Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS)".
- ACROSS has 4 sub-schemes of IMD, namely Atmospheric Observations Network (AON), Upgradation of Forecast Systems (UFS), Weather and Climate Services (WCS) and commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar (PDWR).

# Amrit Dharohar

- Amrit Dharohar is an initiative that aims to promote conservation values of Ramsar Sites to create demonstration, replication, and upscaling effect on other wetlands of national and international importance. The scheme is to be implemented over the next three years with a goal of conservation and wise use of Ramsar Sites for safeguarding and enhancing biological diversity, cultural heritage, food, water and climate security, sustainable livelihood opportunities and societal well-being.
- Guided by the Mission LiFE and Sahbhagita approach, the implementation strategy of Amrit Dharohar consists of four key components such as Species and Habitat Conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands Livelihoods, Wetlands Carbon. The Committee appreciated the holistic approach of the Amrit Dharohar implementation strategy.
- It was agreed to take up the conservation issues of wetlands in a holistic manner and in coordination with state and UT governments involving NGOs, Panchayats and local communities.



# ETHANOL BLENDING

- Government has introduced blending of ethanol in petrol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme with multiple objectives including reducing import dependence, savings in foreign exchange, providing boost to domestic agriculture sector and for associated environmental benefits.
- The target of 10% ethanol blending set in the 'Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25' for ESY 2021-22 has already been achieved and Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have started selling E20 (20% ethanol blended) petrol across the country. Further, the National Policy on Biofuels – 2018 targets 20% blending of ethanol in petrol by Ethanol Supply Year (ESY)2025-26.



# **CO2 CAPTURE HUBS**

- Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) is one of the technology pathways which help in reducing net emission and support to accomplish net zero by 2070 by decarbonising large industrial sectors particularly steel, cement, thermal power plants, fertilizer and petrochemical industries etc.
- The work on CCUS is at conceptual stage to make CO2 capture economically viable. Four inter-ministerial committees have been constituted by NITI Aayog to study the challenges and finalize recommendations in the area of safety and technical standard development, carbon capture projects, carbon utilization projects, and carbon transportation and storage.



# **Biological Diversity Act**



- The Government of India has taken several steps for conservation of biodiversity which includes survey, inventorization, taxonomic validation and threat assessment of floral and faunal resources; assessment to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring as well as conservation and protection of forests; establishment of a protected area network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, conservation and community reserves; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; undertaking of species oriented programmes, such as Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Project Dolphin; complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts.
- A total of 1,02,718 species of fauna and 54,733 species of flora have been documented in the 10 biogeographic zones of the country. For ensuring protection of flora and fauna within protected areas, management plans are prepared by State Forest Departments which inter alia include a schedule of activities to be take-up over a period of ten years.
- The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 provides for diligence to be taken before approval of any activity is accorded by the State Government within a protected area to ensure conservation and protection of biodiversity.
- As per Section 37 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act,2002 the State Government may, from time to time in consultation with the local bodies, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
- The Government of India is creating awareness on conservation of plant genetic resources including seeds of farmers' varieties and landraces through the schemes like Tribal Sub-Plan, North-Eastern Hill Region and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan.
- A total of 233 most potential varieties of different crops identified by farmers are being conserved through on-farm cultivation, value chain and marketing involving Self Help Groups and Farmer Producer Organizations (in seven states including Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) by National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources – Indian Council for Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

# E20 PETROL

- E20 (20% ethanol blended) petrol is a mixture of 20% anhydrous ethanol with 80% motor gasoline fuel volume by volume.
- Government is promoting biofuels with the broader objectives of reducing import dependency, generating employment, providing better remuneration to farmers, for associated environmental benefits, promoting better waste management practices, etc.



# **Global Carbon Budget**

- The Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) of the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [2022] has noted clearly that the contribution of entire Southern Asia including India is only about 4% of historical cumulative net anthropogenic emissions between 1850 and 2019, even though the region includes almost 24% of the global population.
- As per Working Group I contribution to the AR6 report of the IPCC, the term carbon budget is used in several ways. Most often the term refers to the total net amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) that can still be emitted by human activities while limiting global warming to a specified level. India's current annual per capita emissions will increase to meet its developmental needs and aspirations, in accordance with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and National Circumstances.

# land degradation and Desertification



- Ø In line with the National Forest Policy (NFP), 1988, which envisages a national target of having at least one-third of the total land area under forest or tree cover, the Ministry itself and other Ministries whose target is to increase forest and tree cover to enhance, improve and combat desertification, has been implementing several initiatives through various afforestation related schemes.
- Ø The Ministry supports States/UTs in carrying out various afforestation activities through its flagship schemes, National Green India Mission and Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Protection, Development and Augmentation of Forests under Forest Fire Protection and Management Scheme. Compensatory afforestation under CAMPA has also been used to increase forest cover across the country. State governments also implement various schemes for afforestation.
- In addition, promotional measures are being implemented through a Central Sector Scheme under the National Coastal Mission Program on 'Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs'. Under this programme, annual management action plans are prepared and implemented for conservation and management of mangroves in all coastal states and union territories.
- Ø The government has taken several measures to combat land degradation and desertification in the country. These are as follows:
- i. The Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India published by Space Applications Center Indian Space Research Organisation, Ahmedabad, which provides the extent of land degradation and desertification in India, states that land degradation and desertification in the country is estimated to be 97.84 million hectares in 2018-19 has been applied. It provides state-wise area of degraded land which is helpful in planning and implementation of schemes aimed at land restoration by providing critical data and technical inputs.
- II. An online portal has been developed with the help of Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad to view the degraded area of land along with the land degrading processes.

- iii. To enhance South-South cooperation, a Center of Excellence has been envisaged at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. It aims to share knowledge, promote best practices, share India's experiences with costeffective and sustainable land management strategies, develop ideas for transformative projects and programs and build capacity.
- iv. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) India has been tasked to report on India's progress in achieving the Bonn challenge target.
- Ø At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) in Paris, 2015, India made a voluntary bona fide to restore 13 million hectares by 2020 and an additional 8 mha of degraded and deforested land by 2030 Joined the Challenge Pledge. This pledge to restore 21 mha by 2030 has been increased to 26 mha area during COP-14 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2019.
- Ø The area of land covered through afforestation under the twenty point program is stated to be around 18.94 million hectares during the period from 2011-12 to 2021-22. This includes afforestation achievements under the concerted efforts of the State Governments through various Central and State specific schemes.
- Ø As informed by the State of Tamil Nadu, rehabilitation of coastal habitat through creation of bio-shields is being implemented for three years (2023-24 to 2025-26) in all the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, including Thanjavur, Including districts such as Mayiladuthurai and Nagapattinam, envisages eco-restoration of existing mangrove ecosystem to the extent of 11.25 sq km and new plantation of mangroves to the extent of 3.28 sq km. In addition, tree species that act as bio-shields such as casuarinas, cashew, mangrove spp., palmyra and other specific species are being grown in these districts for plantation as part of large-scale afforestation initiatives. Training, awareness, participation of local community is also being done under this scheme.
- Ø The Ministry has not signed any MoU with any NGO to deal with the problem of land degradation. However, being a multi-departmental activity, tree plantation/afforestation is also undertaken inter-regionally by various departments, NGOs, civil society, corporate bodies etc. under various Central and State Plan/Non-Plan schemes.multi departmental activity are also taken up cross-sectorally by various Departments, NGOs, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. under various Central and State Plan/Non Plan Schemes.

# Technologies to address Air Pollution



• A pilot study was awarded wherein 30 buses were fitted with Pariyayantra Filtration units on bus roof top for dust collection from the environment in Delhi-NCR.

# Details of studies undertaken for incorporation of new technologies to address air pollution:

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- Under pilot study of WAYU, 54 Air Purification Units were installed at traffic intersection in Delhi.
- Pilot study on 'Control of Dust emissions using Dust Suppressant'
- Pilot study on 'Ionisation technology for reduction in ambient air pollution'
- 2 Smog towers as medium/large-scale air purifiers to reduce particulate air pollution were installed.
- Pilot project on 'Emission measurement for in-use diesel generator sets (DG sets) and evaluating the potential of retrofitting exhaust after treatment solutions for emissions reductions.
- Pilot Project on 'Retrofitting emission control devices in identified classes of in-use vehicles and recommendations for emission reduction from old/in-use vehicles (BS III)'
- R&D project of DST for development of indigenous photonic system for real time remote monitoring of air quality parameters.
- DST National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Foundation on development of Electric Vehicle (EV) based autonomous vehicles. Autonomous technology of EVs has potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by optimizing driving patterns and reducing traffic congestion.

# SCIENCE AND TECH



- Bandicoot is a robotic machine that is engineered for cleaning any type of sewer manholes. The robot consists of two major units, a stand unit and a robotic drone unit. The drone unit which will dive into the manholes for the cleaning operations or unblocking operations. The diving depth of the robotic drone is customizable according to the maximum depth needed of our clients. Add-on feature Nano coating in addition to the powder coating surface treatment process enables the robot to perform its operation in any hazardous or corrosive sewerage environments effectively for a longer period.
- The bandicoot has the flexibility to perform more efficient cleaning than humans in terms of time and efficiency of manhole cleaning. The drone unit is equipped with an extendable robotic arm with four degrees of freedom to perform grabbing, shovelling and unblocking actions inside the manholes. To gain stability while performing these actions the robotic drones are designed with 4 expandable legs, with the help of an integrated waste-collecting bucket system the collected waste can lift out from the manhole.
- The operator can control the drone unit by monitoring through a high-definition display which will get input from IP68 waterproof cameras mounted on the drone unit. The stand unit also has a second display on the user interface area for various other interactions such as checking the quantity of poisonous gas inside the manhole and training assistance for better user experience and easy rehabilitation of sanitation workers.
- The sensor-based feedback system incorporated in the robot will allow the user to know the position of the robotic drone unit inside the manhole, thus the user can do a surgical cleaning process with high efficiency. The bandicoots come with automatic mode also by taking initial boundary conditions of manholes.

# Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBDC)

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBDC) The IWBDC is an Open Challenge Competition that seeks to inspire and empower technology enthusiasts, innovators, and developers from all corners of the country to create an indigenous web browser with its own trust store with an inbuilt CCA India root certificate, cutting edge functionalities and enhanced security & data privacy protection features.
- Proposed browser would also focus on accessibility and user friendliness, ensuring built-in support for individuals with diverse abilities. Moreover, the browser envisions the ability to digitally sign documents using a crypto token, bolstering secure transactions and digital interactions.

# CHANDRAYAN-3

- India's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3
- launch vehicle GSLV Mark 3 heavy-lift, named 'Bahubali' rocket.
- This is India's second attempt at soft-landing robotic instruments on the lunar surface after the previous attempt, Chandrayaan-2, failed in 2019.
- Thus far, **only three countries, the U.S., Russia and China,** have successfully softlanded on the moon.



### **Specifications:**

- Chandrayaan-3 consists of an indigenous Lander module (LM), Propulsion module (PM) and a Rover.
- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-toend capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. It consists of Lander and Rover configuration.
- It will be launched by LVM3 from Sriharikota.
- The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit.
- The propulsion module has Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload to study the spectral and Polari metric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.
- Lander payloads: Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature; Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) for measuring the seismicity around the landing site; Langmuir Probe (LP) to estimate the plasma density and its variations.
- A passive Laser Retroreflector Array from NASA is accommodated for lunar laser ranging studies. Another payload is Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA) to measure the near surface plasma (ions and electrons) density and its changes with time.
- Rover payloads: Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS) for deriving the elemental composition in the vicinity of landing site.
- The launcher identified for Chandrayaan-3 is GSLV-Mk3 which will place the integrated module in an Elliptic Parking Orbit (EPO).
- The mission objectives of Chandrayaan-3 are:

To develop and demonstrate new technologies required for Inter planetary missions To demonstrate Safe and Soft Landing on Lunar Surface To demonstrate Rover roving on the moon and To conduct in-situ scientific experiments.

### Why ISRO wants to explore the Moon's south pole

- The Chandrayaan-3 will reach the lunar orbit almost a month after its launch, and its lander (Vikram) and rover(Pragyaan), are likely to land on the Moon on August 23.
- The landing site of the latest mission is more or less the same as the Chandrayaan-2: near the south pole of the moon at 70 degrees latitude.
- Even China's Chang'e 4, which became the first spacecraft to land on the far side of the moon — the side that does not face the earth — landed near the 45-degree latitude.

### Why hasn't any spacecraft ever landed near the lunar south pole?

- Easier and safer to land near the equator
- The terrain and temperature are more hospitable and conducive for a long and sustained operation of instruments.
- The surface here is even and smooth, very steep slopes are almost absent, and there are fewer hills or craters.
- Sunlight is present in abundance, at least on the side facing the earth, thus offering a regular supply of energy to solar-powered instruments.
- Difficult polar regions of the Moon
- The polar regions of the Moon are a very different, and difficult, terrain.
- Many parts lie in a completely dark region where sunlight never reaches, and temperatures can go below 230 degrees Celsius.
- Lack of sunlight and extremely low temperatures create difficulty in the operation of instruments.
- In addition, there are large craters all over the place, ranging from a few centimetres in size to those extending to several thousands of kilometres.

### Why do scientists want to explore the lunar south pole?

- Exploring the unexplored
- Due to their rugged environment, the polar regions of the Moon have remained unexplored.
- There are indications of the presence of ice molecules in substantial amounts in the deep craters in this region.
- India's 2008 Chandrayaan-1 mission indicated the presence of water on the lunar surface with the help of its two instruments onboard.
- Clue about solar region
- The extremely cold temperatures here mean that anything trapped in the region would remain frozen in time, without undergoing much change.
- The rocks and soil in Moon's north and south poles could therefore provide clues to the early Solar System.

### Why don't some parts of the lunar polar regions receive any sunlight?

- Unlike the Earth, whose spin axis is tilted with respect to the plane of the Earth's solar orbit by 23.5 degrees, the Moon's axis tilts only 1.5 degrees.
- Because of this unique geometry, sunlight never shines on the floors of a number of craters near the lunar north and south poles.
- These areas are known as Permanently Shadowed Regions, or PSRs.



- Central Water Commission (CWC) launched the mobile application, "FloodWatch" with the aim of using mobile phones to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public. The inhouse developed user-friendly app has readable and audio broadcast and all the information is available in 2 languages, viz. English and Hindi.
- Key feature of the app includes real-time flood monitoring where users can check up-to-date flood situation throughout the country. The app utilizes near real-time river flow data from various sources. The app also provides flood forecast at nearest location where users can check the flood advisory at the station nearest to them on the Home Page itself.

Novel method to improve accuracy and precision of nanomechanical testing technology.



- A novel method to test nanomechanical properties of materials at very minute scales with high precision and accuracy has been developed by an Indian scientist in collaboration with two international institutions.
- The new methodology not only significantly improves the precision and accuracy of what is known as nanoindentation technique or testing of mechanical strength, but enables testing at much higher rates, thus facilitating high throughput.
- With Conventional testing methods not always feasible at nano scales, which are usually of the order of 1/100th of the diameter of a human hair, the nanoindentation technique was invented.
- The technique has been widely used to measure the strength of semiconductor devices and structural materials that have ubiquitously penetrated every aspect of our daily life through electronic gadgets. The technique has been used for a wide range of applications from identifying cancerous cells to establishing how meteorites are formed in deep space.
- The novel approach involved a combination of extensive modeling and simulation to understand the material response during an indentation test and subsequent tailoring of the methodology to improve the precision and accuracy. The modeling results have also been validated by experiments under extreme conditions.
- Setting the tone for high precision and high accuracy nanoindentation measurements at much higher rates than what is traditionally possible, the new methodology is expected to impact a broad spectrum of scientific research on measuring the strength of materials at small scales.

# A software solution for preventing attacks on 5G networks

- A new indigenous software technology solution can now proactively detect and prevent zero-day vulnerability attacks in the 5G networks thereby reducing the network downtime. This can help smoothen countrywide communication as 5G networks become its lifeline in the near future.
- Around ninety percent of the 5G technology is implemented into software by integrating several latest technologies (NFV, SDN, control plane/user plane segregation) which enable testing the technology easily. But attack surface area is increased multifold in this process and is impossible to manage manually. Automating the whole testing process and continuous monitoring is the only sustainable solution.
- Currently majority of the run time zero-day vulnerabilities are identified post attack, thereby creating damage to the brand as well as increasing the cost of recovery.

# Aditya-L1 Mission



- Aditya L1 is the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.
- It will be launched by the PSLV-XL launch vehicle.
- The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/eclipses.
- This will provide a greater advantage in observing solar activities and their effect on space weather in real-time.
- The spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle and magnetic field detectors.
- Using the special vantage point L1, four payloads directly view the Sun and the remaining three payloads carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the Lagrange point L1, thus providing important scientific studies of the propagatory effect of solar dynamics in the interplanetary medium.
- The other objectives of Aditya L1 mission will be to understand the drivers for space weather (origin, composition and dynamics of solar wind), and identify the sequence of processes that occur at multiple layers (chromosphere, base and extended corona) which eventually leads to solar eruptive events.

# What are Lagrangian Points?

- Lagrangian points, also known as Lagrange points or libration points, are specific locations in space where the gravitational forces of two large bodies, such as a planet and its moon or a planet and the Sun, produce enhanced regions of gravitational equilibrium.
- In these points, the gravitational pull from the two bodies creates a stable or quasistable region where a third, smaller object can maintain a relatively constant position relative to the larger bodies.
- There are five primary Lagrangian points, labeled L1 through L5, in a Sun-Earth system.
- L1 (Lagrange Point 1):
- It was found by mathematician Joseph Louis Lagrange.
- It is located about 1.5 million kilometers inside Earth's orbit, between the Sun and the Earth.
- The L1 point of the Earth-Sun system **gives a clear view of the sun all the time**, **without any occultation/ eclipses.**
- Once the **Aditya L1 mission reaches the L1** Lagrange point, **it will be injected to a halo orbit.** A halo orbit is a **type of orbit that allows the satellite to remain in a stable** position between the Earth and the Sun.

# **3. DEFENCE**

- Y 3024 (VINDHYAGIRI)
- sixth Stealth Frigate of Project 17A being built at GRSE, was launched.
- Project 17A Frigates are the follow-on class of the Project 17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates, with improved stealth features, advanced weapons & sensors and platform management systems.
- The design of Advanced Stealth Frigates also showcases the prowess of the Warship Design Bureau, in designing technologically advanced warships for the Indian Navy. With the launch, the Nation's indigenous expertise and engineering capabilities receives a major boost, reducing India's dependence on foreign suppliers, promoting self-reliance and fostering a robust defence industrial base.

### Y - 12654 (MAHENDRAGIRI)

- Named after a mountain peak in Eastern Ghats located in the state of Orissa, is the seventh ship of the Project 17A Frigates. These warships are follow-ons of the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class), with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- The newly christened Mahendragiri is a technologically advanced warship and stands as a symbol of India's determination to embrace its rich naval heritage, while propelling itself towards a future of indigenous defence capabilities.
- Project 17A ships have been designed in-house by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau, the pioneer organisation for all warship design activities. Aligning with the country's resolute commitment to 'Aatma Nirbharata', a substantial 75% of the orders for equipment and systems of Project 17A ships have been ordered on indigenous firms, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

# 3. DEFENCE

### **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES**

- Consultative Committees of different ministries are not constituted year wise.
- As per Guidelines on Constitution, Functions and Procedures of Consultative Committees, Consultative Committees shall be constituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha. For 17th Lok Sabha, 40 Consultative Committees have so far been constituted.



### Modification of Agricultural Practices to Combat Climate Change



- The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc.
- Government of India supplements the efforts of state governments to encourage diversified production of crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals & cotton under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and high value horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY-PDMC), also focuses on increasing on-farm water use efficiency by promoting efficient water application systems such as drip and sprinkler irrigation system. For sustainable development of agriculture and enhancement of fertility of soil, Government is promoting organic farming through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER).
- Natural farming through a sub-scheme namely Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations from local livestock.

- Under these schemes, the assistance is provided for various inputs such as distribution of improved climate resilient seeds/hybrids, improved farm implements/machines, water saving devices, plant protection chemicals, soil ameliorants etc.
- Further, Government of India and states ensure promoting farmers' awareness on judicious, timely and effective use of inputs, soil test based balanced and Integrated Nutrient Management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients, adoption of better agronomic practices and improved production technologies for sustainable agriculture etc through crops demonstrations, trainings, extension, capacity building programmes and advisories on farm activities etc by ICAR and stakeholder institutes.
- Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under RKVY. The states can promote these activities under RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee headed by Chief Secretary of the respective states.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed and released 1888
  varieties tolerant to one or more biotic and/ or abiotic stresses. Indian Council of
  Agricultural Research Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICARCRIDA) also prepares the District Agriculture Contingency Plan (DACP) to mitigate the
  impact of weather-related challenges, and circulates to all States Agriculture
  Departments.
- The plan contains suitable technology interventions including recommendations on use of crop varieties/ seeds tolerant to biotic and/ or abiotic stress. In order to overcome the natural calamities and unforeseen conditions, the DA&FW is implementing the component National Seed Reserve under Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Materials (SMSP).

### Bharat Campaign under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- In order to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilize investment in agriculture infrastructure, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme was launched in 2020 with an objective to mobilize a medium – long-term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support.
- A new campaign named 'BHARAT' (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation) has been launched by the Government under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme to provide maximum benefits to the people and to create a competitive spirit among the Banks and lending institutions to mobilize agriculture infrastructure projects loan at a faster pace.
- This is a month-long Campaign from 15th July 2023 to 15th August 2023. Top
  performing Banks under different categories i.e., commercial Banks in public and
  private Sector, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Non-Banking
  Financial Companies (NBFCs) and cooperative Banks will be selected at the end of
  the Campaign and their special contribution will be recognized.
- Moreover, the daily performance under the campaign is being shared among all the Banks through messages at the closing of business hours of Banks every day. These daily updates generate much enthusiasm and competitive spirit among the Banks and lending institutions to perform and exceed their targets.
- Ministry is committed to have regular interactions with the Bank Executives through various modes of communication in between with a view to review performance under the campaign and to persuade the slow movers and non-starters to perform.
- Banks have been requested to achieve the targets considering the potential for agri infra projects from time to time and the response of the banks is encouraging. This ministry sets AIF annual targets for individual Banks on the basis of their clientele base, geographical reach and share in the agricultural advance and past performance.
- Further, Ministry conducts capacity building programmes at Bankers' Training Colleges on physical mode and awareness sessions on AIF Scheme with Bank officials from Head Offices and controlling offices of various Banks on VC mode to promote the Scheme.
- Social media groups comprising Banks' AIF Teams serve as the fast mode of communication with Banks for persuading them to lend more and more under AIF for creation of agriculture infrastructure and this forum also helps in sorting out operational issues and providing handholding support.

# EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES

- ICI measures combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.**
- The Eight Core Industries comprise **40.27 percent** of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).



# **ADOPTION OF HYDROPONICS FARMING**

- Hydroponics is a viable alternative to traditional farming methods for soil less cultivation for enhancing productivity and water use efficiency.
- Hydroponics is a new concept in India and gaining popularity among entrepreneurs and innovative farmers, who are looking for sustainable and efficient ways to grow crops. At present, this technology is mostly confined to urban farming, rooftop gardening and commercial farming.
- ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bengaluru (IIHR) has developed a variant of hydroponics, "Cocoponics" or the Soilless production of vegetables, using cocopeat as a substrate, which has been found to be comparatively more successful in many vegetable crops.

# Farm Credit Target

- he erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sub-Mission on Agro forestry (SMAF) has now been restructured with focus on Quality Planting Material as an Agroforestry component to be implemented as one of the components of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- ICAR-Central Agro forestry Research Institute (CAFRI) is the nodal agency for providing technical support, capacity building, setting up of nurseries, production, and certification of QPM etc.
- CAFRI shall extend support through its All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centers on agroforestry situated at various locations around the country. For the implementation of the scheme State Nodal Department/Agency shall be identified for each State/UTs.
- The Nodal Department/Agency shall ensure the availability of QPM by producing on its own or through the collaborative arrangement with individuals/institutions such as SAUs, KVKs, FPOs, SHGs, NGOs, Entrepreneurs/Startups, Forest/Agriculture institutes, farmers/cooperative societies etc.
- The scheme will have the following major components/ activities;

### 1. Establishment of Nurseries for Production of QPM

- 2. Tissue culture lab for quality planting material
- 3. Skill Development and awareness campaign (up to 5% of allocation):
- 4. Research & Development, Market linking
- 5. Project Management Unit (PMU) and Agroforestry Technical Support Group (TSG)
- 6. Local Initiative (upto 2 % of Approved Annual Plan)
- The government is promoting natural farming since 2019-2020 through a subscheme namely Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddati (BPKP) under Paramaragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). Natural farming is chemical-free farming based on the integrated agriculture and animal husbandry approach using livestock and local resources and relies on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, the use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations from local livestock.
- Under the Namai Gange Program of PKVY scheme Government is promoting chemical-free Organic farming along the bank of the Ganga River. 1.23 lakh ha area has been covered under the Namami Gange program since 2017-18.

# 6. NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

# **TWENTY SECOND LAW COMMISSION**

The Government has constituted the 22nd Law Commission of India for a period of three year with effect from 21st February, 2020.The term of 22nd Law Commission has since been extended upto 31stAugust, 2024. Current chairman is Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.

- The composition of 22ndLaw Commission of India as under:
- (i) a full-time Chairperson;
- (ii) four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary);
- (iii) Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex officio Member;
- (iv) Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member; and

(v) not more than five part-time Members.

# **B20**

- The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community.
- Established in 2010, B20 is among the most prominent Engagement Groups in G20, with companies and business organizations as participants.
- The B20 works to deliver concrete actionable policy recommendations to spur economic growth and development.

# Guidelines for Usage of Artificial Sweetners

 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that assessment of the health impacts of the non-sugar sweetener aspartame conducted by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as well as World Health Organization – Food and Agriculture Organization (WHO-FAO) Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) cite "limited evidence" for carcinogenicity in humans. However, IARC has classified aspartame as "possibly carcinogenic" to humans and JECFA accordingly has reaffirmed that the acceptable daily intake should be 40 mg/kg body weight.  Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has already laid down the standards for various artificial sweeteners in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011. These standards for non-caloric sweeteners and limits for use of such non-caloric sweeteners in various food products have been laid down on the basis of risk assessment and Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) established by Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the limits are in harmonization with Codex Alimentarius Commission.

# LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

- The energy storage based on lithium-ion batteries will help India to achieve its greenhouse mitigation targets since the basic raw material for production of electric vehicles is lithium and other critical materials. At present, investments in manufacturing and overall value addition for Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACCs) are negligible in India and almost entire domestic demand of ACCs is still being met through imports.
- Additionally, 5GWh of niche ACC technologies is also covered under the Scheme. The scheme proposes a production linked subsidy based on applicable subsidy per KWh and percentage of value addition achieved on actual sales made by the manufacturers who set up production units.

# Measures taken for Population Control



• The Government accords top priority to the National Family Planning Program, which is guided by the tenets of the National Population Policy 2000 and National Health Policy 2017, to address the unmet need for Family Planning.

### Measures taken by the Government.

- 1. **Expanded Contraceptive Choices:** The current contraceptive basket comprising condoms, combined oral contraceptive pills, emergency contraceptive pills, intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD) and sterilization is expanded with inclusion of new contraceptives namely Injectable contraceptive MPA (Antara Programme) and Centchroman (Chhaya).
- 2. **Mission Parivar Vikas** is being implemented in thirteen states for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services.
- 3. **Compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors**, which provides compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiaries for sterilization.
- 4. **Post-pregnancy contraception** in the form of Post-partum Intra-uterine contraceptive device (PPIUCD), Post-Abortion Intrauterine contraceptive device (PAIUCD), and Post-partum Sterilization (PPS) are provided to beneficiaries.
- 5. **'World Population Day & Fortnight' and 'Vasectomy Fortnight**' are observed every year to boost awareness on Family Planning and service delivery across all States/ UTs.
- 6. Under **Home Delivery of contraceptives Scheme**, ASHAs deliver contraceptives at doorstep of beneficiaries.
- 7. Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS) is in place to ensure last mile availability of family planning commodities across all the levels of health facilities.

### **CHILD MARRIAGES**

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes the data on the number of cases of child marriage registered under 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006' in its publication 'Crime in India'. As per information available with NCRB, the number of cases registered under 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, (PCMA), 2006' during the last five years i.e. 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 are 395, 501, 523, 785 and 1050 respectively. However, higher reporting of cases does not necessarily reflect increase in the number of cases of child marriages, but it may be because of increased awareness among citizens to report such incidents due to initiatives by the Government and better enforcement of law by States/ UTs.
- The Government has enacted 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006' (PCMA) in order to curb child marriages and to take punitive actions against those associated with child marriages. Section 16 of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) authorises the State Government to appoint for the whole State, or such part there of as may be specified, an officer or officers to be known as the 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)' having jurisdiction over the area or areas specified in the notification.
- This section also specifies the functions to be discharged by CMPOs, which also include preventing solemnisation of child marriages by taking such action as they may deem fit; to collect evidence for the effective prosecution of persons contravening the provisions of the Act; to advise the individuals or counsel the residents of the locality not to indulge in promoting, helping, aiding or allowing the solemnisation of child marriages; to create awareness about the ill effects of child marriages; and to sensitize the community on the issue of child marriages. These authorities' function under the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations. As such, implementation of the provisions of the Act lies with them.
- 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens, investigation and prosecution of crime against women and children including prohibition of child marriages, rest with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offenses under the extant provisions of laws.

- The Central Government undertakes awareness drives, media campaigns and outreach programs and issues advisories to the States/ UTs from time to time to highlight evil effects of this practice. The Ministry has also written to all States/ UTs to increase the number of CMPOs, as presence of Statutory Officer at local levels would result in even more effective public engagement on the subject and prevention of solemnisation of child marriage.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the BetiBachaoBetiPadhao (BBBP) component under the umbrella scheme 'Mission Shakti', wherein creation of awareness on matters pertaining to gender equality and discouraging child marriage is an important focus area. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) also undertakes awareness programs and consultations with stakeholders from time to time in this regard.
- Government of India has introduced CHILDLINE with short code 1098, a 24X7 telephone emergency outreach service for children in crisis which responds with suitable interventions to call for any form of assistance which a child requires, including for prevention of child marriages in coordination with police, Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs), District Child Protection Units etc.
- Instances have come to the notice that some sections of society continue to indulge in the practice of child marriage in the name of custom, practices and/ or religious beliefs etc. In some cases, writ petitions have also been filed before Hon'ble Courts of law for upholding the validity of marriage of a minor girl on these grounds under personal laws. The Government has introduced a Bill namely 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the Parliament on 21.12.2021 for raising the age of marriage of women to 21 years to make it at par with the men.
- The proposed Bill also has provisions to make consequential amendments in the enactments, inter alia, relating to age of marriage of parties, such as 'The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872', 'The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936', 'The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937', 'The Special Marriage Act, 1954', 'The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955', and 'The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969'. The Bill has since been referred to Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports for examination.

### Comic Book Developed by NCERT and UNESCO "Let's Move Forward"



- This comic book is a collaborative effort between the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and UNESCO New Delhi. It signifies a significant stride towards augmenting the goals of the School Health and Wellness Programme (SHWP). The SHWP, initiated under the Ayushman Bharat campaign in April ,2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is an initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Its primary objective is to impart health education, prevent diseases, and enhance access to health services through wellness centres within educational institutions.
- The "Let's Move Forward" comic book is designed to cater to the diverse requirements of adolescents and encapsulates crucial information pertaining to the 11 thematic components of the School Health and Wellness Programme. These encompass a comprehensive range of subjects, including emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, gender equality, nutrition and health, substance abuse prevention, healthy lifestyles, reproductive health, internet safety, and more.
- The comic book imparts life skills essential for fostering responsible and health-conscious behaviour among adolescents. This innovative approach serves to not only disseminate healthrelated knowledge but also facilitate the acquisition of life skills necessary for comprehensive personal development. It is accessible in multiple languages, including Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odiya, Tamil, and Telugu, to ensure inclusivity across linguistic diversity.
- The "Let's Move Forward" comic book will be distributed across various educational and health
  institutions nationwide. Its distribution will encompass State School Education Departments, SCERTs,
  Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs), Institutes of Advanced Study in Education (IASEs), District
  Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs), and state
  health departments. Additionally, the comic books will be disseminated to the 29,000 schools
  affiliated with the CBSE, thereby expanding its outreach. An electronic version of the comic book will
  also be accessible on the Ministry of Education (MoE), NCERT, UNESCO, and DIKSHA websites.

# PROCUREMENT OF ITEMS FOR ARMED FORCES

- Capital procurement of Defence equipment is carried out as per Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP 2020) with a focus on "Atmanirbhar Bharat" i.e "Self-Reliance" wherein indigenisation, innovation and import substitution have been facilitated through various schemes to build a robust ecosystem based on domestic industry including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- One of the key objectives of Make in India initiative of the Government is to bring MSMEs and Startups into the defence supply chain and thereby boost self-reliance.
- The Government has taken several policy initiatives for promotion of MSMEs in defence and some of the DAP provisions enabling participation of MSMEs/Start-ups are as under:
- Reservation of delegated cases with AoN cost up to Rs 100 crores for MSMEs, provided there are at least two or more MSMEs eligible to participate in the category.
- • Relaxation of financial parameter for recognised Start-ups/MSMEs.
- • Waiver of EMD requirement from recognised Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- • Relaxation in financial eligibility criteria for MSMEs for MAKE-1 projects.
- Setting up Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative under the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) and Technology Development Fund (TDF) under DRDO to use a multipronged approach and engage a large pool of innovators/technocrats/professionals/academicians including amongst the smaller enterprises, start-ups and MSMES, to foster innovation in a coherent, strategized, and integrated manner.
- The Defence Offset guidelines have further paved the way for proactive participation of MSMEs of India by incorporating a scheme of multipliers of 1.5 for engaging MSME as Indian Offset Partners (IOP), which promotes their integration in global supply chain.

# River Devika project



- Started in March 2019 under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).
- Under the project, bathing "ghats" (places) on the banks of the Devika River will be developed, encroachments will be removed, natural water bodies will be restored and catchment areas will be developed along with cremation ground.
- The project also includes the construction of three sewage treatment plants, sewerage network of 129.27 km, development of two cremation ghats, protection fencing and landscaping, small hydropower plants and three solar power plants.
- On completion of the project, the rivers will see reduction in pollution and improvement in water quality.

### Importance of the Devika River:

- Devika river originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir and flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it merges with the Ravi river.
- The river holds religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the sister of river <u>Ganga</u>.
- In June 2020, Devika Bridge was inaugurated in Udhampur. Apart from taking care of traffic congestion, the Devika Bridge was also meant to help smooth passage of Army convoys and vehicles.

### What is the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)?

- NRCP is a centrally funded scheme launched in 1995 aimed at preventing the pollution of rivers.
- Programs for river conservation are being implemented under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority).
- The National Ganga Council, also known as the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga, has replaced the NRGBA.

### Which Activities are covered under NRCP?

- Interception and Diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low-Cost Sanitation works to prevent open defecation on riverbanks.
- Electric Crematoria and Improved Wood Crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River Front Development works such as improvement of bathing ghats.
- Public awareness and public participation.
- Human Resource Development (HRD), capacity building, training and research in the area of River Conservation.
- Other miscellaneous works depend upon location specific conditions including the interface with human population.

# North East Venture Fund

- Valuing a start-up is linked to a future date (deferred valuation method) based on subsequent round of funds raised from other investors. Based on investor opinion, market conditions, and the company's development, valuations may change in various funding rounds.
- The startups, supported by NEVF, have identified the unique business opportunities available in the region and have provided value added solutions to the consumers through their products and services.
- NEVF is registered as a Category I Venture Capital Fund under Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) Regulations, 2012. Further, an independent committee (Investment Committee) comprising of experienced professionals from the field of venture funding, private equity, developmental banking etc takes the investment decision.
- As a regulatory requirement, periodic reporting on the operation/compliances of regulation is placed before the contributors of NEVF and other concerned bodies in a structured manner. In addition, fund operation is also monitored by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in the form of periodic audit.

- NEVF was established as a close ended fund with a target corpus of Rs. 100 crore.
- To augment entrepreneurship opportunities among marginalized sections, NEDFi has established its branch network across all the states of NER which reach out to their startups through their business meets wherein the details of venture funds are explained. This has resulted in NEVF reaching and funding startups from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya. A pipeline of proposals is at various stages of processing from the states of Nagaland and Mizoram also. Many of these startups are led by women co-founders. The fest has seen a lot of enthusiasm from far flung region of NER.

# Medical Tourism

Ministry of Tourism in order to boost Medical Tourism in the country, has formulated a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism. The Strategy has identified the following key pillars:

- Develop a brand for India as a wellness destination
- Strengthen the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism
- Enable digitalization by setting up Online Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal
- Enhancement of accessibility for Medical Value Travel
- Promoting Wellness Tourism
- Governance and Institutional Framework.

However, as part of its on-going activities, Ministry of Tourism, releases global print, electronic and online media campaigns in important and potential markets overseas, under the 'Incredible India' brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country. Digital promotions are also regularly undertaken through the Social Media accounts of the Ministry on different themes including the theme of Medical Tourism.

- The Government of India liberalized the e-Tourist Visa Scheme and the e-Tourist Visa (eTV) scheme was renamed to e-visa Scheme and, at present, it has e-medical Visa and e-Medical Attendant Visa as sub-categories of e-visa.
- In the case of e-Medical Visa and for e-Medical Attendant Visa, triple entry is permitted and extension may be granted up to 6 months on case-to-case basis on merits of each case by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRRO)/Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) concerned. Medical Attendant Visa was a co-terminus with the validity of the principal e-visa holder.
- Further, Union Ministry of Health is coordinating with other Ministries and stakeholders viz. Hospitals, Medical Value Travel (MVT) facilitators, Insurance Companies, NABH etc. to promote medical value travel in the country.

# **Promotion of Organic Farming**

- Government has been promoting organic farming on priority in the country since 2015-16 through the schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Both the schemes stress on end-toend support to farmers engaged in organic farming i.e., from production to processing, certification and marketing and post-harvest management. Training and Capacity Building are integral part of the scheme. Incentives to farmers for producing and using organic fertilizers/manure are inbuilt in these schemes as on-farm and off-farm organic inputs.
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is provided to the farmers for using organic inputs including organic fertilizers. PKVY is being implemented in all the States other-than North Eastern (NE) States across the country whereas MOVCDNER scheme is being implemented exclusively in the NE States.



- Information technologies are finding increasing use in the agricultural value system, and farmers are increasingly becoming more informed. The Government has taken various measures to provide access to technology and information across the country, through various Digital Initiatives, such as:
- 1. National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) wherein, funds are provided to the State(s)/UT(s) for project involving use of modern technologies viz. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Drones, Data Analytics, Block Chain etc. After receiving proposals from the States, funds are released for development of various solutions.
- 2. The Government has announced for development of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture as an open source, open standard and inter-operable public good to enable inclusive farmer centric solutions through relevant information services for crop planning and health, improved access to farm inputs, credit and insurance, help for crop estimation, market intelligence etc. In this regard, following action has been taken so far:
- Architecture of three core registries i.e. Farmer registry, Geo referencing of village map registry, crop sown registry has been finalized.
- To generate crop sown registry, Digital crop survey has been launched on pilot basis in 12 states from Kharif 2023.
- An MoU has been signed with Pixxel Space India Pvt. Limited to develop use cases with the hyperspectral data of Pixxel for crop identification and mapping, crop health monitoring and soil organic carbon estimation over selected regions on pilot basis.

- Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is being implemented w.e.f April, 2014. The scheme aims at 'reaching the unreached' by bringing to the small and marginal farmers in the core and giving the benefits of farm mechanization, by Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers', creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments, distribution of various agricultural equipments, creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities, and ensuring performance- testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.
- National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Digital services are provided to traders, farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO), Mandis through various modules of e-NAM platform such as FPO trading module, warehouse-based trading module.
- Under **PM KISAN Scheme**, fund is directly transferred into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode. Farmers can do their self- registration through the Farmers Corner in the portal. PM-KISAN Mobile App was launched to broaden the reach of the scheme where farmers can view beneficiary status, update or carry out corrections of name based on their Aadhaar card and also they can see history of benefits transferred to their bank accounts. Recently, face authentication feature has also been included in PM-KISAN mobile App.
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF): To mobilize a medium long term debt finances facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support in order to improve agriculture infrastructure in the country. Financial assistance is provided digitally in the form of Interest Subvention and Credit Guarantee for setting up post- harvest management Infrastructure to beneficiaries such as Farmers, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHG), State Agencies/APMCs.
- National Mission on Horticulture: It Promotes holistic development of Horticulture sector (including bamboo & coconut) HORTNET project is a web enabled work flow- based system for providing financial assistance under MIDH. It is a unique intervention to accomplish e-Governance in NHM where-in total transparency has been envisaged in all the processes of workflow i.e., online application filing, authentication, processing and online payment to the beneficiary's bank account through DBT.
- National Project on Soil Health and Fertility: Issuance of soil health cards to farmers of the country, so as to provide a basis to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices. Soil Health Card Portal is available where farmers can track soil samples.
- Several new technological initiatives has been taken under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana such as Yield Estimation System, based on Technology (YES-Tech), Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) portal and door to door enrollment app AIDE/Sahayak.
- YES-TECH, a technology-driven yield estimation system, offering methodologies, best practices, and integration insights for accurate yield assessments at the Gram Panchayat level.
- 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.
- The AIDE app's aims to revolutionize the enrolment process, bringing it directly to the doorstep of farmers. This
  door-to-door enrolment ensures a seamless and transparent process, making crop insurance more accessible
  and convenient for farmers.
- The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has also compiled more than 100 mobile apps developed by ICAR, State Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras and uploaded on its website. These mobile apps developed in the areas of crops, horticulture, veterinary, dairy, poultry, fisheries, natural resources management and integrated subjects, offer valuable information to the farmers, including package of practices, market prices of various commodities, weather related information, advisory services, etc.
- Further, ICAR has developed a Digital multimedia platform named as "Kisan Sarathi" which is being used to provide advisories to the farmers through 731 KVKs across the Country.

# SCHEME/PORTAL

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|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| ee  |  | 3.  | Agriculture<br>Infrastructure<br>Fund (AIF)                          | In order to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilize investment in agriculture infrastructure, Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infra Fund was launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.<br>The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee support.   |   |
| I)  |  | 4.  | National Mission<br>on Edible Oil-Oil<br>Palm (NMEO-<br>OP)          | A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) has been launched by Government of India to promote oil palm cultivation for making the country Aatamnirbhar in edible oils with special focus on North-Eastern States and A&N Islands.  |   |
| >   | A co<br>Gov<br>farm  | 5.  | National<br>Beekeeping &<br>Honey Mission<br>(NBHM)                  | Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, a new Central Sector Scheme<br>entitled National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) was launched in 2020<br>under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for its implementation in the field for overall<br>promotion and development of scientific beekeeping & to achieve the goal of   | nted by the d marginal ers.                       |
| S.<br>N.  | Sch  |   |  | "Sweet Revolution".  |   |
| 1.  | The<br>Ma<br>San<br>(PN  | <ul> <li>Growth of Agri Sector</li> <li>During the last six years the agriculture and allied sector has been growing at 4.4% per annum. No specific target has been set for the growth of agriculture sector by the Government.</li> <li>The Government has adopted and implemented several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemesfor improving the +agricultural growth prospects and incomes of the farmers. These include:</li> </ul> |  |  | is being<br>Farmers'<br>related to<br>/- per year |
|   |  | i.<br>ii.<br>iii.<br>iv.<br>v.  | ernment in<br>the bank   |  |   |
| 2.  | For  | vi. New procurement policy under PM-AASHA in addition to FCI operations.<br>vii. Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops.  |  |  |   |

|    | Promotion of<br>10,000 Farmer<br>Producer<br>Organizations<br>(FPOs) | "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)" in<br>the year 2020.<br>Formation & promotion of FPOs are to be done through Implementing Agencies<br>(IAs), which further engage Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to<br>form & provide professional handholding support to FPOs for a period of 05 years<br>including preparation and execution of business plan for the concerned FPOs for<br>ensuring better marketing opportunities & market linkages on sustainable basis. |
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| 3. | Agriculture<br>Infrastructure<br>Fund (AIF)                          | In order to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilize investment in agriculture infrastructure, Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infra Fund was launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.<br>The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee support.   |
| 4. | National Mission<br>on Edible Oil-Oil<br>Palm (NMEO-<br>OP)          | A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) has been launched by Government of India to promote oil palm cultivation for making the country Aatamnirbhar in edible oils with special focus on North-Eastern States and A&N Islands.  |
| 5. | National<br>Beekeeping &<br>Honey Mission<br>(NBHM)                  | Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, a new Central Sector Scheme<br>entitled National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) was launched in 2020<br>under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for its implementation in the field for overall<br>promotion and development of scientific beekeeping & to achieve the goal of<br>"Sweet Revolution".  |

### **Growth of Agri Sector**

- During the last six years the agriculture and allied sector has been growing at 4.4% per annum. No specific target has been set for the growth of agriculture sector by the Government.
- The Government has adopted and implemented several policies, reforms, developmental programmes and schemesfor improving the +agricultural growth prospects and incomes of the farmers. These include:
- i. Supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN of Rs. 6000/- per year in three equal instalments to eligible beneficiaries.
- ii. Increase in Minimum Support Price (MSPs) for all Kharif & Rabi crops ensuring a minimum of 50 percent of profit margin on the cost of production.
- iii. Crop insurance under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY).
- iv. Better access to irrigation under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- v. Special attention for creation of infrastructure through Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) with a size of Rs. 100,000 crore.
- vi. New procurement policy under PM-AASHA in addition to FCI operations.
- vii. Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) offering production loan to even dairy & fishery farmers besides agricultural crops.

- viii. Formation and promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO).
- ix. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate.
- x. Adoption of drone technologies in agriculture which has potential to revolutionize the Indian agriculture.
- xi. Benefits accruing under Bee-Keeping, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Blue Revolution, Interest Subvention Scheme, Agro-forestry, Restructured Bamboo Mission, implementation of new generation watershed guidelines, etc.
- xii. Focus on application of digital technology at all stages of agricultural value chain.
- xiii. Supply of fertilizer to farmer at subsidized price so as to reduce input cost.

### **High Density Farming**

High density plantation of Mango, Guava, Lichti, Pomogarnate, Apple, Citrus etc is supported under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and FW since 2014-15.

### **Creation of Infrastructure in Farm Sector**

- In order to abridge the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilize investment in agriculture infrastructure, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package in 2020. AIF is a medium long term debt financing facility by lending institutions for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- Apart from AIF Scheme, the following schemes are also being implemented for creation of postharvest management infrastructure and community farm assets:
- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), provides assistance for development of Post Harvest Management (PHM) for perishable horticulture crops which includes establishment of pack house, Integrated pack house, pre-cooling, staging cold room, cold storages, controlled atmosphere (CA) storage, reefer transport, setting up of ripening chambers and Integrated cold chain supply system etc.
- For creation of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) including Scientific Storage and to reduce post-harvest and handling losses, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India is implementing sub-scheme "Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI)" of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) across the country. It is an open ended, Demand driven and credit linked scheme wherein back ended capital subsidy @ 25% and 33.33% is available based on the eligible category of beneficiary. Assistance is available to Individuals, Farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Agri-preneurs, Registered Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs), Cooperatives, and state agencies etc.
- <u>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</u> (Infrastructure and Assets): Projects under this stream will emanate from State Agriculture Infrastructure Development Programme (ASIDP). This will normally include projects selected on the basis of normative requirement of in infrastructure, actual

availability thereof and the gap in agriculture infrastructure in the state viz. setting up of laboratories and testing facilities, storage including cold-storages, mobile vans, agricultural marketing etc.

- Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is being implemented in DA&FW from 2014, which aims at 'reaching the un-reached' by bringing to the small and marginal farmers in the core and giving the benefits of farm mechanization, by Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers', creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipment, distribution of various agricultural equipment, creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities, and ensuring performance- testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.
- Under the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for NE Region, DA&FW is promoting certified organic production since 2015-16. The scheme provide end to end support to organic farmers from organic production to certification and marketing including post harvest management support like processing, packaging, storage etc. Need based financial support for creating infrastructure facilities like integrated processing unit, integrated pack-house, cold store etc. are provided to States under MOVCDNER.

### RASHTRIYA GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN

- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) approved for the implementation from financial year 2022-23 to 2025-26 for capacity building of elected representative of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- > The primary objective of Revamped RGSA is to develop the governance capabilities of the Panchayats to deliver on SDGs which covered within the purview of Panchayats.
- For effective implementation of the scheme, utilization of funds is closely monitored with the States through meetings, video-conferences, PFMS etc. In addition to this, Training Management Portal (TMP) is in place to monitor real time trainings conducted by States/ UTs under the scheme.

### Satellite Coverage of Agriculture Activities

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched Resourcesat -2A, Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) – 1A (Earth Observation Satellite-04) in polar orbits and Indian National Satellite (INSAT) 3D, INSAT-3DR in geostationary orbits to provide data for enabling support for various agricultural activities viz., assess total area under cultivation, assess damages from natural calamities and disease attacks and Agro-met services across the country.
- ISRO has proposed the launch of following satellites:

o Resourcesat-3 & 3A medium resolution satellite with combined repitivity of 2 days,

Resourcesat-3S & 3SA high resolution satellite with 4 days revisit capability,

- RISAT-1B can image day and night and all-weather conditions. RISAT-1B along with RISAT- 1A will cover same area by around 12 days,
- INSAT 3DS in geostationary orbit with coarse resolution and daily multiple imaging capability.



- 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:
  - 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.
  - 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.
- NPDD is demand driven scheme and no state wise allocations were made during the last three years.
- Under Component A of NPDD scheme, training is provided to farmers on good hygienic practices/good manufacturing practices etc. Under Component B of NPDD scheme, trainings are provided to farmers on clean milk production and good hygienic practices, milch animals rearing, adoption of cattle feed, green fodder and mineral mixture, etc.

### Nyaya Bandhu program

Under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authority Act 1987, applicants who are marginalized or disadvantaged including ST, SC, victims of trafficking or begging, women or children, PWDs, and other eligible categories, are entitled to get free legal aid & advice through Department of Justice's Nyaya Bandhu program.

Nyaya Bandhu's (Pro Bono Legal Services) primary initiative is to establish a framework for dispensation of pro bono legal services across the country. Under Nyaya Bandhu, practising advocates, interested to volunteer their time and services, are connected, via mobile technology, with eligible marginalised beneficiaries. Nyaya Bandhu Mobile application (Android/IOS) has been developed and also onboarded on the UMANG platform in collaboration with technical partner CSC e-Governance Pvt. Ltd.

### E-GOVERNANCE in Panchayati Raj

- Under Digital India Programme, Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP), in all the States/ UTs of the country. The aim is to revamp the functioning of Panchayats and to make them more transparent, accountable and effective.
- Ministry has launched eGramSwaraj, an accounting application to simplify Panchayat work like planning, accounting and budgeting. In order to ensure better financial management of PRIs for enhancing transparency & accountability in maintenance of accounts, the eGramSwaraj has been integrated with Public Finance Management System (PFMS) to make real time payments to vendors/service providers.
- A Training Management Portal (TMP) has been developed and launched to monitor real time progress of trainings conducted in various categories, subject areas and stakeholders under the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme. An application of 'AuditOnline' has been developed for online audits of Panchayat accounts and their financial management.
- Ministry is encouraging the Panchayats to adopt their own Citizens' Charter for successful delivery of services for which the Ministry has formulated the model Citizens' Charter and shared with the States. Adoption of such Citizens' Charter by the States is being monitored through dedicated portal.
- For attaining the vision of Digital India, BharatNet project is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications in a phased manner to create network to connect all the GPs by broadband in the country.

**Entrepreneurial Culture in Rural Areas** 



- The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) as a sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) with the objective to help the rural poor (from SHG ecosystem) to set-up enterprises at the village level in non-agricultural sectors. The operational unit of the project is Block. A maximum of 2,400 enterprises can be supported in one Block with the approved funds. It supports existing enterprises as well as setting up of new enterprises. Besides helping the rural entrepreneurs to access finance, a cadre of Community Resource Persons- Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP) is also promoted to provide business support services to enterprises.
- Further, to boost the Entrepreneurial culture in India, 590 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) are functioning across the country extending skill and entrepreneurship development training program to rural un-employed youth to facilitate them to employ themselves by commencing selfemployment units/activities. This Ministry is reimbursing cost of training imparted by the RSETIs to the rural youth through the State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs).
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has taken following steps to boost entrepreneurial culture including rural areas of the Country. -
- Entrepreneurship Development in Six Holy Cities project aimed to catalyze local entrepreneurial activities through involvement of potential and existing entrepreneurs, unemployed youth, college dropouts, youth from backward community etc. The temple towns include Puri (Odisha), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Kollur (Karnataka), Pandharpur (Maharashtra) and Bodh Gaya (Bihar).
- PM YUVA Pilot Project: PM-YUVA Pilot Project towards creating an enabling ecosystem through entrepreneurship education, training, advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship network. The scheme focused on students/trainees and alumni coming out from skilling ecosystem, i.e., Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) and Jan Shikshan Sansthans (JSSs).
- For development of group entrepreneurship in rural areas in agriculture and allied sector, the Ministry under DAY-NRLM facilitates promotion of women owned Producers Collectives, i.e., Producers Enterprises/Farmer Producers Organizations and Producers Groups to support

women farmer members to access better market for their produce through interventions like aggregation, value addition & marketing. The idea is to develop a complete business model to provide primary producers with end-to-end solutions from creating producer organizations to building marketing linkages.

In addition, to build the technical expertise, so as to support development of projects for promotion of large size Producer Enterprises, the Ministry has established one Section 8 Company "Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chain (FDRVC)" with the support of TATA Trusts. It supports the State units of DAY-NRLM to develop and implement value chain projects through promotion of large sized Producer Enterprises.

### Sagarmala Project

- Sagarmala is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to promote port-led development in the country. As per revised Funding Guidelines, the fund contribution from Sagarmala Programme (from the budget of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways) in any project will be limited to 50 per cent of estimated project cost as per DPR or tendered cost, whichever is lesser.
- However, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways may provide 100% financial assistance for any project based on uniqueness, strategic nature, necessity, merits, financial condition of the Major Port, etc subject to the approval of Minister in charge of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

### National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) which is an umbrella scheme under which financial assistance is provided to

(i) 'State Governments/ Union Territory (UT) Administrations for Preventive Education and Awareness Generation, Capacity Building, Skill development, vocational training and livelihood support of ex-drug addicts, Programmes for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs etc. and
(ii) NGOs/VOs for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts (IRCAs), Community based peer Led Intervention (CPLI) for early Drug Use Prevention among Adolescents, Outreach and Drop In Centers (ODIC), District De-Addiction Centers (DDACs); and
(ii) Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government hospitals.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan intends to reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance use with focus on higher educational Institutions, university campuses & schools, reaching out & identifying dependent population, focus on counseling & treatment facilities in hospitals & rehabilitation centers and Capacity building programmes for service providers.

### PM-YASASVI SCHEME

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing an umbrella scheme namely PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM –YASASVI) for OBC and others

### Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)" with the objective to provide the 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.

Digital India initiative of Government has revolutionized education access in rural areas

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India launched the 'Digital India' programme with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy by ensuring digital access, digital inclusion, digital empowerment and bridging the digital divide.
- To achieve these objectives, particularly in rural, tribal and remote areas, Ministry of Education offers high quality educational programmes through DTH channels as well as web platforms under the aegis of PM e-Vidya.
- Some of the major education initiatives are as follows:

 $\cdot$  DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform).

• 12 DTH Channels in school education and 22 **SWAYAM PRABHA** channels in higher education are already functional. As per budget announcement for Financial Year 2022-23, the 12 DTH Channels would be expanded to 200 (Two hundred) PM e-Vidya DTH TV Channels.

• **SWAYAM** (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is the national MOOC platform with provision of credit transfer to universities, for Higher Education Courses. NIOS and NCERT are National Coordinator for school sector courses under SWAYAM, delivering school courses from 9th to 12th.

To realize the vision of Digital India, all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multimode access to education are organized under PM e-Vidya banner as part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.

### PM Vishwakarma

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a new Central Sector Scheme "PM Vishwakarma" with a financial outlay of Rs.13,000 crore for a period of five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28). The scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-

based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.

- The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and to ensure that the Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.
- Under PM Vishwakarma scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card. The Scheme will further provide Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Incentive for Digital Transactions and Marketing Support.
- > The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas across India. Eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under PM Vishwakarma.

### SAFE CITY PROJECT

- Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including crime against women are with the respective State Governments.
- However, as part of several initiatives for safety of women by the Government of India, Safe City Projects have been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs with centrally sponsored funding in eight cities namely Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai.
- The projects involve identification of hotspots for crime against women and deployment of various components including infrastructure, technology adoption, and capacity building in community through awareness programmes which will enable safety for women.

### **Kavach Protection System**



- Kavach is indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Kavach is a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order.
- Kavach aids the loco pilot in train running within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also help the train safely run during inclement weather.

Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission

- The mission is aimed to improve socio-economic conditions of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) by saturating PVTG families and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The mission envisages availability of Rs.15,000 crore from the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes, for activities to be undertaken in the next three years under the Mission.



- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- 1. Objectives:
- o Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost
- o Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach
- 2. Basic tenets of the scheme
- **Banking the unbanked** Opening of basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account with minimal paperwork, relaxed KYC, e-KYC, account opening in camp mode, zero balance & zero charges
- Securing the unsecured Issuance of Indigenous Debit cards for cash withdrawals & payments at merchant locations, with free accident insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakhs
- **Funding the unfunded** Other financial products like micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption, micro-pension & micro-credit
- 2. Initial Features of PMJDY

- Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000/- to every eligible adult
- **Financial Literacy Programme** Promoting savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, using basic mobile phones for banking
- Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund To provide banks some guarantee against defaults
- Insurance Accident cover up to Rs. 1,00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015
- Pension scheme for Unorganised sector

### 3. Important approach adopted in PMJDY based on experience:

- o Inter-operability through RuPay debit card or Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS)
- Fixed-point Business Correspondents
- o Simplified KYC / e-KYC in place of cumbersome KYC formalities
- 4. **Extension of PMJDY with New features** The Government decided to extend the comprehensive PMJDY programme beyond 28.8.2018 with some modifications
- o Focus shifted from 'Every Household' to Every Unbanked Adult'
- RuPay Card Insurance Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs for PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018.
- Enhancement in overdraft facilities: OD limit doubled from Rs 5,000/- to Rs 10,000/-; OD upto Rs 2,000/- (without conditions) with Increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to 65 years

### 5. Impact of PMJDY

- PMJDY has been the foundation stone for people-centric economic initiatives. Whether it is direct benefit transfers, COVID-19 financial assistance, PM-KISAN, increased wages under MGNREGA, life and health insurance cover, the first step of all these initiatives is to provide every adult with a bank account, which PMJDY has nearly completed.
- During COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed the remarkable swiftness and seamlessness with which Direct Benefit Transfer (DBTs) have empowered and provided financial security to the vulnerable sections of society. An important aspect is that DBTs via PMJDY accounts have ensured every rupee reaches its intended beneficiary and preventing systemic leakage.
- PMJDY has brought the unbanked into the banking system, expanded the financial architecture of India and brought financial inclusion to almost every adult.

### **PEHCHAN** scheme

PEHCHAN scheme was launched in 2016 to provide new identity to handicraft artisans so that the benefits of various schemes are provided to the deserving artisans. Aadhar linked Pehchan Cards are issued after due verification by field functionaries of Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles. Pehchan card holders can avail the benefits of all the handicrafts schemes implemented by Ministry of Textiles.

- Registered artisans with Pehchan card can avail the benefits of the National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) of Ministry of Textiles.
- The details of financial benefits /assistance provided to registered handicraft artisan under the schemes are as under:
- 1. Skill & Training upgradation, design development workshops, tool kit distributions, marketing platforms, infrastructural support.
- 2. Individual benefits to artisans like Mudra loan, Interest Subvention and Margin Money on Mudra loan.
- 3. Shilp Guru and National Awards to master artisans.
- 4. Monthly pension of Rs. 8,000 to awardee artisans under indigent circumstances.



Under Soil Health Cards (SHCs) Scheme introduced in the year 2014-15, a massive programme of soil sampling, testing and generation of SHCs was launched to assist State Governments to issue soil health cards to all farmers in the country. Soil health card provides information to farmers on

### New Soil Health Card Scheme

nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

### **Technological interventions:**

- The Soil Health Card portal has been revamped and integrated with a Geographic Information System (GIS) system so that all the test results are captured and seen on a map.
- To make the implementation/monitoring of the scheme smooth and to facilitate farmers an easy access to his soil health card, the mobile application has been made robust with the additional features i.e. restrict the sample collection region for the Village Level Entrepreneur/Operator collecting the soil samples, auto selection of the latitude and longitude of the location, generation of a QR code to link with the sample and test results of all samples directly on the portal from the geo-mapped labs, without any manual intervention.
- The new system has already been rolled out from April, 2023 and Samples are collected through mobile application. Soil Health Cards are generated on revamped portal. Training sessions to States have been arranged for the new system.
- Soil Health Card scheme has been merged in Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) cafeteria scheme as its one component under name 'Soil Health & Fertility' from the year 2022-23.
- The Guideline of Village Level Soil Testing Labs (VLSTLs) has been issued. VLSTLs can be set up by individual entrepreneurs i.e. rural youth and community based entrepreneurs i.e. Self Help Groups (SHGs), Schools, Agriculture Universities etc. The beneficiary/village level entrepreneur should be a youth whose age should not be below 18 years and should not be more than 27 years. Self Help Groups, Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) can also be enrolled as VLSTL. Eligibility of enrollment of these groups is decided by District Level Executive Committee (DLEC).
- As per the procedure, an entrepreneur can submit the application along with requisite qualification certificate, PAN Card, Aadhar Card to the office of Deputy Director/District Agriculture Officer. Training of VLSTLs on soil sampling, testing, generation of soil health card is organized by manufacturers and state government. VLSTLs further educate farmers about fertilizer recommendation and crop recommendation.
- Detail Soil Mapping at 1:10000 scale is undertaken using high resolution satellite data and field survey/ ground data in the priority areas of the country by Soil & Land Use Survey of India, DA&FW. This Soil Resource Information is a geo-spatial data in digital format and generated separately from SHC.

### Social forestry schemes

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change encourages plantation in the country including various metropolitan cities through programmes and schemes such as Nagar Van Yojana, School Nursery Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), National Mission for a Green India (GIM), etc. which promotes urban forestry, tree plantation on vacant lands and bunds on farm lands etc. by involving local communities, NGOs, educational institutions, local bodies, etc.
- In respect to urban areas, the Ministry is implementing the Nagar Van Yojana (NVY)the scheme initiated for creation of Nagar Van in urban areas.

### CITIIS 2.0



- Government has approved the 'City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)'. CITIIS 2.0 has been conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), KreditanstaltfürWiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). The period of the program would be for 4 years.
- CITIIS 2.0 has 3 major components:

**Component-1:** Financial and technical support for up to 18 Smart Cities for projects promoting circular economy with focus on Integrated Waste Management.

Component-2: Support to all States/Union Territories (UTs) for Climate action.

Component-3: Interventions at National level to support scale-up across all cities and towns.

- > 12 cities were selected under CITIIS 1.0 program through a challenge process.
- The National Project Management Unit based at NIUA conducts regular visits to project sites and provides necessary support through capacity building and peer-to-peer learning to ensure effective implementation of the program.
- Each project under CITIIS 1.0 was assigned a domestic expert and an international mentor to provide detailed on-site guidance in implementation of the project.
- Additionally, periodic reviews are conducted by the Government at the level of the program Apex Committee headed by the Joint Secretary & Mission Director (SCM), MoHUA.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STREET VENDORS

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme in June, 2020 with the aim to facilitate collateral free working capital loan to street vendors to restart their businesses, which were adversely impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Scheme has the following objectives:
- i. Facilitate collateral free working capital loan up to ₹ 10,000, of 1 year tenure, with enhanced loan of ₹ 20,000 and ₹ 50,000 in the second and third trances respectively, on repayment of earlier loans.
- ii. Incentivize regular repayment, through interest subsidy @ 7% per annum; and
- iii. Reward digital transactions, by way of cash back up to ₹ 1,200 per year.
  - Under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, all street vendors engaged in vending in urban areas are eligible. These Street Vendors should have either a Certificate of Vending (CoV) or a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) issued by the respective Town Vending Committee (TVC).

### Schemes for processing farmers produce in rural areas

- In order to ensure overall development of Food Processing Industries including processing of agro- products, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been incentivizing setting up/expansion of related infrastructure through its Central Sector Umbrella Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) and Centrally sponsored PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme across the country including in rural areas and thus increasing the income of the farmers.
- Under component schemes of PMKSY, MoFPI provides mostly credit linked financial assistance (capital subsidy) in the form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs. The completed projects of PMKSY are estimated to benefit more than 32 lakh farmers across the country. In the evaluation study of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure Scheme conducted by M/s NABARD Consultancy Limited (NABCONS) in Year 2020, it has been estimated that captive projects under the scheme have resulted in increase in farm-gate prices by 12.38 % and each project is estimated to benefit more than 9500 farmers.
- Ministry also provides financial, technical and business support for setting up/ upgradation of 2 lakh micro food processing enterprises under PMFME scheme.
- > PLISFPI is, inter alia, intended to support creation of global food manufacturing champions and support Indian brands of food products in international market.

### **CENSUS OF WATER BODIES**



- Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the first census of water bodies in convergence with the sixth minor irrigation census (reference year 2017-18), under the centrally sponsored scheme – "Irrigation Census". The objective of the census of water bodies is to develop a national database for all water bodies by collecting information on all important aspects of the subject including their size, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity etc.
- The lesser proportion of water bodies in the urban areas is quite obvious since the urban areas have undergone expansions and infrastructural development which might have caused depletion of water bodies. Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.
- All natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing
  water for irrigation or other purposes (e.g. industrial, pisciculture, domestic/drinking, recreation,
  religious, ground water recharge etc.) were treated as water bodies in the first census of water bodies.
  All such water bodies were enumerated in rural as well as urban areas as per the master data provided by
  the States/UTs at the time of launch of the census.

 The first census of water bodies was conducted in convergence with the sixth Minor Irrigation census. As per usual practice, the census was conducted by the State/UT Governments through nodal department identified in each State /UT for this purpose. The primary work of collection of data was carried out by the enumerators who were either village level workers or village accountants or Lekhpals or Patwaries or any other official designated by the State/UT Government. The overall quality of field work was monitored by Block/District level/ State level officers.

### Central government schemes for labourers

- Government is implementing various schemes for the welfare of the labourers. In this regard, Ministry has developed eShram portal for creating a comprehensive database of unorganised workers.
- The Life and Disability cover is provided through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).
- The Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) provides health cover. In order to provide old age protection to unorganised sector workers the Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Pension Scheme in 2019.
- Other schemes such as public Distribution System through One Nation One Ration Card Scheme under National Food Security Act, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Gareeb Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, PMSVANidhi, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana etc. are also available for the unorganized workers including labourers depending upon their eligibility criteria.
- Apart from these schemes, a few more schemes available are Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY), Unemployment benefit under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA), National Social Assistance Program, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (PM-GKRA), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM KMDY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi etc. Data matching exercise of eShram data with other schemes' data has been done.

### Green Technology in MSMEs

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing MSME Champions Scheme in order to enhance competitiveness of MSMEs to make them competitive in foreign markets. MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme a component under MSME Champions Scheme provides financial support for technology up-gradation for moving towards zero effect solution/pollution control measures/cleaner technology.
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has taken several initiatives to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in MSMEs. These inter-alia include MSME Innovative Scheme, Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) to generate more employment through self employment or entrepreneurship of MSMEs in the country.

### Naya Savera Scheme

- The Ministry implemented 'Naya Savera' scheme ('Free Coaching and Allied' scheme) to assist students/candidates belonging to the six notified minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations for admission in technical/professional courses and competitive examination for recruitment to Group Á, 'B', & 'C' services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments including public sector undertakings, banks and railways.
- The scheme was implemented across the country through empaneled Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

### PM JI-VAN YOJANA

- In March, 2019, Government had notified the "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana" for providing financial support to integrated bio-ethanol projects for setting up Second Generation (2G) ethanol projects in the country using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstocks.
- Apart from financial support through PM JI-VAN Yojana, other steps taken to promote 2G Ethanol Plants include imposition of additional excise duty on non-blended fuels; off take assurance by OMCs for 15 years to private stakeholders by signing Ethanol Purchase Agreements (EPA); diversification of feedstock for 2G ethanol production; separate price for 2G ethanol, lowered GST rate to 5% on ethanol for EBP Programme; etc.



### Rajmargyatra

➤ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes a significant stride towards improving the highway user experience with the launch of 'Rajmargyatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application. This user-friendly app is now available for download on both Google Play Store and iOS App Store, empowering travelers with comprehensive information on Indian National Highways while also offering an efficient complaint redressal system. The app is currently available in Hindi and English.

### Key Features of 'Rajmargyatra' App:

- Comprehensive Highway Information: 'Rajmargyatra' serves as a one-stop repository of essential information for National Highway users. Get real-time weather conditions, timely broadcast notifications, and access to details about nearby toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels, and other essential services that ensure a seamless and safe journey on National Highways.
- Hassle-Free Complaint Redressal: The app comes equipped with an inbuilt complaint redressal and escalation mechanism. Users can easily report highway-related issues, attaching geo-tagged videos or photos for better clarity. The registered complaints will be handled in a time-bound manner, with system-generated escalations to higher authorities in case of any delays. Users can also track the status of their grievances for complete transparency.
- Seamless FASTag Services: 'Rajmargyatra' integrates its services with various bank portals, making it convenient for users to recharge their FASTags, avail monthly passes, and access other FASTag-related banking services – all within a single platform.
- > Over-speeding notifications and voice-assistance to encourage responsible and safe driving behavior.



### **District Mental Health Programme**

- For providing affordable and accessible mental healthcare facilities in the country, the Government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 738 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission.
- Facilities made available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre(CHC) and Primary Health Centre(PHC) levels, include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions,

continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc.

- Under the tertiary care component of NMHP, 25 Centres of Excellence have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialities as well as to provide tertiary level treatment facilities. Further, the Government has also supported 19 Government medical colleges/institutions to strengthen 47 PG Departments in mental health specialities. Mental Health Services are also provisioned for 22 AIIMS. These services are also available under PMJAY.
- The Government is also augmenting the availability of manpower to deliver mental healthcare services in the underserved areas of the country by providing online training courses to various categories of general healthcare medical and para medical professionals through the Digital Academies, since 2018, established at the Central Mental Health Institutes.
- In addition to the above, mental health services have been added in the package of services under Comprehensive Primary Health Care under Ayushman Bharat – HWC Scheme. Operational guidelines on Mental, Neurological, and substance use disorders (MNS) at Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) have been released under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat.
- Besides the above, the Government has launched a "National Tele Mental Health Programme" in October, 2022, to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in the country.

### PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16 to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, consisting of two major components being implemented by Ministry of Jal Shakti, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP). HKKP, in turn, consists of four sub-components: (i) Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM); (ii) Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI); (iii) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies; and (iv) Ground Water (GW) Development (approval only till 2021-2022, and thereafter only for ongoing works). Further, in 2016, CAD&WM sub-component of HKKP was taken up for pari passu implementation with AIBP.
- In addition, PMKSY also consists of Watershed Development Component (WDC) which is being implemented by Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development. Further, Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) was also a component of PMKSY during 2015-22, and is now being implemented separately by DoA&FW.

### DAMS AND NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT



- To safeguard the dams across the country, Dam Safety Act, 2021 has been enacted by the Union Government for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of the specified dams.
- > The Act aims for preventing dam failure related disasters and provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- As per the provisions of the Act; at national level, National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) has been constituted, whose functions inter alia are to evolve dam safety policies and recommend necessary regulations.
- Under this Act, a regulatory body i.e. National Dam Safety Authority has also been created, whose functions inter alia include implementing policies of the National Committee, providing technical assistance to State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSO), and resolving matters between SDSOs of States or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that State and to maintain liaison with the State Dam Safety Organisations and the owners of the specified dams for standardization of dam safety related data and practices, and related technical or managerial assistance.
- Further, at the State level, Act provides for the constitution/establishment of the State Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organisation by the State Government for the purpose of maintaining standards of dam safety and prevention of dam failure related disasters for the dams located in the State. Further, State Dam Safety Organisation shall have to render its instructions to the owner of a specified dam on the safety or the remedial measures required to be taken.
- There are four major components of National Hydrology Project *i.e.*, (i) Water Resources Monitoring System, (ii) Water Resources Information System, (iii) Water Resources Operations and Planning System, and (iv) Institutional Capacity Enhancement.
- National Hydrology Project only supports the studies related to flood forecasting taken up by the Implementing agencies.

### Nagar Van Yojana

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.

- Nagar Van Yojana envisages creating 1000 Nagar Van / Nagar Vatika in Cities 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.
- Besides NVY, the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), under which, in addition to other submissions, 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.

### SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNT COMMUNITIES

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT Communities (SEED)", for welfare of DNT communities, having following four components:-

(i) To provide coaching of good quality for DNT candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations;

- (ii) To provide Health Insurance to them;
- (iii) To facilitate livelihood initiative at community level; and
- (iv) To provide financial assistance for construction of houses for members of these communities.

**Nutritious Cereals in Dietary Schemes** 



- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been promoting incorporation of millets as part of a healthy and diverse diet among different sections of people through its Eat Right India initiatives.
- FSSAI has also prepared a millet-based recipe book called 'Shree Anna (Millets) Recipes A Healthy Menu for Mess/Canteens'. The book contains regional specific recipes from East, West, North and South. Shree Anna are also included under the Poshan Abhiyan of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Further, the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution has revised its guidelines to increase the procurement of Shree Anna under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal.
- The Ministry has also advised the State Governments and Union Territories to increase the procurement of Shree Anna. An Export Promotion Forum dedicated to promotion of Shree Anna in the international market has been set up to facilitate promotion, marketing and development of Shree Anna exports from India.
- As a part of promotional activities of International Year of Millets (IYM)-2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) is promoting Shree Anna during India's G20 presidency.

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Neha Jain 1 review **UPSC 2021-RANK 152** 

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### ★★★★★ 3 years ago

CORE IAS is really an exceptional institute. While other institutes majorly focuses on Prelims part, CORE IAS lays exceptional emphasis on Mains and Answer writing which I believe is a trickiest part of UPSC.

It's very hard to find such a dedicated and passionate teacher like AMIT sir. Really fortunate to be a part of this family.

It was only because of you sir that I was able to unveil the true requirement of the exam.

6

Highly recommended for those students trying to brush up their Answer writing and Critical thinking.



### ★★★★★ 3 years ago

The Core IAS is the best coaching centre for those aspirants who are ready for the self hardwork and are in a dire need for the right kind of direction. Amit Sir specially gives individual attention to the serious candidates and motivates keeping the spirit high. What I have gained from them is how to tackle exam both prelims and mains. And I m also thankful for the strategy they gave for ANSWER WRITING... I highly recommend everyone to join Amit Sir class and gain as much as possible, rather than going for the big names!!!

Thank you so much Sir and the core IAS team...for your continuous efforts and hardwork.



★★★★★ 3 years ago

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The pedagogy engaged here ensures a holistic development with respect to the exam. The tutelage of Amit Sir ensures that each and every **student** delivers his/her best.



### Kavita Goyal

1 review

### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 6 months ago

The Core IAS is a well-established IAS coaching centre in Delhi. It has helped numerous **students** secure a seat in IAS and other competitive exams. The institute provides top-notch coaching in the right mix of discipline and flexibility. Its strong focus on building concepts and clarity of mind is what makes it one of the best IAS coaching centres in Delhi.



### chandan gupta

1 review

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### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 11 months ago

THE CORE IAS is a very trustworthy coaching for IAS in Delhi. I have taken coaching from them and I got the best results. The faculty here is very experienced and they have the capability of making a **student** learn the subject very easily. They teach the **students** according to their level and they really motivate their **students** to give their best. The fees here is very low when compared to other institutes.



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### vinay goswami

1 review

### $\star \star \star \star \star \star$ 3 months ago

There is two things to do anything, intent and content , Amit Jain sir has provided both a good intent to help **students** in all possible way and second providing best content according to the demand of exam



1 review

### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 10 months ago

I joined the core IAS institute recently for best upsc test series in delhi and i m really satisfied by their way of training and motivating , with very good faculties. The core IAS is providing everything from their end and molding us. Even they are providing with study materials for all subjects and they leave no doubts in the mind of **students** which leads them as top rated IAS coaching in delhi.

### Shivi Chauhan

3 reviews

### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 3 months ago

Core ias is one of the best institute for upsc preparation , specially Amit Jain sir is very good mentor he provide constant guidance to his **students** and always support and motivate them to work hard , his answer writing course is Excellent , the guidance he provide for prelims is great....



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Mani Sharma 1 review

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### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 5 months ago

The Core IAS has helped numerous **students** secure a seat in IAS. The Core IAS is the best IAS institute in Delhi.I am so happy I found The Core IAS. The Core IAS is the excellent IAS coaching in Delhi.



### Alisha Asija

6 reviews · 9 photos

### $\star \star \star \star \star \star$ 6 months ago

I am an aspiring civil servant and I was looking for an IAS coaching institute in Delhi to prepare for the IAS exams. I wanted to join an institute that had a great location, flexible timings and seemed to have a great teacher-**student** ratio. The Core IAS met all of these requirements and I felt confident that I could learn a lot from this institute as I prepared for the toughest exam in the country.The Core IAS is the best IAS institute in Delhi.



### Kavita Goyal

1 review

### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ 6 months ago

The Core IAS is a well-established IAS coaching centre in Delhi. It has helped numerous **students** secure a seat in IAS and other competitive exams. The institute provides top-notch coaching in the right mix of discipline and flexibility. Its strong focus on building concepts and clarity of mind is what makes it one of the best IAS coaching centres in Delhi.

# **OUR CLASSROOM RESULTS NOT OF INTERVIEW**











































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