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TESTIMONIALS



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The Land and People

• Physical Features

- ➤ The mainland comprises four regions, namely, the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region and the southern peninsula.
- The mountain wall extends over a distance of about 2,400 km with a varying depth of 240 to 320 km.
- ► In the east, between India and Myanmar and India and Bangladesh, hill ranges are much lower.
- Garo, Khasi, Jaintia and Naga Hills, running almost east-west, join the chain to Mizo and Rakhine Hills running north-south.
- The plains of the Ganga and the Indus, about 2,400 km long and 240 to 320 km broad, are formed by basins of three distinct river systems the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.
- The desert region can be divided into two parts the 'great desert' and the 'little desert'.
- The great desert extends from the edge of the Rann of Kutch beyond the Luni river northward. The whole of the Rajasthan-Sind frontier runs through this.
- ► The little desert extends from the Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur up to the northern west.
- The Peninsular Plateau is marked off from the plains of the Ganga and the Indus by a mass of mountain and hill ranges varying from 460 to 1,220 metres in height. Prominent among these are the Aravali, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta.
- The southern point of the plateau is formed by the Nilgiri Hills where the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet.
- The Cardamom Hills lying beyond may be regarded as a continuation of the Western Ghats.

Geological Structure

The geological regions broadly follow the physical features and may be grouped into three regions:

India at a Glance:

- Geographical Area: 32,87,263 sq. Km (seventh largest country in the world)
- Latitude & Longitude: The mainland extends between latitudes 8°4' and 37°6' north, longitudes 68°7' and 97°25' east.
- Distance: from north to south: about 3,214 km between the extreme latitudes and about 2,933 km from east to west between the extreme longitudes.
- Land frontier of about 15,200 km. The total length of the coastline of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 7,516.6 km.
- Bordering Countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west, China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Myanmar to the far East and Bangladesh to the east. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.
- **Divided into six zones** mainly north, south, east, west, central and north-east zone and It has 29 states and seven union territories

Notable Passes:

- Jelep La and Nathu La on the main Indo-Tibet trade route through the Chumbi valley, north-east of Darjeeling and
- Shipki La in the Satluj valley, northeast of Kalpa (Kinnaur)



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the Himalayas and their associated group of mountains, the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the Peninsular Shield.

- The Himalayan mountain belt to the north and the Naga-Lushai mountain in the east, are the regions of mountain-building movement (by compression of sendiment and basement rocks)
- ► The Indo-Ganga plains are a **great alluvial tract** that separates the Himalayas in the north from the Peninsula in the south.
- The Peninsula is a region of relative stability and occasional seismic disturbances (igneous, metamorph and Deccan Trap formation).

River Systems

- The river systems of India can be classified into four groups viz.,
 - Himalayan rivers,
 - Deccan rivers,
 - Coastal rivers and
 - Rivers of the inland drainage basin.



- The Himalayan Rivers are formed by melting snow and glaciers and therefore, continuously flow throughout the year. The main Himalayan river systems are those of the Indus and the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system.
- The Deccan Rivers on the other hand are rain-fed and therefore fluctuate in volume. Many of these are non perennial. In the Deccan region, most of the major river systems flowing generally in the east fall into Bay of Bengal.

- The major east flowing rivers are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Mahanadi. Narmada and Tapti are major west flowing rivers. The Godavari in the southern Peninsula has the second largest river basin covering 10 per cent of the area of India.
- The Coastal streams, especially on the west coast are short in length and have limited catchment areas. Most of them are non-perennial.
- The streams of inland drainage basin of western Rajasthan few rivers in Rajasthan do not drain into the sea. These are Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others.
- The entire country has been divided into 20 river basins/group of river basins comprising 12 major basins and eight composite river basins. The 12 major river basins are : (1) Indus, (2) Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna, (3) Godavari, (4) Krishna, (5) Cauvery, (6) Mahanadi, (7) Pennar, (8) Brahmani-Baitarani, (9) Sabarmati, (10) Mahi, (11) Narmada and (12) Tapti. Each of these basins has a drainage area exceeding 20,000 sq. km.
- The eight composite river basins combining suitably together all the other remaining medium (drainage area of 2,000 to 20,000 sq. km) and small river systems (drainage area less than 2000 sq. km) for the purpose of planning and management.

• Climate/Seasons

- The climate of India may be broadly described as tropical monsoon type. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) designates four official seasons:
 - Winter, from December to early April.
 - Summer or pre-monsoon season, lasting from April to June (April to July in north-western India).
 - Monsoon or rainy season, lasting from June to September. The season is dominated by the humid south-west summer monsoon.
 - Post-monsoon season, lasting from October to December. In north-western India, October and November are usually cloudless.
- India's climate is affected by two seasonal winds—the north-east monsoon and the south-west monsoon. The north-east monsoon commonly known as winter monsoon blows from land to sea. The south-west monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year in the country.

• Flora

- India is rich in flora. From about 70 per cent geographical area surveyed so far, over 46,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata.
- ► The vascular flora, which forms the conspicuous vegetation cover, comprises 15,000 species.
- ► India can be divided into eight distinct floral regions, namely, the western Himalayas, the eastern Himalayas, Assam, the Indus plain, the Ganga plain, the Deccan, the Malabar and the Andamans.
- The western Himalayan region extends from Kashmir to Kumaon. Its temperate zone is rich in forests of chir, pine, other conifers and broad-leaved temperate trees. Higher up, forests of deodar, blue pine, spruce and silver fir occur.
- ➤ The eastern Himalayan region extends from Sikkim eastwards and embraces Darjeeling, Kurseong and the adjacent tracts. The temperate zone has forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch.
- The Indus plain region comprises the plains of Punjab, western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat. It is dry, hot and supports natural vegetation.
- The Ganga plain region covers the area which is alluvial plain and is under cultivation for wheat, sugarcane and rice.
- The Deccan region comprises the entire table land of the Indian Peninsula and supports vegetation of various kinds from shrub jungles to mixed deciduous forests.
- The Malabar region covers the excessively humid belt of mountain country parallel to the west coast of the Peninsula. Besides being rich in forest vegetation, this region produces important commercial crops, such as coconut, betelnut, pepper, coffee, tea, rubber and cashewnut.



- > The Andaman region abounds in evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests.
- Owing to destruction of forests for agricultural, industrial and urban development, several Indian plants are facing threat of extinction. About 1,336 plant species are considered vulnerable and endangered. BSI brings out an inventory of endangered plants in the form of a publication titled 'Red Data Book.'

• Faunal Resources

- India is very rich in terms of biological diversity due to its unique biogeographical location, diversified climate conditions and enormous ecodiversity and geodiversity.
- India's immense biological diversity encompasses ecosystems, populations, species and their genetic make-up.
- According to world biogeographic classification, India represents two of the major realms (the Palearctic and Indo-Malayan) and three biomes (Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry/Deciduous Forests and Warm Deserts/Semi-Deserts).
- The Wildlife Institute of India has proposed a modified classification which divides the country into ten biogeographic regions: Trans- Himalayan, Himalayan, Indian Desert, Semi-Arid, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plain, North-East India, Islands and Coasts.
- Within only about 2 per cent of world's total land surface, India is known to have over 7.50 per cent of the species of animals that the world holds.

DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

• Census 2011 was the 15th Census of its kind since 1872

Population

- The population of India as on March 1, 2011 stood at **1,210.9 million (623.2 million males and 587.6 million females**). Currently it is estimated at near 138 crors.
- India accounts for a meagre 2.4 per cent of the world surface area of 135.79 million sq.km. Yet, it supports and sustains a whopping per cent (17.7%) of the world population.

Population Density

- The population density of India in 2011 was **382 per sq**. km-decadal growth **17.72 per cent**.
- The density of population increased in all states and union territories between 1991 and 2011. Among major states, Bihar is the most thickly populated state with (a population density of)
 1,106 persons per sq.km followed by West Bengal 1,028 and Kerala 860.

► Sex Ratio

• Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time.



- The sex ratio in the country has always remained unfavourable to females. As per the **census 2011 the sex ratio in India is 943 per 1000 males** which were 933 in the previous census 2001.
- Child sex ratio has declined to 919 per thousand male.

► Literacy



- For the purpose of census 2011, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate.
- The literacy rate in the country is 73.0 per cent, 80.9 for males and 64.6 for females.
- **Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 94 per cent literacy rate**, closely followed by Lakshadweep (91.9 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 61.8 per cent ranks last in the country.
- **Bihar has recorded the lowest literacy rates** both in case of males (71.2 per cent) and females (51.5 per cent).

• Migration

- Census of India records migration by two methods, namely: place of last residence and place of birth.
- About 455.8 million peop le were treated as migrants by place of last residence, 141.9 million were considered to be migrants between the period 2001 and 2011.



- And a major chunk of the migrants in India (84.8 per cent) in the period 2001-2011 were within the state of enumeration.
- > Only 15.6 per cent of migrants were considered inter-state migrants.
- Similarly, within the states/union territories, 64.9 per cent of the migration in the period 20012011 happened within the district of enumeration and the rest 35.1 per cent migrants were inter-district migrants.

Fertility and Mortality Rates

- > A TFR of about 2.1 children per woman is called Replacement-level fertility.
- From a TFR of 2.6 in 2008 to 2.2 in 2018, India has gradually moved towards achieving the replacement level of fertility.

► Crude Birth Rate

• CBR in India has reached 20.0 per 1,000 population in 2018.

Crude Death Rate

• The Crude Death Rate for India in 2018 was 6.2 per 1,000 population, gradually down from 7.4 in 2008.

► Infant Mortality Rate

• India has been able to drastically reduce the Infant Mortality Rate from 53 in 2008 to 32 in 2018.

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National Symbols

The Republic of India has several official national symbols. These symbols are intrinsic to the Indian identity and heritage. These are discussed as follows:

• National Flag

▶ Features

- The National Flag is a horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (kesaria) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion.
- The ratio of width of the flag to its length is 2:3. In the center of the white band is a navy-blue wheel which represents the chakra.
- Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes.
- The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.
- The flag is based on the Swaraj flag, a flag of the Indian National Congress designed by Pingali Venkayya.

> Constitutional & Statutory Provisions Related to National Flag

• Art 51A(a) - To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

Statutes Governing Use of Flag

- Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950
- Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971

▶ Flag Code of India, 2002

- There is no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of general public, private organizations, educational institutions, etc., except as provided for by the above statutes.
- Half-mast: The flag should be flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning. The decision to do so lies with the President of India, who also decides the period of such mourning.

➤ Significance

As clarified by Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, its significance is as follows:

- The saffron color denotes renunciation or disinterestedness.
- The white in the center is light, the path of truth to guide our conduct.
- The green shows our relation to the soil, our relation to the plant life here, on which all other life depends.
- The "Ashoka Chakra" is the wheel of the law of dharma.



• State Emblem

▶ Features

- Adapted from the Sarnath Lion Capitol of Ashoka, it is carved out of a single block of polished sandstone. The Capitol is crowned by the Wheel of the Law.
- In the state emblem, adopted by the Government of India (by Madhav Sawhney) in 1950 on January 26, 1950, only 3 lions are visible.
- The wheel appears in the center of the abacus with a bull on right and a horse on left.
- The outlines of other wheels on extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted.
- The words Satyameva Jayate from Mundaka Upanishad, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs', are inscribed below the abacus in Devanagari script.
- The use of the state emblem, as the official seal of the Government of India, is regulated by the State of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005. No individual or private organization is permitted to use the emblem for official correspondence.

• National Anthem

- The song Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950.
- First sung on December 27, 1911 at the Kolkata Session of the Indian National Congress, the duration
 of the National Anthem is approximately 52 seconds.

National Song

- ► The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom.
- ▶ It has an equal status with Jana-gana-mana.
- ▶ It was first sung at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

• National Calendar

- The National Calendar based on the Saka Era, with Chaitra as its first month and a normal year of 365 days was adopted from March 22, 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar for:
 - Gazette of India
 - News broadcast by All India Radio
 - Calendars issued by the Government of India
 - Government communications addressed to the public.
- > Dates of the National Calendar have a permanent correspondence with dates of the Gregorian calendar, 1 Chaitra falling on March 22 normally and on March 21 in leap year.

Other national symbols

- National Flower: Indian Lotus (Nelumbo nucifera)
- National Fruit: Mango Mango (Mangifera indica)
- National River: Ganga
- National Tree: Indian banyan (Ficus bengalensis)
- National Animal: Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera tigristigris)
- National Aquatic Animal: Gangetic dolphin (Platanista gangetica).
- National Bird: Indian peacock (Pavo cristatus)
- National Currency: Indian Rupee (sign: ₹; code: INR)



INDIA, a union of states, is a **Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic** with a parliamentary system of government. The Republic is governed in terms of the Constitution, which was adopted by Constituent Assembly on **November 26, 1949** and came into force on **January 26, 1950**. The Constitution which envisages parliamentary form of government is federal in structure with unitary features.

- ➤ The President of India is the constitutional head of executive of the union. Article 74(1) of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head to aid and advise the President who shall in exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. The real executive power thus vests in the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head.
- ➤ The Constitution distributes legislative power between Parliament and State Legislatures and provides for vesting of residual powers in Parliament. The power to amend the Constitution also vests in Parliament. The Constitution has provision for independence of Judiciary, Comptroller and Auditor-General, Public Service Commissions and Chief Election Commission.
- ➤ The functions of Parliament are varied in nature. The time at its disposal is limited. It cannot make very detailed scrutiny of all legislative and other matters that come up before it. A good deal of Parliamentary business is, therefore, transacted in the committees.
- ► Both Houses of Parliament have a similar committee structure, with few exceptions. Their appointment, terms of office, functions and procedure of conducting business are also more or less similar and are regulated as per rules made by the two Houses under **Article 118(1)** of the Constitution.

• Citizenship

Citizenship (Amendment) Act

- The amended Act makes foreign illegal migrants of six religious communities, i.e., Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for Indian citizenship.
- It is applicable to those who have taken shelter in India due to persecution on grounds of religion or fear of such persecution in their countries and have entered into India on or before December 31, 2014.
- The Third Schedule to the Act has been amended to make applicants belonging to the said communities from the three countries eligible for citizenship by naturalisation, if they can establish their residency in India for five years instead of the previous requirement of eleven years.
- The provisions of the Act, however, do not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and the areas where 'The Inner Line Permit' is applicable including the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

o Fundamental Rights

The Constitution offers all citizens, individually and collectively, some basic freedoms. These are guaranteed in the Constitution in the form of six broad categories of Fundamental Rights which are justiciable. Articles 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights.



Directive Principles of State Policy

➤ The Constitution lays down certain Directive Principles of State Policy, which though not justiciable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country' and it is the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws. These have been contained in Part IV from Articles 36 to 51 of the Constitution.

• The Union Executive

• The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President and the Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President.

• Legislature

Legislature of the Union which is called Parliament, consists of the President and two Houses, known as Council of States (Rajya Sabha), and House of the People (Lok Sabha). Each House has to meet within six months of its previous sitting. A joint sitting of two Houses can be held in certain cases.

Government Business in Parliament

▶ The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is entrusted with coordinating, planning and arranging government business in both Houses of Parliament. In discharge of this function, he is assisted by two ministers of state.

• Consultative Committees

- Functioning of Consultative Committees of Members of Parliament for various ministries is one of the functions allocated to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.
- > The minimum membership of a Consultative Committee is ten and the maximum membership is thirty.
- ▶ The Consultative Committee stands dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha and are reconstituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha.

Parliamentary Committees



• Youth Parliament Competition

► In order to develop democratic ethos in the younger generation the Ministry conducts Youth Parliament Competitions in various categories of schools and colleges/universities.

• Cabinet Secretariat

- > The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister.
- The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairmen
 of the Civil Services Board.
- The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat is (i) secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and (ii) rules of business.
- It facilitates smooth transaction of business in ministries/departments of the government by ensuring adherence to these rules.
- ► It assists in decision-making by ensuring inter-ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst ministries/departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing and ad hoc Committees of Secretaries.

• National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention

- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons is a multilateral international treaty which outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors. The CWC came into force with effect from 1997.
- ➤ The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) was set up as an office of the Cabinet Secretariat, on behalf of the Government of India, the obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to act as the national focal point for effective liaison with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other state parties on matters relating to the Convention.

• National Disaster Management Authority

In 2005, the government enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to disasters management in the country.

• Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for administrative reforms as well as redressal of public grievances relating the states in general and those pertaining to central government agencies in particular.

• Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

 Government of India instituted 'Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration' to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by officers of the central and state governments.

• Civil Services Day

The Government of India celebrates April, 21 every year as 'Civil Services Day' for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitment to public service and excellence in work.

• National Conference on e-Governance

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in association with one of the state governments organises the National Conference on e-Governance every year since 1997.



National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

- National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) aims at assessing the states, UTs and central ministries on the depth and efficiency of e- Governance service delivery.
- ➤ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) brings out the UN e-Government Survey every two years which provides an analysis of progress in using e-Government. India stood at 118 in 2014 which improved to 107 in 2016 and 96 in 2018, out of 193 member countries.

• e-Office Project

- ▶ e-Office is one of the important Mission Mode Projects for implementing the Digital India Plan.
- ► The DAR & PG is the administrative ministry for ensuring e-Office implementation.
- It aims to increase the usage of workflow and rule based fi le routing, quick research and retrieval of files and office order, digital signatures, forms and reporting components.

• Dashboard for Covid-19 Grievances

- During preventive lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, DARPG started special drive to redress lock down and Covid-19 related grievances in shortest possible time. To ensure dedicated monitoring of those grievances a separate National Monitoring Dashboard for Covid-19 grievances was created.
- All central ministries and state governments have nominated a nodal officer for prompt disposal of such grievances.

• Good Governance Index

- DARPG has developed Good Governance Index (GGI) for ten key sectors across 50 indicators. These
 indicators can be used to assess the status of governance and impact of various interventions taken
 up by the state governments and the union territories for improving governance.
- First edition of GGI was released by DARPG on December 25,2020 on the occasion of Good Governance Day.

• Integration of Awaaz-e-Awam with CPGRAMS

 Public grievance portal of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been integrated with Centralized Public Grievance Portal of Government of India for seamless transfer of grievances to the authorities responsible for redressal and effective monitoring for their prompt disposal.

• National Centre of Good Governance

- National Centre of Good Governance (NCGG) is an autonomous institute under DARPG which serves as a think tank for governance and policy reforms, cutting across administrative, social, economic and financial spheres.
- It functions as a national repository on information on best practices, initiatives and methodologies that promote good governance, e-Governance, innovation and change management within the government.



Agriculture

Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. 54.6 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities (census 2011) and it contributes 17.4 per cent to the country's Gross Value Added (current price 2016-17). Given the importance of this sector, Government of India took several steps for its sustainable development. The government launced soil health card scheme, Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for improvement in soil health, improve irrigation facilities, boost organic farming and to reduce agriculture risk respectively.

Three Departments under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare:

- ► The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW)
- Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD&F)
- > Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)

• Production

- ► As per 4th Advance Estimates for 2017-18, total foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 284.83 million tonnes which is higher than what was produced during 2016--17.
- As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2018-19, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 284.95 million tonnes (with Rice at 116.42 million tonnes and wheat 102.19 million tonnes) which is higher by 19.20 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2013-14 to 2017-18) average production of foodgrain.

• National Policy for Farmers

Government of India approved the National Policy for Farmers (NPF) in 2007. Many of the provisions
of the NPF are being implemented by different central government departments and ministries.

• Major Programmes

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
 - The scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore for a period of 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20).
 - The mission is administered by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Per Drop More Crop component being administered by DAC&FW.
 - Major objective of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop), promote sustainable water conservation practices, etc.



Agriculture Credit

- Government announces annual target for agriculture credit in the budget every year. Agricultural credit flow has shown consistent progress every year. The agriculture credit flow target for 2017- 18 has been fixed at ₹10,00,000 crore.
- The Department implements the Interest Subvention Scheme under which interest subvention is provided on short-term crop loans upto₹3 lakh for a period of one year which is made available to farmers at subvented interest rate of 7 per cent per annum and in case of timely repayment, the same gets reduced to 4 per cent per annum.

Crop Insurance

- In order to protect farmers against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases,weather conditions, Government of India introduced the National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) with component schemes of Modified National Agricultural Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS).
- A new scheme *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana* (PMFBY) has been introduced along with pilotUnified Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) and restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS). Under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2 per cent will be paid by farmers for all kharif crops and 1.5 per cent for all rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the maximum premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5 per cent. Balance premium will be paid by the Government.

• Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

Commission for 'Agricultural Costs and Prices' (CACP) set up with a view to evolve a balanced andintegrated price structure, is mandated to advice on the price policy (MSP) of 23 crops.

• Minimum Support Prices

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ➤ In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, government agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by thefarmers at the announced minimum price.

Determinants of MSP

- **Cost of production (CoP**) is one of the important factors in the determination of MSP of mandated crops.
- Besides cost, the Commission considers other important factors such as **demand and supply, price trend in the domestic and international markets, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors** and the likely impact of MSPs on consumers, in addition to ensuring rational utilization of natural resources like land and water.
- The pricing policy is rooted not in 'cost plus' approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE). Formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was established on July 16, 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. With its headquarters at New Delhi, the ICAR is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture includinghorticulture, fisheries and animal sciences.
- In this endeavour, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has played a vital role by way of technology development, demonstration and transfer in India. With 101 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country, this is one of the largest national agriculturalsystems in the world.
- ➤ The ICAR has played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development that has enabled the country to increase the production of foodgrains by 5.4 times, horticultural crops by 10.1 times, fish by 15.2 times, milk 9.7 times and eggs 48.1 times since 1951 to 2017. This has enabled a visible impact on the national food and nutritional security. It has played a major role in promoting excellence in higher education in agriculture.
- ➤ The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of the country has taken up number of activities through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other programmes for application of farm technologies in farmers'field.

• Soil and Water Productivity

- The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) developed NBSS BHOOMI Geo-portal to access various thematic information on major physiographic regions, subphysiographic regions, agro-ecological regions (1992), agro-ecological regions (2015) and agroecological sub-regions of the country.
- Area/region specific efficient and remunerative crops and cropping sequences were delineated based on soils, landforms, rainfall temperature, length of growing period and irrigability.

• Genetic Resources

➤ The Geographical Information System (GIS) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) of India was developed as a standalone package by which the users can extract and highlight habitats of selected breeds on the map.

Geographic information system:

• It is a conceptualized framework that provides the ability to capture and analyze spatial and geographic data.

• Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

- Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries activities, along with agriculture, continue to be an integral part of human life since the process of civilization started.
- These activities have contributed not only to the food basket and draught animal power but also by maintaining ecological balance.
- Owing to conducive climate and topography, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors have played prominent socio-economic role in India.
- Livestock production and agriculture are intrinsically linked, each being dependent on the other, and both crucial for overall food security. Livestock sector is an important subsector of the agriculture ofIndian economy.
- There are about 300 million bovines, 65.07 million sheep, 135.2 million goats and about 10.3 million pigs as per 19th livestock census in the country.



Livestock Improvement

- Improvement of indigenous cattle breeds through selection project was conceptualized for the genetic improvement of Gir, Kankrej and Sahiwal cattle in their home tracts. Under network project of buffalo improvement Nli-Ravi, Bhadawari and Swamp breed centres are functioning as conservation and improvement units whereas Jaffarabadi, Pandarpuri and Surti breed centres are concentrating on field progeny testing and maintaining the elite herd for bull production.
- All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on goat improvement covered 13 tribal villages and contributed for a better livelihood security for tribal people as goats are major source of income to poor people in tribal areas and North-Eastern Hill region.

• Livestock Production

- According to estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value of output livestock sectorat current prices is about 28.5 per cent of the value of output from agricultural and allied sector(during 2015-16). India continues to be the largest producer of milk in the world.
- Milk production during 2016-17 and 2017-18 was 165.4 million tonnes and 176.3 million tonnes respectively showing an annual growth of 6.62 percent. The per capita availability of milk was around 375 grams per day in 2017-18.
- Poultry production has taken a quantum leap in the last four decades, emerging from an unscientific farming practice to commercial production system with state-of-the art technological interventions. Currently the total poultry population is 729.21 million (as per 19th Livestock Census) and egg production was around 88.14 billion during 2016-17.
- > The per capita availability (2017-18) was around 74 eggs per annum.

Central Statistics Office:

- The Central Statistics Office is a governmental agency in India under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation responsible for co-ordination of statistical activities in India, and evolving and maintaining statistical standards.
- It has a well-equipped Graphical Unit.
- The CSO is located in Delhi.

• Wool Production

Wool production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13 was46.05 million kgs and increased to 48.1 million kgs in 2014-15 but declined to43.5 million kgs in 2016-17. The production has shown negative growth during 2017-18.

Meat Production

 Meat production in the beginning of Twelfth Plan (2012-13) was 5.95 million tonnes which further increased to 7.7 million tonnes in 2017-18.

• Fisheries Production

► The country has vast potential for fisheries in view of long coastline of about 8,118 kms apart from the inland water resources. During 2017-18, India exported ₹ 13,77,244 tonnes fish and fisheries products worth ₹45,106.89 crore.

National Livestock Mission

➤ For sustainable and continuous growth of livestock sector by emulating the success achieved in dairyand poultry sectors, across species and regions, the National Livestock Mission was launched in 2014-15 with an approved outlay of Rs. 2,800 crore during XII Plan.



- ➤ This Mission is formulated with the objectives of sustainable development of livestock sector, focusing on improving availability of quality feed and fodder, risk coverage, effective extension, improved low of credit and organisation of livestock farmers/rearers, etc.
- ► The followings are sub-missions of the National livestock mission:
 - Sub-mission on livestock development.
 - Sub-mission on pig development in north-eastern region.
 - Sub-mission on fodder and feed development.
 - Sub-mission on skill development, technology transfer and extension.

• Livestock Health

- ▶ With improvement in the quality of livestock through cross-breeding programmes, the susceptibility of these livestock to various diseases including exotic diseases has increased.
- ➤ In order to reducemorbidity and mortality, efforts are being made by the state/union territory governments to provide better health care through polyclinics/veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and first-aid centres including mobile veterinary dispensaries available in the states.
- At present, the Drugs Controller General of India regulates the quality of veterinary drugs and biological.

• Livestock Census

- The first Livestock census was conducted during 1919-1920 and since then it is being conducted quinquennially by all states/UTs of the country.
- It is the only source, which gives disaggregated information on various species of farm animals andpoultry birds.
- The 20th Livestock Census was conducted in 2019 in the country in participation with animal husbandry departments of the states/UTs. It indicates that the livestock population in the country increased by 4.6 per cent to 536 million from 512.06 million in 2012.

• Fisheries

- Presently, India is the second largest fish producing and second largest aquaculture nation inthe world. India is also a major producer of fish through aquaculture and ranks second in the world after China.
- The total fish production during 2017-18 (provisional) stood at 12.61 million metric tonne (MMT) with a contribution of 8.92 MMT from inland sector and 3.69 MMT from marine sector.
- Fisheries are a sunrise sector with varied resources and potential, engaging over 14.50 million people at the primary level and many more along the value chain. Transformation of the fisheries sector from traditional to commercial scale has led to an increase in fish production.
- ➤ The historical scenario of Indian fisheries reveals a paradigm shift from marine dominated fisheries to a scenario where inland fisheries emerged as a major contributor to the overall fish production in the country.
- Within inland fisheries there is a shift from capture fisheries to aquaculture during the last two and a half decade. Freshwater aquaculture with a share of 34 per cent in inland fisheries in mid-1980s has increased to about 80 per cent in recent years. It has emerged as a major fish producing system.
- Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA) was set up in various districts for delivering a package of technologies, practices, training and extension and for providing financial assistance to the beneficiaries.

5

Commerce

- The mandate of the Department of Commerce is regulation, development and promotion of India's international trade and commerce through formulation of appropriate international trade and commercial policy and implementation of the various provisions thereof.
- The basic role of the Department is to accelerated growth of international trade. The Department formulates implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) which provides the basic framework of policy and strategy to be followed for promoting exports and trade.
- Besides, the Department is also entrusted with responsibilities relating to multilateral and bilateral commercial relations, Special Economic Zones, state trading, export promotion and trade facilitation, and development and regulation of certain export-oriented industries and commodities.

• Trade Performance

- India's global trade (sum of merchandise and services exports and imports) reached USD 1,127 billion in FY 2019-20. Imports exceeded exports by USD 77.0 billion.
- ➤ India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in 2019-20 were USD 526.3 billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 2.2 per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in 2019-20 were USD 603.1 billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 5.8 per cent over the same period last year.

Merchandise Exports

- India is the 18th largest exporter of merchandise goods in the world with a share of 1.7 per cent.
- In FY 2019-20, India's total merchandise exports were USD 313.4 billion.
- Major product categories in FY 2019-20 are: chemicals and related products (14.37 per cent), Petroleum and products (13.18 per cent), gems and jewellery (11.46 per cent), textiles and allied products (10.76 per cent) and machinery (9.12 per cent).
- Top 5 export destinations and their share in India's exports are: USA (16.95 per cent); UAE (9.21 per cent); China (5.3 per cent); Hong Kong (3.5 per cent); and Singapore (2.85 per cent).

Merchandise Imports

- During the FY 2019-20, India's merchandise imports were valued at USD 474.7 billion.
- Imports as a percentage of GDP have fallen from 18.1 per cent in FY 2015-16 to 16.5 per cent in FY 2019-20.
- Top 5 import categories in FY 2019-20 are: petroleum crude and products (27.5 per cent); gems and jewellery (11.47 per cent); electronics items (11.06 per cent); machinery (9.52 per cent); and chemicals and related products (9.33 per cent).

► Services Trade

• Services sector for India, which has been a major force in driving the growth of the economy, contributed 55 per cent to Gross Valued Added (GVA) and 41 per cent to total exports in 2019-20 (P).



- Services Exports in 2019-20 (P) stood at USD 213.2 billion up from USD 208 billion recorded in 2018-19 growing at the rate of 2.5 per cent.
- Services imports in 2019-20 (P) stood at USD 128.3 billion up from USD 126.1 billion recorded in 2018-19.

Trade Balance

• Taking merchandise and services together, overall trade deficit was USD 77 billion in FY 2019-20 as compared to USD 102.1 billion in FY 2018-19.

• Global Perspective

- A challenging global trade environment since 2014-15 led to a downturn in global trade mainly due to global economic slowdown, growing protectionist tendencies worldwide, and US trade war etc. Further, since January 2020, current growth is under stress with the spread of Covid-19.
- Global Economic Prospects released by World Bank in June 2020 mentioned, Covid19 pandemic will
 result in contractions across the vast majority of emerging market and developing economies.
- ► It will also do lasting damage to labour productivity and potential output.
- Despite the challenging global trade environment, India's merchandise exports saw three years of consistent growth to reach a new peak of over USD 330 billion in FY 2019.
- India's total exports, inclusive of services, crossed half a trillion dollars for the first time to reach a new high of USD 538.1 billion in FY 2019. This feat was repeated in FY 2020.
- > Current export growth, however is affected by the trade slowdown aggravated by Covid-19.

Response to Covid-19

- India supplied around 45 tons and 400 million tablets of hydroxychloroquine to around 114 countries globally.
- Similarly, paracetamol supplies of around 96 million tablets; 0.4 million of suspension IP; 0.8 million bottles and 270 MT in various other forms, were sent to 24 countries, along with supplies of other essential materials to about 57 countries.

• Foreign Trade Policy

- The Five-year Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 provides a framework for increasing exports of goods and services.
- Through FTP the government has taken a major path breaking initiative that the department has taken to main stream states, union territories and various departments of Government of India in the process of international trade.
- The FTP is aligned with the broader priorities of the Government of India such as the implementation of 'Goods and Services Tax'; 'Digital India'; 'Skill India'; 'Startup India'; 'Ease of Doing Business'; and 'Trade Facilitation' initiatives.

Major Schemes for Export Promotion

Duty Exemption/Remission Schemes

- These are based on the principle and the commitment of the government that goods and services are to be exported and not the taxes and levies.
- The purpose is to allow duty free import/ procurement of inputs or to allow replenishment either for the inputs, used or the duty component on inputs used. Brief of these schemes are as follows:
- Advance Authorization Scheme: It allows duty free import of inputs, along with fuel, oil, catalyst, etc., required for manufacturing the export product. Inputs are allowed either as per Standard Input Output Norms (SION) or on adhoc norms basis under actual user condition.
- Schemes for Gems and Jewellery Sector: Gems and Jewellery exports constitute a major portion of our total merchandise exports. It is an employment-oriented sector. Exports from this sector



suffered significantly on account of the global economic slowdown. Duty free import/procurement of precious metal (gold/silver/platinum) from the nominated agencies is allowed either in advance or as replenishment.

- **Issuance of Authorisation under Duty Remission Schemes**: Authorizations are issued under the various schemes, viz., Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) and Replenishment License (Gems and Jewellery).
- **Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG)**: The objective of the EPCG scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services to enhance India's export competitiveness. The Scheme allows import of capital goods at zero customs duty subject to an export obligation equivalent to 6 times of duties and taxes.

> Export from India Schemes

• Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) facilitates export of notified products through issuance of a transferable duty credit scrip to the exporter. These scrips could be used for paying import duty.

• Directorate General of Foreign Trade

- DGFT is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade. Right from its inception till 1991, when liberalization in the economic policies of the Government took place, this organization has been essentially involved in the regulation and promotion of foreign trade through regulation.
- Indian Trade Portal launched by the Department displays information useful for exports and imports.

Capacity Building

• Skilling new entrepreneurs for exports is an important priority. In the last two years, over 50,000 entrepreneurs have been trained under the Niryat Bandhu programme implemented by DGFT, thus complementing the Startup India and Skill India initiatives.

► Special Economic Zones

- India being the first in Asia to recognise the effectiveness of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) model in promoting exports, with Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla in 1965.
- To overcome the shortcomings on account of multiplicity of controls and clearances, absence of world-class infrastructure and an unstable fiscal regime and with a view to attract larger foreign investments in India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in April 2000.
- The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect in 2006, providing simplification of procedures and single window clearance on matters relating to central and state governments.
- The main objectives of the SEZ Act are: generation of additional economic activity; promotion of exports of goods and services; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; creation of employment opportunities; and development of infrastructure facilities.

Export Oriented Units

- The Export Oriented Units (EOUs) Scheme was introduced in 1981 as a complementary scheme to the Free Trade Zones/Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Scheme, to boost exports by creating additional production capacity.
- It has broadly similar regulatory regime as SEZs but offers a wide option in locations.
- GeM has taken a number of steps to contribute to the nation's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government e- Market

• Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) created a dedicated e-market for different goods and services procured/sold by government/PSUs, a technology driven platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various ministries and agencies of the government. The portal was launched in 2016 and became fully functional by October, 2016.



• GeM covers entire procurement process chain, right from vendor registration, item selection by buyer, supply order generation, and receipt of goods/services by the consignees (s), to online payment to vendor.

Export Promotion Initiatives

The key domestic and trade policy measures for increasing exports, reducing imports and moving towards a developed and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, include:

Phasing out of the MEIS and Introducing Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) scheme

- As MEIS faces a challenge as a "prohibited subsidy" under the WTO Agreement on Subsidy and Countervailing Measures, MEIS would be replaced by a WTO compatible, RoDTEP scheme.
- The RoDTEP scheme would refund, as stipulated, the currently un-refunded (i) duties/taxes/ levies, at the central, state and local level, borne on the exported product, including prior stage cumulative indirect taxes on goods and services used in the production of the exported product.

Promoting Agriculture Exports

- The Agriculture Export Policy introduced in December 2018 for promoting agriculture exports is being vigorously implemented with support of state governments in a decentralised clusterbased focus, while tying up all linkages from farm to the port.
- As part of the Agriculture Export Policy, a number of unique product-district clusters have been identified for export promotion.

Champion Services Sector Initiative for Promoting and Diversifying Services Sector

- In 2019-20, software services accounted for 43.7 per cent of India's total services exports.
- For sustained and vibrant growth of the sector, there is an urgent need to achieve diversification across a broad range of high potential sectors; (i) IT& ITeS; (ii) tourism and hospitality; (iii) medical value travel; (iv) transport and logistics; (v) accounting and finance; (vi) audio visual; (vii) legal services; (viii) environmental services; (ix) financial services; (x) education services; (xi) communication services; and (xii) construction and related engineering services.

• Focus on Substantially Enhancing Ease of Doing Business

- India's overall rank in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings improved from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019. This significant improvement of 79 ranks in 6 years became possible due to focused work at both the operational and policy level.
- Current ease of doing business focus in export sector is towards making the process paperless and contactless and includes further strengthening the single window for trade, which has enabled paperless and digitized online export/import clearances through integration of various regulatory approval domains.

Promoting Quality through Standards/Regulations

Continuous efforts are being made to adopt technical regulations for focus products (120 billion USD imports) to enhance competitiveness and product quality and address sub-standard imports.

Developing Districts as Export Hubs

- Department of Commerce through DGFT is engaging with state and central government agencies to take forward this initiative in each district and implement it in a phased manner.
- The objective is to convert each district of the country into an export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products, supporting local exporters/ manufacturers to scale and find potential buyers outside the country with the aim of promoting exports.



Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme

- It supports development of export linked infrastructure that can be utilized by multiple exporters.
- The scheme provides assistance for setting up and upgradation of infrastructure projects with overwhelming export linkages like the border haats; land customs stations; quality testing and certification labs; cold chains; trade promotion centres; dry ports; export warehousing and packaging; SEZs, ports/ airports cargo terminuses; and first mile and last mile connectivity for export-oriented projects.





Communication and Information Technology

Communications and Information Technology in the country are handled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Communications.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology promotes e-governance and sustainable growth of the electronics, IT and ITeS industries, enhancing India's role in internet governance while the Ministry of Communications looks after the Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications.

Main activities and initiatives of these departments are given here:

• Posts

- The modern postal system, the most preferred facilitator of communication, was established in India by Lord Clive in 1766 and it was further developed by Warren Hastings in1774.
- ► The expansion of its network was made during 1786 to 1793.
- For the first time, the post offices were regulated through an Act of 1837 on a uniform basis to unite all the post office establishments throughout the then existing three Presidencies into one all-India service.
- ► The statute presently governing the postal services in the country is the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.
- With the introduction of the Post Office Savings Bank in 1882 banking facilities were accessible to all.

• Initiatives under post

National Pension Scheme

- National Pension Scheme (NPS), earlier known as New Pension System, for common citizens was introduced by government in 2009.
- India Post is a point of presence for the national pension system.
- Subscribers (any Indian citizen) in the age group of 18 to 55 can join NPS and contribute till the age of 60.
- These pension contributions are invested in various schemes of different pension fund managers appointed by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Sukanya Samriddhi Account

- Sukanya Samriddhi Account, a new Small Savings Scheme for the welfare of girl child, was launched in 2015.
- Under the scheme, a legal/natural guardian can open only one account in the name of one girl child and maximum two accounts in the name of two different girl children up to 10 years from the date of birth of the child.



• India Post Payments Bank

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was set up in 2016 with a mandate to build a most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man by removing the barriers for the unbanked and promote the adoption of cashless transactions in a predominantly cash based economy.
- IPPB got incorporated as a Public Limited Company with 100 per cent GOI equity under Department of Posts.

Road Transport Network during Covid-19

- During Covid-19, with the stoppage of rail and air services, mail and parcel transmission had come to a halt for a while.
- To meet the urgent national requirement at a critical time, a dedicated nationwide Road Transport Network (RTN) for shipment of essential items especially ventilators, Covid-19 Kits, etc., was planned and operationalised by the Department from its existing fleet of vehicles supplemented by outsourced vehicles.
- Fifty Six national routes connecting 75 important cities were operationalized from April 2020.
- These national routes involved a daily run of over 25,000 km per day. More than 93 tonnes of essential items were shipped in around 20,000 bags per day during the lockdown.

• Sovereign Gold Bond

- Department is actively engaged in the premier scheme Sale of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) introduced in 2015-16 by Ministry of Finance, and operated through RBI.
- The objective of the scheme is to popularise 'Paper Gold' among masses and to reach out to the small investors at the grassroot level.

• International Relations

- India is a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) since 1876. This organisation of 192 member countries aims to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations among other countries.
- ▶ India is also a member of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) along with 31 other member countries.
- Information Technology
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) deals with policy matters relating to information technology, electronics, internet (other than licensing of Internet Service Providers-ISPs) and cyber security.
- > The aim is to promote e-governance for empowering citizens; promoting the inclusive and sustainable growth of the electronics.

• Initiatives under IT

- **e-Governance:** With the advent of Digital India as an apex programme, various new policy initiatives have been taken up by MeitY such as
- e-Sampark: Database is developed to send messages and emails to public representatives and government employees.
- e-Taal: is a web portal for dissemination of e-transactions statistics of national and state level e-governance projects including mission mode projects. It receives transaction statistics from web based applications periodically on near real time basis. e-Taal presents quick analysis of transaction counts in tabular and graphical form to give quick view of transactions done by various e-governance projects.
- ► Aadhaar-Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBS): In order to bring in efficiency in the government, an Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System was implemented by MeitY.



State Wide Area Network (SWAN): SWAN has been identified as an element of the core infrastructure for supporting the e-governance initiatives and the MeitY has earmarked a significant outlay for supporting this activity. Under the National e-Governance Action Plan, it is proposed to extend connectivity to the block level through NICNET/State Wide Area Network (SWAN).

• Promotion of Digital Transactions

- A new educational channel "DigiShala" for creating awareness regarding various forms of electronic payment to citizens was launched in 2016. DigiShala is now also available on Dish TV in addition to DD Free Dish. The DigiShala is an education and non-commercial TV channel on DD Free Dish.
- ► The BHIM App was launched in 2016 and within a short span BHIM downloads have crossed 20 million with transactions worth around ₹ 3,000 crores. For promotion of BHIM app at merchant end, Aadhaar Pay under new name 'BHIM Aadhaar' was also launched in 2017. A mission has been created under the name 'Digidhan Mission' for creation of ecosystem for promotion of digital payments and transactions.

• Some other initiatives

- ▶ e-Pramaan: MeitY has conceptualised and is implementing the e-Pramaan framework for eAuthentication for public services. The objective is to electronically deliver the government services to its intended recipients in a secure manner, as well as to build citizens' trust in an online environment, which is always prone to identity thefts and other associated risks. MeitY has made e-Pramaan available for public usage with the help of C-DAC, Mumbai.
- Online e-Sign (e-Hastakshar): One of the initiatives taken under Digital India Programme is to provide non-repudiable authentication of applicant's identity through a facility called 'e-Sign'. This facility is an online digital signature service. e-Sign was formally launched in 2015. It is an online electronic signature service, which can be integrated with service delivery applications via an Application Programming Interface (API) to facilitate an e-Sign user to digitally sign a document.
- National Knowledge Network: National Knowledge Network (NKN) was established in 2010. The objective of the NKN is to interconnect all institutions of higher learning and research with a high speed data communication network to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative research.
- UMANG: Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) has been developed and launched in 2017 as a single mobile platform to deliver major government services. UMANG's core platform is integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS), etc. Citizens can access pan-India government services from the central government, state governments, local bodies and their agencies. It supports 12 Indian languages, in addition to English and has been hosted on cloud. UMANG aims to bring power to the fingertips of citizens.
- Digital Locker: Digital Locker is a key initiative under Digital India, the Government of India's flagship programme, aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- ▶ PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation: as a part of Digital India programme, e-Governance Reforming Government through Technology, was launched in 2015. Here discussion the issues in major projects and programmes with the concerned central and state officials directly with full information and latest visuals of the ground-level situation takes place.
- e-Way Bill: e-Way Bill Application provides a self-service platform to taxpayers and transporters to generate single e-Way Bill for movement of goods from one place to another, as per GST Rules. Following implementation of GST, a need was felt to further improve the trade facilitation as well as to strengthen the existing tax collection measures.
- Unique Identification Authority of India: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was established in 2009, as an attached office to the Planning Commission now an attached office of Ministry of Electronics and IT with a vision, "To empower residents of India with a unique identity and a digital platform to authenticate anytime, anywhere".
- National Informatics Centre: National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976, and has since emerged as a "prime builder" of e-government/e-governance applications up to the grassroot level as well as a promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development.



- Software Technology Parks: Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) was set up in 1991 as an autonomous society under the MeitY. STPI's main objective has been the promotion of software exports from the country. It acts as single-window in providing services to the software exporters. STPI is responsible for implementation of the Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme and the Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP) scheme.
- ➤ Indian Computer Emergency Response Team: Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is a functional organisation of the Ministry, which has been designated under Section 70B of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 to serve as the national agency to perform the following functions in the area of cyber security.
 - collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber security incidents; forecast and alerts
 of cyber security incidents; emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents; coordination
 of cyber security incident response activities, issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes; and
 white papers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and
 reporting of cyber incidents, etc

• Telecommunications

Department of Telecommunication (DoT) is committed to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socioeconomic development.

► Initiative under DoT

 National Broadband Mission: National Broadband Mission (NBM) was launched in 2019 with a vision to fast-track growth of digital communication infrastructure, bridge the digital divide, facilitate digital empowerment and inclusion, and provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all. Some of the objectives of the Mission which is structured with strong three principles of universality, affordability and quality are: broadband access to all villages by 2022;

7

Defence

THE Government of India is responsible for ensuring the defence of the country and every part thereof. This responsibility is discharged through the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

- MoD was created after independence under a Cabinet Minister. Each Service was placed under its own Commander-in-Chief.
- In 1955, the Commanders-in-Chief were renamed as the Chief of the Army Staff, the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff.
- A Department of Defence Production was set up in 1962 to deal with research, development and production of defence equipment.
- A Department of Defence Supplies was created in 1965 for planning and execution of schemes for import substitution of defence requirements.
- The Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) is the head of the Ministry of Defence.
- The post of Chief of Defence Staff was created in 2019.

• Chief of Defence Staff

- The post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in the rank of a four star General with salary and perquisites at par with a Service Chief was created in 2019.
- > The government has also defined his roles and responsibilities.
- Another department the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was also created within the Ministry of Defence.

Fight Against Covid-19

- The Indian Army has been at the forefront in combating Covid-19 and rendering necessary assistance to the civil administration. The army established the first quarantine facility for Indian evacuees.
- Thereafter, setting up of quarantine facilities and Covid hospitals are the two major areas in which the army extended its support.
- Quarantine were established by the army across the country out of which 'Manesar Model' has been replicated.
- Testing facilities were established in nine laboratories with a capability to conduct close to 600 tests per day apart from earmarking 50 hospitals to be restructured/geared up to meet the health challenge while dedicating 9,000 beds to treat affected patients.
- The responsibility for Narela quarantine facility established by the Delhi government to handle approximately 1,200 Covid-19 cases of Delhi was taken over by the army, apart from providing medical cover to Covid-19 positive personnel of Delhi Police at Base Hospital, Delhi.
- The army has reached out to the industry to identify/map sources for procurement of equipment required to combat the pandemic.
- Allied equipment like prefabricated shelters, sanitisation facilities and chemicals were identified and mapped.

• Operation Sadbhavna

 The army undertakes a unique human initiative in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to address the aspirations of people affected by terrorism.

Commissioned Ranks

The following are the commissioned ranks in the three Services; each rank is shown opposite its equivalent in the other Service:

Army	Navy
General	Admirals
Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral
Major General	Rear Admiral
Brigadier	Commodore
Clonel	Captain
Lieutenant Colonel	Commander
Major	Lieutenant Commander
Captain	Lieutenant
Lieutenant	Sub Lieutenant

• The aim of Operation Sadbhavna is also to supplement the efforts of the government in restoring public services, rebuilding infrastructure and creating a conducive environment for development.

• Contribution to UN Peacekeeping

- Despite operational and internal security commitments, the Indian Army has been significantly contributing to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions and is the second largest troops' contributor in various UN missions.
- ► Currently, four UN Peace Keeping Missions' contingents of India are deployed around the world.
- Since 1950, Indian Army has participated in 51 UN missions out of the total of 71 UN missions, across the globe.



8

Education

Since citizens of India are its most valuable resource, the billion-strong nation needs the nurture and care in the form of basic education to achieve a better quality of life. This warrants an all-round development of the citizens, which can be achieved by building strong foundations in education. Good quality education is the foundation of new discoveries, new knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship that trigger growth and prosperity of the individual as well as that of a nation.

To lay emphasis on the educational development of students of weaker sections of the society, a number of innovative initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Education. Currently, the Ministry works through two departments: (i) Department of School Education and Literacy; and (ii) Department of Higher Education.

• Some of the initiatives to secure education

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

- Article 21-A of the Constitution of India and its consequent legislation, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 became operative in the country in 2010.
- The RTE Act confers the right to elementary education on all children, in the age group of 6-14 years, on the basis of equality of opportunity in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.

• National Education Policy

- National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP 2020) is the first policy of the 21st century, and has come after 34 years, replacing the New Education Policy of 1986.
- It aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic and flexible.
- It aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic and flexible.
- The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre-schooling. NCERT will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8 years.
- The policy has emphasised mother tongue/local language/ regional language as the medium of instruction at least till grade 5, but preferably till grade 8 and beyond, as far as possible.
- NEP aims to increase gross enrolment ratio in higher education (including vocational education) to 50 per cent by 2035.
- There will be a single overarching umbrella body Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. HECI will have four independent verticals: National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.
- An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.



Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education:

- Department of School Education and Literacy has prepared a Digital Gender Atlas for advancing girls' education in the country on its website.
- ► The tool, which has been developed with the support of UNICEF, will help identify low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalised groups such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Muslims, on specific gender related education indicators.

• ShaGun portal

- It is an initiative to monitor the implementation of SSA: Ministry of Education has developed a web portal called ShaGun.
- ► It aims to capture and showcase innovations and progress in elementary education sector by continuous monitoring.
- ShaGun will help monitor progress by assessing performance of states and UTs on key parameters and thereby serve as a platform for the central government for effective planning and deliver on the promise of providing quality education to all.

• DIKSHA

- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), launched in 2017, has achieved several milestones in the field of digital teaching and learning.
- The platform offers teachers, students and parents with engaging learning material relevant to the prescribed school curriculum.
- e-pathshala, National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) and similar other portals hosting e-content and digitised text books.

• Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in 2009 with the objective to enhance access to secondary education and improve its quality.
- The scheme envisages to enhance the enrolment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school with a reasonable distance of habitation, with an aim to ensure GER of 100 per cent and universal retention by 2020.
- The other objectives include improving quality of education imparted at secondary level by making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socioeconomic and disability barriers, etc.

Some initiatives under RMSA are:

Shaala Siddhi:

- School Standards and Evaluation Framework and its web portal was launched in 2015.
- It is a comprehensive instrument for school evaluation leading to school improvement.
- Developed by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), it aims to enable schools to evaluate their performance in a more focused and strategic manner and facilitate them to make professional judgements for improvement.

Shala Darpan:

- The Shaala Darpan Project is to cover all the 1,099 Kendriya Vidyalayas. It was launched in June 2015.
- The objective of this project is to provide services based on school management systems to students, parents and communities.



• Mid-Day Meal Scheme

- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers children of Classes I-VIII studying in government, governmentaided schools, special training centres (STC) and madarsas/ maqtabs supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- It is the largest school feeding programme in the world. Apart from promoting access and retention, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has also contributed to social and gender equity.

Norms for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

- Calorific Value of Mid-Day Meals
- Cooking cost under MDM Scheme

Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY)

- A credit framework Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY) is now in place, which allows vertical and lateral mobility within vocational education system and between the current education system.
- The strength of this framework is the seamless integration of pursuit of academic knowledge and practical vocational skills.

• Yukti - Yogya Kalakriti ki Takneek

- Yukti aims at skill development and upgradation of design and technologies enhancing the economic prospects of those engaged in traditional crafts and arts as a means of livelihood.
- It aims at introducing appropriate designs and technology for innovation and pedagogical methods for introducing skills for upgradation.

• SAKSHAM

- SAKSHAM Scholarship Scheme for Differently abled Children aims at providing encouragement and support to differently abled children to pursue technical education.
- Scholarships amounting to ₹ 5 crore per annum as tuition fees and incidentals are to be provided to needy and meritorious students for pursuing technical education at AICTE approved institutions.

• Ishan Uday - for Students of North-East Region

 The UGC launched a special scholarship scheme for students of north-east region, Ishan Uday, from the academic session 2014-15.

• Pragati

 Pragati (scholarship for girl students) - is a scheme of AICTE aimed at providing assistance for advancement of girls, participation in technical education.

• Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)

- Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is a programme initiated arid designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of the education policy, namely, access, equity and quality.
- The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.
- SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.



• Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan

- Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan is a centrally sponsored scheme for funding the states, state universities and colleges to achieve equity, access and excellence in higher education.
- ► It aims to strengthen and incentivise both private and public state universities where nearly 94 per cent of higher education students are enrolled.

• Central Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020

The Central Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020 was notified in April 2020. This Act converts (i) Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, (ii) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi, and (iii) Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati into Central Sanskrit Universities.

Copyright

- Acquisition of copyright is automatic and it does not require any formality.
- Copyright comes into existence as soon as a work is created and no formality is required to be completed for acquiring it.
- However, as per Section 48 of the Copyright Act 1957, certificate of registration of copyright and the entries made therein serve as prima facie evidence in a court of law with reference to dispute relating to ownership of copyright.
- The Copyright Office was established in 1958.
- It functions under the administrative control of the Department of Higher Education.
- It is headed by the Registrar of Copyright, who has quasi-judicial powers in handling cases relating to copyright.
- There is a quasi-judicial body Copyright Board which was constituted in 1958 and had been functioning on a part-time basis. The jurisdiction of the Copyright Board extends to the whole of the country. The Board is entrusted with the task of adjudication of disputes pertaining to copyright.
- The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 provides for a three member permanent Copyright Board consisting of a Chairman and two other members.

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ENERGY is an essential input for economic development and improving the quality of life. Development of conventional forms of energy for meeting the growing energy needs of society at a reasonable cost is the responsibility of the government. Development and promotion of non-conventional/alternate/new and renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and bio-energy, etc., are also getting sustained attention.

• Power

- Power development in India commenced at the end of the nineteenth century with the commissioning of electricity supply in Darjeeling during 1897, followed by the commissioning of a hydropower station at Sivasamudram in Karnataka during 1902.
- ► The Ministry of Power is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country.
- The construction and operation of generation and transmission projects in the central sector are entrusted to Central Sector Corporations, viz., the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the NorthEastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).
- The Power Grid is responsible for all the existing and future transmission projects in the central sector and also for the formation of the National Power Grid.
- Two joint-venture power corporations, namely, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) (formerly known as NJPC) and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) are responsible for the execution of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project in Himachal Pradesh and projects of Tehri Hydro Power Complex in Uttarakhand respectively.
- Three statutory bodies, i.e., the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the Bhakra-Beas Management Board (BBMB) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- Programmes of rural electrification are provided financial assistance by the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).
- The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provide term-finance to projects in the power sector.
- The autonomous bodies (societies), namely Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and the National Power Training Institute (NPTI) are also under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.

• Initiatives under Power Sector

- Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana
 - Government of India launched a new scheme namely Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) with the following objectives:
 - to separate agriculture and nonagriculture feeders for judicious rostering of supply to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural areas;



- strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas;
- metering in rural areas (feders, distribution transformers and consumers).
- The erstwhile rural electrification scheme was subsumed in DDUGJY as a separate rural electrification component and the approved outlay of the erstwhile scheme has been carried forward to the DDUGJY.

> Saubhagya—Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Char Yojana

- To achieve universal household electrification in the country by March 2019.
- The scope of the Scheme includes: providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas.
- APL households will get electricity connections on payment of ₹ 500 (which is payable in 10 installments in the electricity bill); providing Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) based stand-alone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages/habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost effective; and providing electricity connections to all remaining economically poor un-electricied households in urban areas.

► UDAY—Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana

- UDAY scheme was launched in 2015.
- It targets for a sustainable solution to the operational and financial inefficiencies of DISCOMs across the country, through targeted interventions in the form of lower interest costs, reduction of cost of power, increased revenues and improved operational efficiencies.

> Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- In order to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households especially in rural areas, the government had launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to provide deposit free LPG connections to 8 crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- It was launched in 2016 with an initial target of providing 5 crore and subsequently revised to 8 crore deposit free LPG connections to adult women of poor households by March 2020 to ensure women empowerment, especially in rural India.
- The primary objective is to provide access to clean cooking fuel LPG to BPL households thereby protecting their health by reducing the serious health hazards associated with use of conventional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cowdung, etc., which causes servere indoor household air pollution.
- The eligible families are identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census list and other seven categories, i.e., beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin); beneficiaries of Antyodaya Anna Yojana; SC/ST households; most backward classes; forest dwellers; tea/ex-tea garden tribes; and residents of islands/river islands subject to fulfilling other terms and conditions of the scheme.

• PAHAL

- ► The government, as a measure of Good Governance, introduced well targeted systems of subsidy delivery to LPG consumers through PAHAL.
- This initiative was aimed at rationalizing subsidies based on an approach to cut subsidy leakages, but not subsidies per se.
- > Applicable subsidy is directly transferred into the bank account of the beneficiaries.
- PAHAL has entered into Guinness Book of World Records as being the largest Direct Benefit Transfer scheme.

• Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector

• The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is concerned with exploration and production of oil and natural gas.

 India surpassed Japan to become 3rd largest oil consumer in the world after US and China during 2015.

Some initiatives under this sector

Sahaj

• Sahaj was a digital initiative launched by oil marketing companies for release of LPG connection with online payment and issuance of 'e-SV' under the Digital India initiative and the facility is now available on pan-India basis.

Pricing of Petroleum Products

- The Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) or cost plus pricing for petroleum products which was introduced in 1976 was abolished from 2002, consequent to the deregulation of the oil sector in India.
- The government notified that pricing of all petroleum products except PDS kerosene and domestic LPG would be market determined.

Energy Diplomacy

- ► Towards strengthening energy security, India's energy diplomacy is focused on sustaining and promoting energy engagements with countries rich in hydrocarbon resources and also with prominent international organisations dealing with energy matters.
- India's energy diplomacy has been playing the key role in responsible pricing by producing countries, renegotiation of contract for LNG supply, diversification of the sources of crude and LNG imports as well as maintaining uninterrupted supply of crude oil and LPG even after the frequent turmoil in the Middle-East region.
- Through India's energy diplomacy, the energy cooperation has been strengthened by elevating from mere buyer-seller to the level of strategic partners.
- ▶ Both Saudi Arabia and UAE are partners in the strategic petroleum reserve programme.

• Strategic Petroleum Reserves

- Government of India, through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd. (ISPRL), has set up Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at three locations with a capacity of 5.33 MMT located at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur.
- > The crude oil stored can be used in emergency situations.
- ▶ These three SPRs can meet approximately 9.5 days of national demand.

• New and Renewable Energy

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the nodal ministry at the federal level for all matters relating to new and renewable energy.
- India has taken a voluntary commitment of reducing emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.
- In the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at Paris, France, India committed to achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- India has an estimated renewable energy potential of about 900 GW from commercially exploitable sources, viz., wind -102 GW (at 80 metre mast height); small hydro 20 GW; bioenergy 25 GW; and 750 GW solar power, assuming 3 per cent wasteland is made available.
- ➤ The Ministry had taken up a new initiative in 2014 for implementation of wind resource assessment in uncovered/new areas with an aim to assess the realistic potential at 100 m level in 500 new stations across the country under the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF).



The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), formerly known as Centre for Wind Energy Technology, has developed the Wind Atlas of India. NIWE also collects data from Solar Radiation Resource Assessment stations to assess and quantify solar radiation availability and develop Solar Atlas of the country.

• Some initiatives under the sector

> New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme

• The New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme (NNBOMP) is being implemented with the objective to provide clean cooking fuel and to meet lighting, thermal and small power needs of farmers/dairy farmers/users including individual households and to improve organic manure system based on bioslurry from biogas plants in rural and semiurban areas by setting up of biogas plants.

National Solar Mission

- Launched in January 2010, the National Solar Mission (NSM) was the first mission to be operationalised under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- The revised tariff policy requires all states to reach 10.5 per cent solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) by the year 2022.

> Solar/Green Buildings Programme

- The Ministry has been implementing a Scheme on Energy Efficient Solar Green Buildings since 2009, which aims to promote the widespread construction of energy efficient solar green buildings in the country through a combination of financial and promotional incentives.
- These are for capacity building, awareness, seminar and workshops and other promotional activities, etc.

• Coal

- The Ministry of Coal (MoC) has the overall responsibility of determining policies and strategies in respect of exploration and development of coal and lignite reserves, sanctioning of important projects of high value and for deciding all related issues.
- The reserves have been found mainly in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

10

Environment

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the central government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies, programmes and related schemes. The Ministry is also the nodal agency for the:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD);
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

The Ministry also coordinates with multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and regional bodies such as Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment.

• Biodiversity Conservation

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the key agreements adopted during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The objectives of CBD are conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.
- India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 to give effect to the provision of this Convention. According to the ratification of the CBD by India in 1994, several steps were initiated to meet the commitments under the Convention and to realize the opportunities offered by the Convention.
- India also prepared a National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) in 2008 and an Addendum to NBAP in 2014 with 20 national targets on biodiversity. The Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS) adopted under the aegis of CBD in 2010, is aimed at fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

Wildlife Conservation

- There is a Wildlife Division of the Ministry that has two sub-divisions, namely, Project Elephant Division and Wildlife Division.
- Besides, there are three autonomous bodies: Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for wildlife research and training. Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for conservation and zoo management and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- The NTCA has been constituted by converting the Project Tiger Directorate into an autonomous body for tiger conservation.
- > The National Zoological Park in the Capital is also a part of the Wildlife Wing of the MoEF&CC.

Asiatic Lion Conservation Project

• This project was launched in January 2019, with an aim to protect and conserve the world's last ranging free population of Asiatic Lion and its associated ecosystem.



 It is aimed at strengthening the ongoing measures for conservation and recovery of Asiatic Lion with the help of state-of-the-art techniques/ instruments, regular scientific research studies, disease management and modern surveillance/patrolling techniques.

• Enhancement of Protected Area Network in the Country

► The number of Protected Areas in the country has increased to 870 in 2019. The total area under Protected Areas is now 1,65,088.36 sq.kms.

• Animal Welfare

> Animal Welfare General-Animal Board of India

• General Animal Welfare covers the welfare of individual animals, mainly domesticated, as also wild animals in captivity, through the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). AWBI is a statutory body established with headquarters at Chennai.

► Free Mobile Animal Clinic

• The Board is providing free, on the spot veterinary treatment to sick and injured animals belonging to poor people through its Mobile Animal Clinic (MAC) programme operating Awareness Rallies Conducted During World Animal Day Week: The Animal Welfare Board of India has organized rallies to create kindness and compassion with the co-ordination of Schools in Chennai and Karuna International, Chennai under Humane Education programme.

• Control of Pollution

► Air Pollution

Air quality regulation and actions for abatement of air pollution are undertaken under various provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, (EPA) 1986 which prescribes the mechanism and authorities for handling the issue. The major impact is highlighted regarding the health of people.

► Measures to Combat Air Pollution

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants have been notified under the EPA, 1986 along with 115 emission/effluent standards for 104 different sectors of industries, besides 32 general standards. The government is executing a nationwide programme of ambient air quality monitoring known as the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- With reference to vehicular pollution, the steps taken include the introduction of cleaner/ alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG, etc.) ethanol blending, universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April 2020.
- National Air Quality Index (AQI) was launched in 2015 starting with 14 cities and then extended to 34. A Graded Response Action Plan for control of air pollution in Delhi and NCR region has been notified. This plan specifies actions required for controlling particulate matter (PM emissions from various sources) and prevent PM 10 and PM 2.5 levels to go beyond 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued a comprehensive set of directions for the implementation of 42 measures to mitigate air pollution in major cities including Delhi and NCR.
- To involve people in the efforts, the Government launched a campaign called 'Harit Diwali and Swasth Diwali' in 2017 involving over 200 schools in Delhi and over two lakh schools in the country. A mini-marathon for 'SwachhHawa for Swachh and Swasth Bharat' was also organized in 2017.

Noise Pollution

 As a follow-up of Section 5.2.8 (IV) of National Environmental Policy (NEP)-2006, ambient noise has been included as a regular parameter for monitoring in specified urban areas. Protocol for National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme has been prepared and circulated to state pollution control boards. Central Pollution Control Board in association with state pollution control boards established Real-Time National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network in 7 metropolitan cities and installed 70 noise monitoring systems in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Hyderabad.

Scheme of Common Effluent Treatment Plants

- The concept of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) arose to make a co-operative movement for pollution control. The main objective of the CETPs is to reduce the treatment cost to be borne by an individual member unit to a minimum while protecting the environment to a maximum. Wastewater treatment and water conservation are the prime objectives of the CETP. This concept was envisaged to treat the effluent emanating from the clusters of compatible small-scale industries.
- A centrally sponsored scheme has been undertaken by the Government for enabling small scale industries (SSI) to set up new and upgrade the existing common effluent treatment plants to cover all the states in the country.

• Hazardous Waste Management

- To address the issue of ensuring environmentally sound management of hazardous waste for the safety of health and environment during handling such waste Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 were notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Rules lay down procedure towards this process by providing provisions for authorization of hazardous waste generating and units using hazardous waste. It also provides for the establishment of Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for the disposal of hazardous wastes. The rules have an important provision on the regulation of import/export of hazardous waste in pursuance to our obligation under the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous waste and its disposal. India is a party to the Convention.
- ► The major salient features of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016 include the following:
 - The ambit of the Rules has been expanded by including 'Other-Waste';
 - Authorization and registration requirement is replaced with one permission i.e., authorization under the rules for all stakeholders handling the hazardous and other waste;
 - Waste management hierarchy in the sequence of priority as prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling, recovery, co-processing; and safe disposal being incorporated;
 - The process of import/export of waste under the rules has been streamlined by simplifying the procedure and by revising the list of waste regulated for import/export;
 - The separate schedule has been introduced which comprises waste such as metal scrap, paper waste and various categories of electrical and electronic equipment's for re-use purpose exempted from the need of obtaining Ministry's permission;
 - The list of waste prohibited for import has been revised by the inclusion of the following items: waste edible fats and oils of animals or vegetable origin, household waste, critical care medical equipment, solid plastic wastes, other chemical wastes especially in solvent form.

• Solid Waste Management

> Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

- The Ministry revised the rules for the management of solid waste in the municipal areas after 16 years. The new rules are now applicable beyond municipal areas.
- The segregation of waste at source has been mandated. Responsibilities of generators have been fixed for segregation of waste into three streams, wet (biodegradable), dry (plastic, paper, metal, wood, etc.) and domestic hazardous wastes (diapers, napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc.).



- The Rules provide ways for the integration of waste pickers/rag pickers.
- The Rules mandate local bodies to frame their bylaws to impose 'User Fee', to be paid by the generator to waste collector and for 'Spot Fine' for littering and non-segregation.
- The concept of partnership as envisaged under Swachh Bharat has been introduced viz., bulk and
 institutional generators, market associations, event organizers and hotels, and restaurants have
 been directly made responsible for waste segregation and management in partnership with local
 bodies.

> Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- To address the issue of scientific plastic waste management, new regulations namely, the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 were notified in 2011 which included plastic waste management. However, the implementation of these rules was not so effective because their ambit was limited to notified municipal areas whereas today, the plastic has reached our rural areas also. To address these issues and intending to set up a self-sustainable waste management system, the Ministry notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. The Rules provide for:
 - Increase in a minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns
 - First-time cover and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 microns for plastic sheets being used for packaging and wrapping commodities to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste
 - Revamped pricing mechanisms for plastic carry bags by introducing plastic waste management fee to be paid by retailers/street vendors willing to provide carry bags as preregistration charge.
 - Ways and means to promote the gainful utilization of plastic waste such as energy recovery, road construction, etc.
 - Introducing user charges and spot fines by the local authority.

▶ Construction & Demolition Waste Management, 2016

- The Ministry for the first time notified the separate set of rules for the management of construction and demolition waste in the country as Construction and Demolition Management Rules, 2016. Before these Rules, this was regulated under the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2000, and was left at the desecration of the urban local bodies.
- The new rules regulate waste generated from construction, remodelling, repair, and demolition of any civil structure, and make a way forward to reuse, gainfully recycle such waste.
- Under the rules every waste generator has been made responsible for the collection, segregation of
 concrete, soil and others and storage of construction and demolition waste generated separately,
 deposit at collection centre so made by the local body or hand over it to the authorized processing
 facilities, ensure that there is no littering or deposition to prevent obstruction to the traffic or the
 public or drains.
- The service providers are required to prepare a comprehensive waste management plan covering segregation, storage, collection, reuse, recycling, transportation, and disposal of construction and demolition waste generated within their jurisdiction. They are also responsible for the removal of all construction and demolition waste.

International Conventions

Basel Convention

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland.
- The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.
- Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as "hazardous wastes" based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as 'other wastes' (household waste and incinerator ash).



Rotterdam Convention

• The Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade came into force in 2004. India acceded to the convention a year later. The Designated National authorities (DNAs) for India are in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are designated in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Stockholm Convention

- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs. The Convention came into force in 2004. India ratified the Convention in 2006.
- As per Article 7 of the Convention, Parties to the Convention were required to develop a National Implementation Plan (NIP) to demonstrate how their obligations to the Convention would be implemented and NIP has been developed through Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change serves as the focal point for GEF and Stockholm Convention. Designated national authorities are in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

Conservation of Wetlands

• To control degradation and conserve wetlands, the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) was initiated in 1987 and financial assistance is being provided to the state governments for implementing action plans for conservation and management of identified wetlands.

Ramsar Convention

• As a commitment to conserving potential wetlands, India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982. As per this convention, India is committed to international cooperation and to take national action for conservation and wise use of Wetlands. At present, there are 26 Ramsar sites in India.

▶ Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules

• To implement the objectives of the convention, a regulatory mechanism was put in place through the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December 2010. Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA) has been constituted under the Wetlands Rules, 2010. 25 wetlands spread over 14 states have already been notified under these Rules.

• Eco-Development Forces (EDF) Scheme

- It was established in the 1980s as a scheme being implemented through the Ministry of Defence for ecological restoration of terrains, rendered difficult either due to severe degradation or remote location or difficult law and order situation. It is based on twin objectives of ecological regeneration in difficult areas, and the promotion of meaningful employment to ex-servicemen.
- ➤ Under this scheme, the establishment and operational expenditure on the Eco-Task Force (ETF) Battalions raised by Ministry of Defence are reimbursed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while the inputs like a sapling, fencing, etc., and also the professional and managerial guidance is provided by the state forest departments.

• National Mission for Green India (GIM)

- ➤ It is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change that aims at protecting and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover to counter the perils of climate change. It envisages a holistic view of greening and focuses on multiple ecosystem services along with carbon sequestration and emission reduction as co-benefit.
- The Mission embarks on meeting the challenge of climate change adaptation and mitigation through sub-missions and a cross-cutting intervention: a) enhancing the quality of forest cover and improving ecosystem services; b) ecosystem restoration and increase in forest cover; c) agroforestry and social forestry; d) promoting alternative fuel energy.



Θ

- Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)
 - It is a hand on international environmental science and education programme that brings students, teachers, and scientists together to study the global environment.
 - MoEF&CC and the US Government signed an agreement in 2000 to implement the Globe programme in India. Indian Environmental Society, Delhi is an implementing agency for Globe in India.

Climate Change

To create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country different studies under the Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP) were initiated. Many important bilateral and multilateral meetings and negotiations including Conference of Parties (CoP-22) were held.

National and State Action Plans on Climate Change (NAPCC)

• It is being implemented through the nodal ministries in specific sectors/ areas. Eight national missions in the area of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, sustainable habitat, water, Himalayan eco-system, Green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change form the core of NAPCC.

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)

- It is a central sector scheme under implementation in the 12th Five Year Plan with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as National Implementing Entity (NIE).
- The overall aim of the fund is to support concrete adaptation activities which are not covered under on-going activities through the schemes of state and central government that reduce the adverse impact of climate change facing communities, sectors, and states.

► Climate Change Action Programme

- It has been implemented since January 2014, to create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country, putting in place an appropriate institutional framework for scientific and policy initiatives and implementation of climate change related actions in the context of sustainable development. The NCAP is a major multi-institutional and multi-agency study.
- In this initiative, MoEF&CC collaborates with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Indian Space Research Organization, the Ministry of Science and Technology and other associated agencies to enhance understanding of the role of black carbon in climate change through monitoring and assessment of the impacts of Black Carbon using modeling techniques.

• Paris Agreement

 India ratified the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC in 2016. The action plan for implementation of the Paris Agreement and its components is being developed.

> International Cooperation and Sustainable Development

• International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (IC&SD) Division of the Ministry coordinates matters related to international environmental cooperation and sustainable development including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- India is a member of UNEP and provides an annual financial contribution of USD 100,000 to the UNEP Environment Fund. Three of the thirty-three members on UNEP's International Resource Panel (IRP) are currently from India.
- ➤ The Ministry is a member of the IRP Steering Committee. IRP supports UNEP's Resource Efficiency/ Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) sub-programme and is carrying out assessments of the world's most critical resource issues intending to develop practical solutions for government policymakers, industry, and society.



Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- India is a founder member of GEF. Set up in 1991, GEF is the designated multilateral funding mechanism of 183 countries to provide incremental finance for addressing global environmental benefits which are also identified national priorities.
- The GEF mandate is decided as per the guidance provided by the Conference of the parties of the multilateral environmental conventions namely Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Stockholm Convention on PoPs and Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- The GEF grants are available under five focal areas namely, biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals, and waste.



Finance

- **The Ministry of Finance** is responsible for **administration of finances of the government**. It is concernedwith **all economic and financial matters** affecting the country as a whole including **mobilization of resources** for development and other purposes.
- It **regulates expenditure of the government** including transfer of resources to the states. It is an important ministry within the government concerned with the economy of the country, **serving as the Indian treasury department**.
- In particular, it concerns itself with taxation, financial legislation, financial institutions, capital markets, centre and state finances, and the Union Budget.
- The Ministry is also the cadre controlling authority of the Indian Revenue Service, Indian Economic Service, Indian Cost Accounts Service and Indian Civil Accounts Service.

• Department of Economic Affairs

- The Department of Economic Affairs is the nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor country's economic policies and programmes having a bearing on domestic and international aspects of economic management.
- A principal responsibility of this Department is the preparation and presentation of the Union Budget (including Railway Budget) to the Parliament and budget for the state governmentsunder President's Rule and union territory administrations.

Balance of Payments

- Balance of Payments position to USD 433.7 billion in September 2019, from USD 412.9 billion of forex reserves in March 2019.
- This is on the back of Current Account Deficit (CAD) narrowing further to 1.5 per cent in 2019-20 from 2.1 per cent in 2018-19. Net FDI inflows remained buoyant attracting USD 24.4 billion in the first eight months of 2019-20, much higher than the corresponding period of 2018-19.

• Public Debt and Other Liabilities

- The Public Debt of India is classified into three categories of Union Government liabilities into internal debt, external debt and other liabilities. Internal debt for Government of India largely consists of fixed tenure and fixed rate government papers (dated securities and treasury bills) which are issued through auctions.
- These include market loans (dated securities), treasury bills (91, 182 and 364 days) and 14 day treasury bills (issued to state governments only), cash management bills, special securities issued to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), compensation and other bonds, non-negotiable and non-interest bearing rupee securities issued to international financial institutions and securities issued under market stabilization scheme with a view to reduce dependency on physical gold and reduce imports.



- External debt represents loans received from foreign governments and multilateral institutions. The Union Government does not borrow directly from international capital markets. Its foreign currency borrowing takes place from multilateral agencies and bilateral sources, and is a part of official development assistance (ODA). At present, the Government of India does not borrow in theinternational capital markets.
- "Other" liabilities, not a part of public debt, includes other interest bearing obligations of the government, such as post office saving deposits, deposits under small savings schemes, loansraised through post office cash certificates, provident funds and certain other deposits.
- The Reserve Bank manages the public debt of the Central and the state governments and also actsas a banker to them under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (Section 20 and 21). It also undertakes similar functions for the state governments by agreement with the Government of the respective state (under Section 21 A).

• Social Sector Programmes

The flagship programmes continued to receive high priority, viz., Sarva Siksha Abhiyan; Mid-Day Meal Scheme; National Health Mission; Integrated Child Development Services; Swachh Bharat Abhiyan; Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 100 Smart Cities, etc.

• LTC Cash Voucher Scheme

- Central government employees get Leave Travel Concession (LTC) in a block of 4 years in which air or rail fare, as per pay scale/entitlement, is reimbursed and, in addition, leave encashment of 10 days (pay + DA) is paid.
- ▶ But due to Covid-19, employees were not in a position to avail of LTC in the current block of 2018-21.
- Therefore, the government decided to give cash payment in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21, which includes full payment on leave encashment and fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on class of entitlement; and this payment is to be tax-free.

• Direct Benefit Transfer

 Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is a major reform initiative launched by Government of India in 2013 to provide an overarching vision and direction to enable direct cash transfer of benefits under various government schemes and programmes to individuals.

• Atmanirbhar Bharat

- Atmanirbhar Bharat, which translates to 'self-reliant India' or 'self-sufficient India', is a policy for making India a bigger and more important part of the global economy, pursuing policies that are efficient, competitive and resilient.
- Not only should products be 'made in India', but the promotion of those products should take place so as to make those products competitive. As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, numerous government decisions were taken such as changing the definition of MSMEs, boosting scope for private participation in numerous sectors, increasing FDI in the defence sector, etc.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) which was launched by the Government of India in 2016, was extended till November 30, 2020. It was a voluntary disclosure scheme to declare unaccounted for wealth and jewellery.
- The government stressed on the issue to divert the excess wealth of some to the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged.
- Social benefits under the PMGKY was extended to economically vulnerable households till March 2021 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdowns.



Schemes for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

- From 2005-06, a separate Statement on the schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) was introduced in the Budget document.
- From the financial year 2011-12 this statement is focused only on Plan schemes under 'Scheduled Castes Sub Plan' and 'Tribal Sub Plan' exclusively for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes welfare schemes respectively.

• Economic Growth

- As per the First Advance Estimates of National Income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant market prices was estimated to be 5.0 per cent in 2019-2020.
- The growth of Gross Value Added (GVA) at constant basic prices was estimated to be 4.9 per cent in 2019-20, with agriculture and allied sectors, industrial sector and services sector growing at 2.8 per cent, 2.5 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively.
- On the demand side, the growth in government final consumption expenditure at constant (2011-12) prices remained strong at 10.5 per cent in 2019-20.

• Prices

- Consumer Price Index (Combined) (CPI-C) inflation (Base 2012=100) for 2018-19 declined to 3.4 per cent from 3.6 per cent in 2017-18, 4.5 per cent in 2016-17, 4.9 per cent in 2015-16 and 5.9 per cent in 2014-15.
- ▶ It averaged 4.5 per cent in 2019-20 (April to January) and stood at 7.6 per cent in January 2020.

• Foreign Exchange Reserves

- The level of foreign exchange reserves particularly foreign currency assets is largely the outcome of Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the foreign exchange market to stabilise the rupee value.
- India's foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 461.2 billion in January 2020.

External Debt

 India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 543.02 billion at end-March 2019 recording an increase of US\$ 13.7 billion over the level at end-March 2018.

• Banking Sector

- The performance of the banking sector (domestic operations), Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in particular, improved in 2018-19.
- The Gross Non-Performing Advances (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) decreased from 11.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018, as also, their Restructured Standard Advances (RSA) ratio declined from 0.7 to 0.4 per cent.
- The Stressed Advances (SA) ratio decreased from 12.1 to 10.5 per cent during the same period. GNPAratio of PSBs decreased from 15.5 to 13.9 per cent between March 2018 and December 2018.

• Changes in Banking Regulations

- In order to enhance the credit discipline among larger borrowers, the guidelines on loan system for delivery of bank credit were issued on December 5, 2018.
- > One-time Restructuring of Loans to MSMEs
 - The scheme was made available to MSMEs qualifying certain objective criteria.



► Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- A Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee was set up in 2014 for providing an entrepreneur friendly legal bankruptcy framework for meeting global standards for improving the ease of doing businesswith necessary judicial capacity.
- Accordingly, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) became operational in 2016. The Code aims to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit, and balance the interests of all the stakeholders by consolidating and amending the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner and for maximization of value of the assets of such persons and matters connected therewith or incidentalthereto.
- It proposes a framework to ensure: early detection of stress in a business; initiation of the insolvency resolution process by debtor, financial creditor or operational creditor; liquidation of unviable businesses; and avoiding destruction of value of failed business. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is taking further necessary steps for implementation of the Code.

Financial Stability and Development Council

- With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up as the apex level forum in 2010.
- The Council, inter-alia, monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues, including issues relating to financial literacy and financial inclusion.

> Financial Stability Board

• Financial Stability Board (FSB) was established in 2009 under the aegis of G20 by bringing together the national authorities, standard setting bodies and international financial institutions for addressing vulnerabilities and developing and implementing strong regulatory, supervisory and other policies in the interest of financial stability. India is an active member of the FSB having three seats in its Plenary.

Infrastructure Financing

- Given the enormity of the investment requirements and the limited availability of public resources for investment in physical infrastructure, it is imperative to explore avenues for increasing investment in infrastructure through various sources. In view of this, government launched the following to mobilize the long term investment in infrastructure in the country:
 - Bank Financing: Banks continue to be major source of financing infrastructure. RBI has been modifying guidelines for advances to infrastructure including 5/25 scheme, take out financing.
 - Institutional Finance: The Government has also set up India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) with the specific mandate to play a catalytic role in the Infrastructure sector by providing long-term debt for financing term debt, refinance to banks and financial institutions for loans granted by them, with tenure exceeding 10 years or any other mode approved by thegovernment.
 - Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs): Government of India has conceptualized Infrastructure Debt Funds (IDFs) to accelerate and enhance the flow of long term debt into infrastructure projects to help in the migration of project loans for operating assets from banks to the fixed income markets.
 - Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)/Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs): These are trust based structures that maximize returns through efficient tax pass-through and improved governance structures. Guidelines/Regulations for InvIT and REIT were notified by SEBI in 2014.



> Public Private Partnerships

- Given the enormity of the investment requirements and the limited availability of public resources for investment in physical infrastructure, the projected infrastructure investments made it imperative to explore avenues for increasing investments in infrastructure through a combination of public investment and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- India systematically rolled out a PPP programme for the delivery of high-priority public utilities and infrastructure and, over the last decade or so, developed what is perhaps one of the largest Programme in the world.

► G-20

• The G20 was formed in 1999, as a forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, in recognition of the fact that there was a major shift in the global economic weight from the advanced economies to emerging market economies.

▶ BRICS

- The BRICS nations or Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa form the five key pillars of south- south cooperation and are the representative voice of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries in the global forums such as the G20.
- The New Development Bank, established by these nations in 2015, marked its first imprints in India by signing a loan agreement for financing of the major district road project in Madhya Pradesh in March 2017.

> United Nations Development Programme

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the largest channel for development cooperation in the UN. The overall mission of the UNDP is to assist the programme countries through capacity development in Sustainable human Development (SHD) with priority on poverty alleviation, gender equity, women empowerment and environmental protection.
- All assistance provided by the UNDP is grant assistance. The UNDP derives its funds from voluntary contributions from various donor countries. India's annual contribution to the UNDP has been to the extent of US\$ 4.5 million, which is one of the largest from developing countries.

• Sustainable Development



- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 - SAARC, in existence since 1985 (founded in Dhaka), is a regional organisation that aims to promote economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific cooperation in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
 - Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It has crafted several regional conventions, agreements and institutions for dealing with issues that affect the citizens of the region.
 - It is a consensus-based forum for the exchange of ideas, development of regional programmes and projects.

• The Framework for Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC countries was formulated with theintention to provide a line of funding for short term foreign exchange requirements or to meet balance of payments crises till longer term arrangements are made or the issue is resolved in the short-term itself.

SAARC Development Fund (SDF)

- SDF was established in 2008 by the SAARC countries to improve the livelihood of the people and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.
- The Fund is implementing many SAARC projects and programmes. Project funding in SDF is to be taken up under three windows (Social, Economic and Infrastructure). Of the three windows of SDF, economic and infrastructure windows are being operationalized.

International Monetary Fund

- India is a founder member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which was established to promote a cooperative and stable global monetary framework.
- At present, 188 nations are members of the IMF. Since the IMF was established, its purposes have remained unchanged but its operations which involve surveillance, financial assistance and technical assistance have developed to meet the changing needs of its member countries in an evolving world economy.

World Bank

- India has been borrowing from the World Bank through International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) for various development projects in the areas of poverty reduction, infrastructure, rural development, etc.
- IDA funds were one of the most concessional external loans for Government of India and were usedlargely in social sector projects that contribute to the achievement of millennium development goals.

International Finance Corporation

• International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, focuses exclusively on investing in the private sector in developing countries. Established in 1956, IFC has 184 members. Indiais founding member of IFC

New Development Bank

- The New Development Bank (NDB) has been instituted with a vision to support and foster infrastructureand sustainable development initiatives in emerging economies.
- The founding members of the NDB Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) brought incapital of USD 1 billion as initial contribution.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) set up in 2016 to foster sustainable economic development, create productive assets and improve infrastructurein Asia through financing of infrastructure projects. India is one of the founding Members and the second largest shareholder.
- India along with 20 other countries signed the Inter- Governmental Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) for establishing the AIIB in **Beijing.**

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was set up in 1977 as the 13th specialized agency of the UN. It is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.



► Global Environment Facility

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) operates as a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits.
- GEF provides grants to eligible countries in its focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, chemicals and waste.

Asian Development Bank

- India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which was established in 1966. ADB has 67 members (including 48 regional and 19 non-regional members), with its headquarters at Manila, Philippines. India is holding 6.331 per cent of shares, totaling 6,72,030 shares in ADB as on 31st December, 2016, with 5.363 per cent voting rights.
- The Bank is engaged in promoting economic and social progress of its developing member countries (DMCs) in the Asia Pacific Region.

• National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was created with the aim to attract equity investments from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects, both Greenfield and brownfield, including stalled projects.

Greenfield project:

- In many disciplines a greenfield project is one that lacks constraints imposed by prior work.
- The analogy is to that of construction on greenfield land where there is no need to work within the constraints of existing buildings or infrastructure.

Brownfield:

- In urban planning, brownfield land is any previously developed land that is not currently in use that may be potentially contaminated.
- The term is also used to describe land previously used for industrial or commercial purposes with known or suspected pollution including soil contamination due to hazardous waste.

> International Investment Treaties and Framework

- India initiated the exercise to negotiate and enter into Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)/ Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPAs) with other countries as a part of the comprehensive economic reforms programme which was initiated in 1991.
- A BIT is essentially an international treaty which increases the comfort level and boosts the confidence of the investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination in all matters while providing for an independent forum for dispute settlement through arbitration.
- The new Indian Model BIT of 2015 aims to provide appropriate protection to foreign investors in India and Indian investors in the foreign country, in the light of relevant international precedents and practices.

> Department of Expenditure

• The Department of Expenditure is the nodal Department for overseeing the public financial management system in the central government and matters connected with state finances.

> Controller General of Accounts

• The Controller General of Accounts (CGA), in the Department of Expenditure, is the Principal Accounting Adviser to Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.



• The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for the Union Government.

> Department of Revenue

- The Department of Revenue exercises control in respect of revenue matters relating to Direct and Indirect Union taxes through two statutory boards namely, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
- The Department is also entrusted with the administration and enforcement of regulatory measures provided in the enactments concerning Central Sales tax, Stamp duties and other relevant fiscal statutes. Control over production and disposal of opium and its products is vested in this Department.

► Goods and Services Tax Legislative Development

- The proposal to introduce a national level Goods and Services Tax (GST) was first mooted in 2006-07.
- The Goods and services Tax Council was constituted in 2016.
- GST was implemented in the country in July, 2017. Subsuming of various central indirect taxes and levies such as central excise duty, additional excise duties, excise duty levied under the medicinal and toilet preparations (excise duties) Act, 1955, Service Tax,
- Additional Customs Duty commonly known as countervailing duty, special additional duty of customs, and central surcharges and cesses so far as they relate to the supply of goods and services.
- Coverage of all goods and services, except alcoholic liquor for human consumption, for the levy of goods and services tax. In case of petroleum and petroleum products, it has been provided that these goods shall not be subject to the levy till a date notified on the recommendation of the GST Council.
- Compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax for a period which may extend to five years.

Indian Stamp Act

• The Indian Stamp Act, 1899 is a fiscal statute laying down the law relating to tax levied in the form of stamps on instruments recording transactions.

Central Board of Direct Taxes Direct Taxes

• The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), created by the Central Boards of Revenue Act 1963, is the apex body entrusted with the responsibility of administering direct tax laws in India. It is the cadre controlling authority for the Income Tax Department (ITD).

E-Governance Initiatives

• **Permanent Account Number (PAN):** PAN is a 10 digit alpha-numeric number allotted by the Income Tax Department to taxpayers and to the persons who apply for it under the Income Tax Act, 1961. PAN enables the department to link all transactions of the "person" with the department. The transactions linked through PAN include tax payments, TDS/TCS credits, returns of income/wealth, specified transactions, correspondence, and so on. PAN, thus, acts as an identifier for the "person" with the Income tax department.

Tax Deducted At Source (TDS)

- The concept of TDS was introduced with an aim to collect tax from the very source of income. As per this concept, a person (deductor) who is liable to make payment of specified nature to any other person (deductee) shall deduct tax at source and remit the same into the account of the Central Government.
- The deductee from whose income tax has been deducted at source would be entitled to get credit of the amount so deducted on the basis of Form 26AS or TDS certificate issued by the deductor.

- **Common Business Identification Number (CBIN or BIN):** PAN has now taken on the role of "identifier" beyond the Income tax department as it is now required for various activities like opening of bank account, opening of demat accounts, obtaining registration for Service Tax, Sales Tax / VAT, Excise registration etc. PAN is leveraged to become Common Business Identification Number (CBIN) or simply Business Identification Number (BIN) for providing registration to a number of government departments and services.
- **One Person One PAN:** The Income Tax Act permits one person to have only one PAN. To avoid issuance of duplicate PAN, the data is checked for duplication by using the software having phonetic matching algorithm.

New Initiatives

- Integration with e-Biz portal of DIPP
 - e-Biz programme is a mission mode project of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion(DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry to facilitate the investors by providing Single Window clearance like licensing, environment and land clearances, approvals from various ministries and departments for start-up businesses.
- Integration with MCA Portal
 - PAN and TAN processes have been integrated with the process of registration of new companiesusing a Common Application Form SPICe (INC 32) at MCA portal.
- Paperless Application using DSC and eSignature
 - An online paperless procedure for application of PAN using Digital Signature Certificate and Aadhaar based eSignature has been launched at websites of both service providers M/s NSDLand M/s UTIITSL.
 - In this procedure a person having **Digital Signature Certificate** or **eSignature** can apply for PANthrough online form 49A and upload digitally signed application with scanned copies of Proof of Identity, Proof of Date of Birth, Proof of Address, Photograph and Signature without any need for sending physical documents by post.

Digital signature

• A digital signature is a mathematical scheme for verifying the authenticity of digital messages or documents. A valid digital signature, where the prerequisites are satisfied, gives a recipient very strong reason to believe that the message was created by a known sender (authentication), and that the message was not altered in transit.

• Paperless Application using Aadhaar based eKYC

- Another paperless procedure for allotment of PAN using Aadhaar data and photograph of applicant has been launched. The process is termed as eKYC process where demographic detailsand photograph of the applicant are populated directly from Aadhaar database by applicant through an authentication process.
- PAN Card
 - All new applicants and card reprint requests are now being provided option of receiving digitallysigned ePAN card on the lines of eAadhaar letter through email. The initiative has reduced thetime of transmission of PAN card through post.
- Electronic filing of Income Tax Return-
 - Filing of Income tax returns was introduced for the first time in 2006-07 for corporates. This facility is free of cost to taxpayers.
- IT enablement of Business Processes
 - Income Tax Business Application (ITBA) was conceptualized with development of new application for computerization of all internal processes of Income Tax Department.
- Unification of Grievance Redressal Systems- e-Nivaran



 e-Nivaran aims to fast track taxpayer's grievance redressal, ensuring early resolution by integrating all the online and physical grievances received by the department and keeping track of it until it reaches its logical conclusion.

Major Citizen Friendly Initiatives

- **Aayakar Sewa Kendra (ASK)** is the single window system for implementation of Citizen's Charter of the Income Tax Department and a mechanism for achieving excellence in public service delivery.
- **Aayakar Setu:** It would facilitate the online payment of the taxes, calculation of taxes, removal of grievances through login to the e-Nivaran module, information about the TPS hierarchy, ASK IT module, Tax Gyaan, TDS/TRACES and other features.
- **TDS SMS alert Scheme:** CBDT has put in place a mechanism for real-time communication to taxpayers (deductees) about information of TDS deduction/deposit by their respective employers or deductors.
- **Publicity Campaigns:** Several publicity campaigns were carried out which included campaigns for awareness of due dates of payment of advance tax, filing of returns, filing of TDS statements and issuance of TDS certificates, filing of annual information return, services of TRPs, vigilance awareness week, income declaration scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, demonetization and publication of names of chronic defaulters.
- **Social Media:** The Department has stepped into publicity campaigns through social media channels since 2015 as per the approved Social Media policy.

Central Board of Excise and Customs

- The main objectives of CBEC are to collect indirect tax revenues, improve tax payer services, to improve compliance for fair trade and enforcement of border controls and promote efficiency and transparency and develop human resources for such purposes. The CBEC consists of a Chairman and6 members.
- **SWIFT**: In 2016, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) launched single window interfacefor facilitating trade (SWIFT) at all customs EDI locations with six major participating government agencies (PGAs), as a single point interface for clearance of imported goods.
- **SWIFT** enables importers to file common electronic 'Integrated Declaration' which compiles the information requirements of customs, FSSAI, plant quarantine, animal quarantine, drug controller, wild life control bureau and textile committee and replaces nine separate forms earlier required by these agencies.
- **Enterprise Data Warehouse:** CBEC is one of the first government departments to have implemented an Enterprise Date Warehouse, a central repository of clean and consistent, near real time data pertaining to Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax.
- **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND):** FIU-IND was established by the Government of India in 2004 for coordinating and strengthening collection and sharing of financial intelligence through an effective national, regional and global network to combat money laundering, related crimes and terrorist financing.

Department of Financial Services

• The Department of Financial Services (DFS) is mainly responsible for policy issues relating to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions including their functioning, appointment of Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officers (MD & CEOs), Executive Directors (EDs), Chairman cum Managing Directors (CMDs), legislative matters, and international banking relations.

Banking

- Banking industry is crucial to the economy of any nation as it channelizes savings and investments toprovide capital for economic growth.
- Public sector Banks (PSBs) and PSB sponsored Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have dominant market presence and constitute 78 percent of the bank network of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). In rural locations, this share is even higher at 87 per cent.



• PSBs play an important role in fuelling investment needed for the country's economic development, with a share of over 70 per cent of SCBs' deposits and 66 per cent of outstanding credit.

► Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Following India's independence on 15 August 1947, the RBI was nationalised on 1 January 1949.
- The RBI plays an important part in the Devlopment Strategy of the country. It is a member bank of the Asian Clearing Union.
- The central bank executes many functions such as overseeing monetary policy, issuing currency, managing foreign exchange, working as a bank for government and as a banker of scheduled commercial banks. It also works for overall economic growth of the country.
- The primary objective of RBI is to undertake consolidated supervision of the financial sector comprising commercial banks, financial institutions and non-banking finance companies. Payment and settlement systems play an important role in improving overall economic efficiency.

► Regional Rural Banks

- The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were established under Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 to create an alternative channel to the cooperative credit structure and to ensure sufficient institutional credit forthe rural and agriculture sector.
- RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, concerned state government and sponsor banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50 per cent, 15 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively.

► Agriculture Credit

• In order to boost the agriculture sector with the help of effective and hassle free agriculture credit, the government has been fixing annual targets for ground level agriculture credit by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks.

► Kisan Credit Card

- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998-99, as an innovative credit delivery system aiming at adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible, convenient and cost effective manner.
- The scheme is being implemented by all cooperative banks, RRBs and public sector commercial banksthroughout the country. KCC is one of the most effective tools for delivering agriculture credit.
- NABARD monitors the scheme in respect of cooperative banks and RRBs and RBI in respect of commercial banks.

▶ Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

• The Central Government established a fund to be operationalised by NABARD namely, the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), which was set-up within NABARD during 1995-96 by way ofdeposits from Scheduled Commercial Banks operating within the country from the shortfall in their agricultural/priority sector/weaker sections lending.

► Insurance

• Insurance, being an integral part of the financial sector, plays a significant role in India's economy. Apart from protection against mortality, property and casualty risks and providing a safety net for individuals and enterprises in urban and rural areas, this sector encourages savings and provides long-term funds for infrastructure development and other long gestation projects of the country.



> Life Insurance Corporation of India

• Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) was established by an Act of Parliament called the LifeInsurance Corporation of India Act, 1956.

> Reforms in the Insurance Sector

- The insurance sector was opened for private participation with the enactment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is functioning from its head office in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The core functions of the authority include: (i) licencing of insurers and insurance intermediaries; (ii) financial and regulatory supervision; (iii) regulation of premium rates; and (iv) protection of the interests of the policyholders

Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana

• Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition, as also to provide social security in old age. The Scheme is being implemented through LICof India.

> Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana

- For the benefit of the weaker sections of the society, Government of India floated a highly subsidized insurance scheme, viz., Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) which is administered through Life InsuranceCorporation of India.
- Under this social security scheme below poverty line (BPL) and marginally above poverty line citizensare covered under 48 identified occupations.

• Social Security Schemes

► Atal Pension Yojana

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in May, 2015, to address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector who are not covered under any statutory social security scheme.
- The APY is focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System (NPS) administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). Any Indian citizen between 18-40 years of age can join through their savings bank account/post office savings account.
- **Revisions in APY:** In the event of pre-mature death of the subscriber, government has decided to give an option to the spouse of the subscriber to continue contributing to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period i.e., till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years. The earlier provision was to hand over lump sum amount to spouse on the premature death (death before 60 years of age) of the subscriber.

> Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana

- Government announced three ambitious social security schemes pertaining to the insurance and pension sectors, namely Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha BimaYojana (PMSBY) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to move towards creating a universal social security system, targeted especially for the poor and the under-privileged.
- PMJJBY is a one year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage of twolakhs rupees for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years (life cover up to 55 years of age) having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto debit.

> Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

• The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a one year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death/disability due to an accident and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 70 years having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.



> Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

- With a view to increasing banking penetration and promoting financial inclusion and with the main objective of covering all households with at least one bank account per household across thecountry, a National Mission on financial inclusion named as (PMJDY) was announced in 2014.
- Objectives of PMJDY include: (i) universal access to banking facilities for all households across the country through a bank branch or a fixed point business correspondent (BC) within a reasonable distance. (ii) to cover all households with atleast one basic bank account with RuPay Debit card having inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹1 lakh.

• Pension Reforms

National Pension System

- With a view to providing adequate retirement income, the **National Pension System (NPS)** was introduced. It has been made mandatory for all new recruits to the Government (except armed forces) with effect from January 1, 2004 and has also been rolled out for all citizens with effect fromMay 1, 2009 on a voluntary basis.
- The NPS provides various investment options and choices to individuals to switch over from one option to another or from one fund manager to another, subject to certain regulatory restrictions.

> Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

• (PFRDA), set-up as a regulatory body for the pension sector, is engaged in consolidating the initiativestaken so far regarding the full NPS architecture and expanding the reach of NPS distribution network.

Swavalamban Scheme

- To encourage the workers in the unorganized sector to save voluntarily for their old age, an initiative called Swavalamban Scheme was launched in 2010.
- It is a co-contributory pension scheme whereby the central government contributes a sum of ₹1,000 per annum in each NPS account opened having saving of ₹1,000 to ₹12,000 per annum.

► Rural Housing Fund

• The Rural Housing Fund was set up in 2008-09 to enable primary lending institutions to access fundsfor extending housing finance to targeted groups in rural areas at competitive rates.

> Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

• Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched in 2015, to enable income generating small business enterprises to have access to loans. Accordingly, lending institutions would finance micro entrepeneurs up to ₹10 lakh.

Disinvestment Policy

• The policy on disinvestment has evolved considerably. The salient features of the Policy include: (a) public sector undertakings are the wealth of the Nation and to ensure this wealth rests in the handsof the people, promote public ownership of CPSEs; (b) while pursuing disinvestment through minority stake sale in listed CPSEs, the Government will retain majority shareholding, i.e. at least 51 per cent of the shareholding and management control of the Public Sector Undertakings; and (c) strategic disinvestment by way of sale of substantial portion of Government shareholding in identified CPSEs upto 50 per cent or more, alongwith transfer of management control.

National Investment Fund

• Government constituted the National Investment Fund (NIF) in 2005 into which the proceeds from is investment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized.

Demonetisation of Banknotes

- The Government demonetised 500 and 1,000 banknotes on November 8, 2016. All 500 and 1000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi series ceased to be legal tenders in India from November 9,2016.\
- New 500 and 2000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi New Series in exchange for the old bank notes were announced. However, the banknote denominations of 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 of the Mahatma Gandhi series remained legal tender and were unaffected by the policy.



12

Corporate Affairs

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) is **primarily concerned with administration of the Companies Act2013, the Companies Act 1956, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008** and other allied Acts and rulesand regulations framed there-under mainly **for regulating the functioning of the corporate sector.** The Ministry is also responsible for administering the Competition Act, 2002 to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers through the commission set up under the Act. Besides, it exercises supervision over the three professional bodies, namely, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) which are constituted under three separate Acts of the Parliament for proper and orderly growth of the professions concerned.

• Ease of Doing Business

➤ The Ministry has prescribed a Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Companies (SPICe) along with e-MOA (Electronic-Memorandum of Association) and e-AoA (Electronic-Articles of Association) which eliminates the requirement of physically signing the Memorandum of Association (MoA) and Articles of Association (AoA) by the applicant and helps entrepreneurs to start business in India, without much hassles.

• The Companies Act, 2013

- The Companies Act, 2013 seeks to bring corporate governance and regulatory practices in India at parwith global best practices.
- ► The corporate sector has been given more flexibility in regulating its own affairs, subject to full disclosure and accountability of its actions, while minimising Government interference.
- The Act provides more opportunities for new entrepreneurs and enables wide application of information technology in the conduct of affairs by corporates.
- ► Key Features of the Companies Act, 2013
 - **Business Friendly Corporate Regulations/Pro-Business Initiatives:** Provision of self-regulationwith disclosures/transparency instead of 'Government approval based regime'.
 - Good Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Concept of Independent Directors (IDs) included as a statutory requirement. Woman Director for prescribed class of companies. Mandatory provision for constitution of CSR Committee and formulation of CSR Policy, with mandatory disclosure, for prescribed class of companies.
 - **Strengthened Enforcement**: The Central Government to have powers to order investigation, suo-motu, in public interest.
 - Audit Accountability: Recognition of accounting and auditing standards. Stricter disqualification norms for auditors.
 - **Investor Protection:** Stringent norms for acceptance of deposits from the public. Strengthened role of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). No time bar on claims of dividends from IEPF. Class Action Suits recognized. Enhanced powers to tribunal for protection of minority rights.



> Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015

 The Companies Act, 2013 was amended through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015 to facilitate business and address certain immediate concerns raised by stakeholders. These amendments along with the relevant rules have been notified and they provide exemptions under various provisions of the Act to (i) private companies, (ii) government companies, (iii) Section 8 companies and (iv) Nidhis.

Memorandum of Association	Articles of Association
Charter of Company	Regulations for internal management
Difines the scope of the activities	Rules for carrying out the objects of company
Supreme document	Subordinate to the memorandium.
Must for every company	Company limited by shares need not have it (Table 'A' appplies)
Strict restrictions, alteration only with sanction of central govt/tribunal.	Can be altered by special resolution.
It fefine the relationship between the company & the outsiders	It define the relationship between company & its staff and between members & members interests

• Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC, 2016)

- ► The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) became functional from May, 2016. Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 were amended wherein Ministry of Corporate Affairs was entrusted with the responsibility to administer the Code.
- The Code has been framed with the objective to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board

• The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) was established in 2016. The IBBI has **the mandate for regulation of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities** besides exercising other powers and functions as envisaged under the Code.

• Special Courts

 Under Section 435 of the Companies Act, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has constituted Special Courts by designating 20 existing Sessions courts/ Additional Sessions Courts as Special Courts under Section 435 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act).

• National Company Law and Appellate Tribunal

- The constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was done in 2016. These bodies have been constituted for faster resolution of corporate disputes and reducing the multiplicity of agencies thereby promoting 'ease of doing businesses in the country.
- With the constitution of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the Company Law Board (CLB) standsdissolved and cases pending with CLB were transferred to NCLT.



• Corporate Social Responsibility

➤ In India, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for companies has been mandated through legislation through Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. Section 135, Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 came into force from April, 2014.

• Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP)

- ➤ In India, about **95 per cent** of industrial units are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). As per the survey conducted by MSME, over **90 per cent of these are registered** as proprietorships, about **2 to 3 per cent as partnerships and less than 2 per cent as** companies.
- MSME sector is at a comparative disadvantage vis-à-vis corporate bodies in accessing loan/credit facilities from banks and other financial institutions.
- A need was felt for a new corporate form that would provide an alternative to the traditional partnership with unlimited personal liability on the one hand, and the statute-based governance structure of the limited liability company on the other.
- LLP is a form of business entity, which allows individual partners to be protected from the jointand several liabilities of partners in a partnership firm.
- The liability of partners incurred in the normal course of business does not extend to the personal assets of the partners.
- ► It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.
- An LLP would be able to fulfil the compliance norms with much greater ease, coupled with limitation of liability. The corporate structure of LLP and the statutory disclosure requirements are expected to enable higher access to credit in the market.

Private Company

- A private company is the one which has a minimum paid up share capital of Rs. 100000 or such higher capital as prescribed by the Companies Act. Its Article of association mentions that the company:
- Restricts the right to transfer its shares
- Limits the number of its members from 2 to 50
- Cannot go for invitation from public to subscription to any of its shares
- Cannot accept deposits from persons other than its members, directors and relatives.

Public Company

• A public company means a company which is not a private company and has minimum of 7 shareholders / subscribers. It has to have a minimum paid-up share capital of Rs. 5 Lakh.

MCA21— e-Governance Project

- The Ministry operated an end-to-end e-governance project called MCA21 for end to end service delivery comprising Company and Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registration, incorporation, registry and other compliance related services.
- ➤ The project was started in March, 2006 on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model with the vision was "to introduce a service-oriented approach in the design and delivery of Government services".
- With the help of e-services, the MCA21 System provides to the stakeholders a convenient, easy to useand secure access and delivers all MCA services with improved speed and certainty. It has brought about transparency, speed and efficiency in the functioning of the Ministry.



Investor Education and Protection Fund

The Companies Act provides for establishment of Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) for promoting Investor Awareness and protecting their interests. The amount of dividend, matured deposits, matured debentures, application money, etc., which remained unpaid/unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they first become due for payment, are transferred to IEPF.

• Serious Fraud Investigation Office

- ➤ The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was set up in 2003. The Companies Act, 2013, interalia, has accorded statutory status to SFIO and its functions and powers have been enhanced substantially with number of enabling provisions in the Act and it was established under Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The main function of SFIO is to investigate corporate frauds of serious and complex nature. It takesup investigation of frauds characterized by complexity, and having inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary ramifications, substantial involvement of public interest to be judged by size of either monetary appropriation or the number of persons affected and the possibility of investigations leading to, or contributing towards a clear improvement in systems, laws or procedures.

• Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

➤ The Ministry set up the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a society registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 to serve as a 'Holistic Think- Tank', and a 'Capacity Building, Service Delivery Institution' to help corporate growth, reforms through synergised knowledge management, partnerships and problem solving in a one-stop-shop mode.

• Competition Commission of India

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established in 2003 under the Competition Act, 2002, with the objective of eliminating practices having an adverse effect on competition, promoting and sustaining competition, protecting the interest of consumers and ensuring freedom of trade inIndia.
- ➤ The Competition Act, 2002 was amended twice (Amendment) Act, 2007 and the Government (Amendment) Act, 2009. The provisions of the Competition (Amendment), 2002 relating to anticompetitive agreements and abuse of dominant position were brought into force in 2009 and those relating to combinations from 2011.

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Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, anPublic Distribution is a ministry with two departments - **the Department of FooanPublic Distribution anthe Department of Consumer Affairs. Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)** has been entrustewith the following work: internal trade; the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, etc.; Prevention of Black Marketing anMaintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980; regulation of packagecommodities; training in legal metrology; consumer cooperatives, etc.

- The Department of FooanPublic Distribution, in the Ministry, is **responsible for the management of the fooeconomy of the nation**. It undertakes various activities, such as procurement of fooitems, storage, movement, and elivery to the distributing agencies.
- The primary policy objective of the Department is **to ensure foosecurity for the country through timely anefficient procurement andistribution of foograins**.

• Consumer Affairs

- ➤ The mandate of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is consumer advocacy. India was apioneer in consumer advocacy with the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), a path-breaking legislation at the time, enactein 1986, anthe establishment of a separate government department dedicateto consumer affairs as early as in 1997.
- Consumer Awareness
 - The DCA has been conducting a countrywide multimedia awareness campaign since 2005 on variousissues relateto consumer rights anresponsibilities across diverse subjects. **"Jago Grahak Jago"** has today become a householaxiom.
 - The consumer awareness campaign is implementethrough the **Directorate of Audio anVisual Publicity (DAVP), the Doordarshan Network (DD), anthe All India Radio (AIR) of Ministry of Information anBroadcasting.**
- ► Consumer Welfare Fund
 - The Central Excise anSalt Act, 1944 was amendein 1991 to enable the Central government to create a Consumer Welfare Funinto which unclaimecentral excise revenues not refundable tothe manufacturers woulbe crediteannually.
 - **The Consumer Welfare Funwas createin 1992** to provide financial assistance to promote anprotect the welfare of the consumer, create consumer awareness anstrengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country, particularly in rural areas.
 - The Department of Consumer Affairs operates the fund, set up by the Department of Revenue under the Central Excise anSalt Act, 1944. Under its Rules, since revisein 2014, any agencies/ organizations engagein consumer welfare activities for at least five years anregistereunder the Companies Act, Societies Registration Act, Cooperative Societies Act or any other law for the time being in force are eligible for financial assistance from the Fund.

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

• This Act provide he legislative framework to better protect the interests of the **consumer by creating a formal but quasi-judicial dispute resolution mechanism exclusively for consumers**. This progressive legislation establishe three-tier quasi-judicial consumer **dispute redress machinery at the national, state, andistrict levels** aimeat providing simple, speedy, anaffordable redress to consumers.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (New Act) became effective from August 2019. The salient features of the Act, include, establishment of Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to:
 - Protect, promote anenforce the rights of consumers as a class, anprevent violation of consumers' rights under this Act;
 - Prevent unfair trade practices anensure that no person engages in unfair trade practices;
 - Ensure that no false or misleading advertisement is made of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder
 - Ensure that no person takes part in the publication of any advertisement which is false or misleading.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- A new Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act 2016 came into force from 2017. The Act establishes the BIS as the National Standards Body of India.
- ► It has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under **compulsory certification regime** any goods or article of any scheduleindustry, process, system or service which it considers necessary inthe public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, the safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security.
- The Act enables the Central government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products anservices to a standaranissue certificate of conformity. The Bureau of Indian Standards was set up as a statutory organization taking over the assets anliabilities of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) that came into existence in 1947.
- > The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi.
- National Consumer Helpline (NCH)
 - It is a project that operates under **the Centre for Consumer Studies at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)**. It was set up in 2004 anhas customizesoftware that is serverbasefor receiving calls ananswering through one PRI line.
- Consumer Grievance Redress
 - Under the **Consumer Protection Act, 1986, a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism** has been set up in the country to adjudicate complaints filebefore them anto provide speedy redress to consumers.
 - National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission) at the apex level with territorial jurisdiction over the whole country anpecuniary jurisdiction to consider consumerdisputes/complaints involving claims above ₹1.00 crore anwith appellate jurisdiction over state/commissions.
 - State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (State Commissions) with territorial jurisdiction over the state/ UT concerneanfinancial jurisdiction to entertain consumer complaints involving claims above ₹20.00 lakh anup to ₹1.00 crore anwith appellate jurisdiction over the district for a.
 - **District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora (District Forum)** with territorial jurisdiction over the district anpecuniary jurisdiction up to ₹20.00 lakh.



• National Test House (NTH)

- ► It is a premier test anquality evaluation laboratory for industrial, engineering anconsumer products under the administrative control of the Government of India since the year 1912.
- ► The NTH issues test certificates in scientific anengineering fields to certify conformity to national/ international specifications or customer standarspecifications.

Price Monitoring

• The **DCA operates a Price Monitoring Cell (PMC)** taskewith monitoring prices of select essential commodities. The monitoring is done in respect of **both retail anwholesale prices daily.**

FooanPublic Distribution

The primary objective of the Department of Foo& Public Distribution is to ensure foosecurity
for thecountry through efficient procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP), storage
andistribution of foograins; ensuring the availability of food-grains sugar anedible oils
through appropriate policy instruments; including maintenance of buffer stocks of
food-grains; making food-grains accessible at reasonable prices, especially to the weaker
anvulnerable sections of society under aTargetePublic Distribution System (TPDS).

Procurement of Food-grains

- FooCorporation of India (FCI), with the help of state government agencies, procures wheat, paddy ancoarse grains in various states to provide price support to the farmers. Before each Rabi/Kharif crop season, the central government announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), baseon the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs anPrices (CACP), which takes into consideration the cost of various agricultural inputs anthe reasonable margin for the farmers for their produce.
- State governments are encourageto adopt a decentralize**procurement (DCP) system of procurement** to maximize procurement, reduce transportation, anincrease the reach of MSP operations. Procurequantities above state's requirements are taken in the Central Pool for distribution elsewhere.

Stock in Central Pool

• **Food-grain Stocking Norms (Buffer Norms)** were laidown to meet the prescribeminimum stocking norms for foosecurity, to ensure monthly releases of food-grains for the TargetePublic Distribution System (TPDS), Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), to meet emergencies arising out of unexpectecrop failure, natural disasters, festivals, etc., anto use the food-grain stock in the Central Pool for market intervention to augment supply to help moderate the open market prices.

National FooSecurity

- To strengthen the commitment to the foosecurity of the people, the Government of India enactethe **National FooSecurity Act, 2013 (NFSA)**, which came into force from 2013. The Act aims **to provide for fooannutritional security in human life cycle approach**, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality fooat affordable prices to people to live with dignity. The Act marks a paradigm **shift in approach to foosecurity** from welfare to rights-baseone.
- The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population anupto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidizefood-grains under TargetePublic Distribution System, thus covering about two-thirds of the population. This coverage for receiving highly subsidizefood-grains is under two categories—households covereunder the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) anthe remaining households as priority households.
- AAY was launchein 2000 to provide focus on foosecurity to the poorest of the poor ancovers 2.5 crore households. Such households are entitleunder the Act to receive 35 kg. of food-grains perhouseholper month, at ₹ 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice. Priority households are entitleto receive 5 kg. offoodgrains per person per month at the above mentionehighly subsidizeprices.

• NFSA is now being implementein all the states/UTs covering about 80.55 crore beneficiaries, against intendecoverage of 81.34 crore people. In Chandigarh, Puducherry anurban areas of Dadra anNagar Haveli, the Act is being implementein the cash transfer mode under which foosubsidy isbeing transferreinto the bank accounts of beneficiaries who then have a choice to buy foodgrains from open market.

End-to-EnComputerisation

- Under TargetePublic Distribution System (TPDS) reforms, the Department in collaboration with all state/UT governments haimplementea Plan scheme on 'End-to-EnComputerisation of TPDS Operations' to introduce transparency anefficiency in the TPDS operations all over the country.
- Such reforms became even more relevant after coming into force of National FooSecurity Act, 2013 (NFSA). The implementation of the scheme was initiateby the Department under the 12th Five Year Plan anits validity was extendeup to March 2020.

• IntegrateManagement of PDS (IM-PDS)

A new central sector scheme- 'IntegrateManagement of PDS' (IM- PDS) is to be implementeduring FY 2018-19 an2019-20 for establishing Public Distribution System Network (PDSN) to inter alia implement national level de-duplication of beneficiaries anportability. The Scheme will strengthen better targeting of foosubsidy anhelp the beneficiaries to lift food-grains from the FPSs of their choice.

> Other Welfare Schemes

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

• It is implementeby the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Scheme covers students of primary anupper primary classes in the government schools/schools aideby the government anthe schools run by local bodies. Food-grains are suppliefree of cost at 100 grams for primary stage anat 150 grams for upper primary stage per chilper school day where cooked/processehot meal is being serveor 3 kgs per student per month where raw food-grains are distributed.

Wheat BaseNutrition Programme

 This Scheme is implementeby the Ministry of Women anChilDevelopment. The foodgrainsallotteunder it are utilizeby the states/UTs under the IntegrateChilDevelopment Services (ICDS) scheme for providing nutritious/energy footo children in the age group of 0-6 yearsanexpectant/lactating women.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls

- The Ministry of Women anChilDevelopment administers the scheme at the central level.However, food-grains for the Scheme are allotteby the Department of FooanPublic Distribution at BPL rates to the Ministry of Women anChilDevelopment.
- The SABLA scheme was launchein 2010 by merging two schemes namely, Nutrition Programme anAdolescent Girls (NPAG) anKishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) into a single scheme. The Scheme aims at empowering adolescent girls of 11-18 years by the improvement of their nutritional anhealth status anupgrading various skills useful to them. It also aims at equipping the girls on family welfare, health hygiene, etc., anguiding them on existing public services. The requirement of food-grains for nutrition is at 100 grams of grains per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year.

Supply of Foodgrains to Welfare Institutions

• To meet the requirement of welfare institutions viz., charitable institutions such as beggar homes, nariniketans, another similar welfare institutions not covereunder TPDS or any other welfare schemes, an additional allocation of food-grains (rice anwheat) not exceeding 5% of the BPL allocation is made to states/UTs at BPL prices.



Annapurna Scheme

• This Scheme is implementeby **the Ministry of Rural Development**. Indigent **senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting pension under the National OlAge Pension Scheme(NOAPS)**, are provide10 kgs. of food-grains per person per month free of cost under it. Food-grains are provideby the Department of FooanPublic Distribution under the scheme at BPL prices.

> Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic)

• In addition to maintaining buffer stocks anfor meeting the requirement of the Targete Public Distribution System (TPDS) an Other Welfare Schemes (OWS), **the FCI sells excess stocks of wheat anrice from the Central Pool at pre-determineprices in the open market from time to time**under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) through e-tender to enhance the supply especially during the lean season, especially in the deficit regions.

Storage of Foodgrains

Capacity of FCI anState Agencies

• FCI has its griof coveregodowns in all states to safely stock the central pool food-grains. Besides, it hires capacity from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) anstate agencies like state warehousing corporations as well as private parties.

Augmentation of Storage Capacity

- To cope with increasing production anprocurement of foodgrains, the Department is implementing a private entrepreneurs guarantee (PEG) scheme for augmenting the coverestorage capacity in the country. Under the PEG scheme, which was launchein 2008, godowns are constructein PPP mode anthe lananconstruction cost is borne by the selectepartners. Locations for construction of godown are identifie by the FCI base on recommendations of state-level committees to cover the gaps in storage.
- A central sector scheme for construction of godowns with a focus on augmenting storage capacity is being implementein the North-Eastern state. Under it, funds are also providefor the construction of storage godowns to improve the supply chain logistics of PDS.

Warehousing Development anRegulatory Authority

For the growth andevelopment of warehousing sector, to bring reforms in the agricultural marketing anto increase credit flow in the farm sector, the government introducea negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country by enacting the Warehousing (Development an Regulation) Act, 2007 which is in place since 2010. The government constitute the Warehousing Development an Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in 2010 for the implementation of the provisions of the Act. The Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) issueagainst stocks of farm produces depositeby thefarmers in warehouses woulhelp the farmers in seeking a loan from banks. Warehouses neeto be registerewith the WDRA for issuing NWRs.

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)

• It is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) set up 1957 under this Department to provide scientific storage facilities for agricultural produces, implements, another notifiecommodities. CWC also has a 100 percent ownesubsidiary company namely, Central Railside Warehouse Company Limite (CRWC) for the development of Railside Warehouse Complexes (RWCs).

Post-Harvest Management of Foodgrains

> Quality Standarfor Foodgrains

• The government exercises due to control over the quality of food-grains procurefor the central pool. The Quality Control Cells of the Ministry at New Delhi anthe fieloffices at 10 states monitor the quality of food-grains procured, stored, anissue for distribution by FCI anstate governments antheir agencies.



> Indian Grain Storage Management anResearch Institute (IGMRI)

- IGMRI, Hapur, an its fiel stations at Ludhiana (Punjab) an Hyderaba (Andhra Pradesh) are engagein the training anapplieResearch anDevelopment (R&D) work relating to grain storage management.
- Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL)
 - CGAL locatein New Delhi assists the Department in monitoring the quality of food-grains at the time of procurement, storage, andistribution by analyzing samples collecteby quality control officers.

• Export anImport of Food-grains

Export Policy of Rice anWheat

- The Government has allowefree export of non-basmati rice by private parties from privately-helstocks from 2011. State Trading Enterprises (STEs) including M/s NCCF anNAFEare also permitteto export privately helstocks on non-basmati rice.
- The export of wheat was also allowefrom the same year. Export of non-basmati rice anwheat is permittethrough Custom EDI ports. Export is also permittethrough the non-EDI LanCustom Stations (LCS) on Indo-Bangladesh anIndo-Nepal Border subject to registration of quantity with DGFT. Export of rice of seequality another [rice in the husk (paddy or rough) other than seequality] is permitteunder the licence.

► Sugar

Sugar Production

- The sugar industry is an important agro-baseindustry that impacts the rural livelihooof about 50 million sugarcane farmers antheir families anaroun5 lakh workers directly employein sugar mills. India is the second-largest producer of sugar in the worlafter Brazil anis also the largest consumer.
- **•** Review of Distribution of Sugar to Antyodaya Anna Yojana Families
 - The Sugar Subsidy Scheme has been revieweanit has been decidethat it is imperative to give access to consumption of sugar as a source of energy in the diet, for the poorest of the poor section of the society i.e., AAY families. Accordingly, the government has decidethat the existing system of sugar distribution through PDS may be continueas per the following:- (i)the existing scheme of supply of subsidizesugar through PDS may be continue for restrictecoverage of AAY families only. They will be provide1 kg of sugar per family per month; (ii) the current level of subsidy at ₹18.50 per kg provideby the central government to states/UTs may be continuefor the AAY population. The revisescheme was implementein 2017.

• Ethanol Blending Petrol Programme

- Ethanol is an agro-baseproduct, mainly producefrom a by-product of the sugar industry, namely molasses. The Ethanol BlendePetrol Programme (EBP) seeks to achieve a blending of Ethanol with motor sprit to reduce pollution, conserve foreign exchange anincrease value addition in the sugar industry enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers. The government has also notifienew National Policy on Bio-Fuels, 2018 under which sugarcane juice has been allowefor the production of ethanol.
- Sugar Development Fund
 - Under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, a cess was collecteas exciseduty on all sugar produceansolby any factory within the country which has now been abolishethrough Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 2017. The cess so collecteprovidefunds for Sugar Development Fun(SDF) through the budgetary process.



► Edible Oils

• The Department of FooanPublic Distribution deals with issues relateto edible oils anfats. The Directorate of Sugar anVegetable Oils is staffewith qualifietechnical people who assist the Ministry in the coordinatemanagement of Vegetable Oils Policy, particularly relating to production/ availability anmonitoring of prices.

SAARC FooBank

• In pursuance of the decision taken in the 14th SAARC Summit helin New Delhi in 2007, the Heads of States of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries signethe agreement to establish the SAARC FooBank. As per this agreement, SAARC FooBank is to have a reserve of food-grains to be maintaineby each member states consisting of either wheat or rice, or a combination of both as an assesseshare of the country.

> FooanAgricultural Organisation anCommittee on WorlFoo Security

- **FooanAgricultural Organisation (FAO)** is one of the largest specializeagencies in the UN System foundein 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition anstandarof living by improvingagricultural productivity anliving conditions of the rural population.
- The Committee on WorlFooSecurity (CFS) serves as a forum in the UniteNations System for review anfollow-up of policies concerning worlfoosecurity, including fooproduction, physical aneconomic access to food.
- India is a member of both FAO anCFS. Committee on WorlFooSecurity (CFS) monitors the progress of implementation of the WFS Plan of Action.

International Grains Council (IGC)

- India is a member of the IGC, inter governmental forum of exporting animporting countries for cooperation in wheat ancoarse grain matters which was previously known as International Wheat Council upto 1995. It administers the Grains Trade Convention, 1995. The IGC Secretariat, basein London since 1949, also services the FooAiCommittee, establisheunder the FooAiConvention. International Grains Agreement comprises the Grains Trade Conventional Grains Agreement (IGA), 1995, anits Grain Trade Convention (GTC), 1995, which is effective from 1995. IGC has two types of members—importing an exporting members.
- India has been includein the category of exporting member in July 2003 anrepresentein the meetings/sessions of the Council helfrom time to time.

FooProcessing Industries

- The Ministry of FooProcessing Industries was set up in July 1988 to give an impetus to the development of the fooprocessing sector in the country. Later this Ministry was made a Department anbrought under the Ministry of Agriculture. It was again made a ministry in 2001 annamethe Ministry of FooProcessing Industries. The Ministry is concernewith the formulationanimplementation of the policies for the fooprocessing industries within the overall national priorities anobjectives.
- India ranks number one in the worlin the production of milk, ghee, ginger, bananas, guavas, papayas, anmangoes. Further, India ranks seconin the worlin the production of rice, wheat, anseveral other vegetables anfruits.
- The fooprocessing industry is one of the major employment intensive segments constituting **12.77% of employment generatein all registerefactory sectors in 2014-15**.
- Cent percent FDI is permitteunder the automatic route in fooprocessing industriesmanufacturing sector. FDI is allowethrough the approval route for trading, including through e-commerce in respect of fooproducts manufactureand/or producein India.
- The foo processing sector has been identifie as one of the **priority sectors under 'Make** in India'.
- According to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) data for 2014-15, the total number of persons engagein registerefooprocessing sector was 17.73 lakhs.


• Cent per cent FDI is permitteunder the automatic route in fooprocessing industriesmanufacturing sector.

FooParks anColChain

- A dedicate investors' portal calle' Nivesh Bandhu' was launchein 2017 to aianassist potential investors in the fooprocessing sector in taking an informedecisions. This portal is a 'one-stop information source' on central anstate government policies, incentives offered, AgriResources, an infrastructure facilities across the country.
- An investor-friendly Mobile APP- 'NiveshBandhu' was developeanlauncheto enable the investorto have access to relevant information very conveniently anfrom any destination from their mobile proving to be game-changers for the investors in making informeinvestment decisions.

• Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- PMKSY is a comprehensive package resulting in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. Not only has it providea big boost to the growth of the fooprocessing sector in the country but also helps in providing better returns to farmers anis a big step towards doubling farmers' income, creating huge employment opportunities. Especially in rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the level of processing, anenhancing the export of processefoods.
- The following schemes are implementeunder PM Kisan Sampada Yojana: (i) mega fooparks (ii)integratecolchain anvalue addition infrastructure (iii) creation/expansion of fooprocessing anpreservation capacities (unit scheme) (iv) infrastructure for agro-processing clusters (v) creation of backwaranforwarlinkages (vi) foosafety anguality assurance infrastructure (vii) humanresources aninstitutions.

• Mega FooParks Scheme

➤ It is being implementesince 2008, aims to create a modern fooprocessing infrastructure for the processing units baseon a cluster approach ana hub anspoke model in a demand-driven manner. The scheme intends to facilitate the establishment of an integratevalue chain, with fooprocessing at the core ansupporteby requisite forwaranbackwarlinkages. The central processing centre is networkewith the primary processing centres ancollection centres locateat the farm gate in production areas. The Scheme envisages a well-defineagri/horticultural processing zone containing state-of-the-art processing facilities with support infrastructure ana well-establishesupply chain.

• Scheme of Operation Greens

MoFPI launchea new central sector scheme "Operation Greens—A scheme for integratedevelopment of Tomato, Onion, anPotato". Major objectives of Scheme include: (i) enhancing value realization of tomato, onion, anpotato (TOP) farmers by targeteinterventions to strengthen TOP production clusters antheir FPOs, anlinking/ connecting them with the market.; (ii) price stabilization for producers anconsumers by proper production planning in the TOP clusters anintroduction of dual-use varieties through convergence with the scheme implementeby Mission for IntegrateDevelopment of Horticulture (MIDH) anstate governments.; (iii) increase in fooprocessing capacities anvalue addition in the value chain by creating firm linkages with production clusters, etc.

• National Mission on FooProcessing

- The Ministry launchea Centrally SponsoreScheme—National Mission on FooProcessing (NMFP) during the 12th Plan in 2012. Five ongoing central sector schemes of the 11th Plan anfournew schemes were mergein the Mission.
- The CSS-NMFP was implementethrough states/UTs. However, the CSS-NMFP was de-linkefrom the central support in 2015 according to the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. Consequently, all nine schemes of the Mission standiscontinued.



- Government of India approvea new central sector scheme Kisan Sampada Yojana (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing anDevelopment of Agro-Processingg Clusters) in 2017 with an outlay of ₹ 6,000 crores for the perio2016- 20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. It is a comprehensive package that will result in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- > National Institute of FooTechnology, Entrepreneurship, anManagement (NIFTEM)
 - The Ministry establishethe **NIFTEM at Kundli, in Haryana in May 2012**. NIFTEM has been declarea **DeemeUniversity under the de novo category**. Under the Scheme, funds are to be provideto the Institute for the creation of academic anadministrative infrastructure. Funds will also be provideto promote research activities, expan**Village Adoption Programme (VAP),** anskill development in the fooprocessing sector.
- Indian Institute of FooProcessing Technology (IIFPT)
 - The Ministry upgradeIIFPT, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu to a national level institute in 2008. Under thescheme, funds are to be **provideto the Institute for the creation of infrastructure facilities including the purchase of additional lanfor expanding campus ancreation of academic anadministrative infrastructure.** To enable the Institute to expanits activities, the North East States will include Sikkim andifficult areas.

14

Health and Family Welfare

The Ministry of Health Family Welfare (MoHFW) earlier had two departments - the Department of Health & Family Welfare and the Department of Health Research. Department of AIDS Control has been merged with the Department of Health & Family Welfare and now be known as the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).

• Management of Covid-19

- World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Covid-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020 and asked all countries to take urgent and aggressive action against this public health crisis. The government undertook the Covid-19 challenge up front. It took the bold decision to announce a nation-wide lockdown which involved the community.
- Government initiated a series of actions to prevent entry of the disease and to contain its spread. Eleven Empowered Groups were constituted on March 29, 2020 on different aspects of Covid-19 management in the country to take informed decisions on issues.
- Community surveillance was initiated for travel-related cases and subsequently for cases being reported from community by Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). The containment plans released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare envisage a strategy of breaking the chain of transmission by: (i) defining containment and buffer zones; (ii) applying strict perimeter control; (iii) intensive active house-to-house search for cases and contacts; (iv) isolation and testing of suspect cases and high-risk contacts; (v) quarantine of high-risk contacts; (vi) intensive risk communication to raise community awareness on simple preventive measures and need for prompt treatment seeking; and (vii) strengthening of passive Influenza Like Illness (ILI)/ Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) surveillance in containment and buffer zones.
- ➤ Three-tier arrangement of health facilities was created for appropriate management. It includes: (i) Covid Care Centre with isolation beds for mild or pre-symptomatic cases; (ii) Dedicated Covid Health Centre (DCHC) with oxygen supported isolation beds for moderate cases; and (iii) Dedicated Covid Hospital (DCH) with ICU beds for severe cases. Tertiary care hospitals under Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), defence, railways, paramilitary forces and Ministry of Steel have been leveraged for case management.
- ➤ To ensure accessibility of quality treatment for both Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 health issues to far-flung areas, use of telemedicine has been promoted in a big way. 'eSanjeevani', a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution, is being utilised (in 23 states) to extend the reach of specialised healthcare services to masses in both rural areas and isolated communities.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is establishing a National Clinical Registry on Covid-19 that will provide insights into clinical course of Covid-19 disease, its spectrum and the outcome of patients.

• National Health Mission

NRHM and NUHM became two sub-missions under the overarching NHM. NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality healthcare services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs. The main components of the programme are: strengthening the health system in rural and urban areas; Reproductive-Maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) interventions and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.



• Maternal and Child Health

Mission Indradhanush: It was launched in 2014 to cover all those children who have been partially vaccinated or not vaccinated during routine immunisation rounds. The objective of the scheme is to increase full immunisation coverage to at least 90 per cent children by 2020.

• New Vaccines

- ► **Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV):** In concurrence with the World Polio End Game strategy, IPV was introduced in November 2015 in six states and expanded throughout the country by June 2016.
- Rotavirus Vaccine (RVV): This vaccine was launched in March 2016, to reduce the burden of diarrhoea caused by Rotavirus.
- Rubella Vaccine as Measles Rubella (MR) Vaccine: MR vaccine is being introduced through campaign targeting around 41 crore children in the age group of 9 months to 15 years
- Adult JE Vaccine: Japanese Encephalitis vaccination in children was introduced in 2006. However, the vaccine was expanded in adult population of districts with high disease burden in 2015.
- Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV): This vaccine was launched in May 2017, to reduce child deaths due to pneumonia which is a major cause of child mortality
- Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine: Increase in immunisation coverage in children led to shift in agegroup of diphtheria cases to schoolgoing children and adults. Subsequently, Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine was recommended by National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) in 2016.

• Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

It was launched to provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents. Includes:-

- Weekly Iron Folic Supplementation, an evidence-based programmatic response to the prevailing anemia situation amongst adolescent girls and boys
- Menstrual Hygiene Scheme aims to ensure that adolescent girls have adequate knowledge and information about menstrual hygiene and the use of sanitary napkins
- Peer Educator Programme aims to ensure that adolescents are benefitted from regular and sustained peer education covering nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, conditions for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), substance misuse, injuries and violence (including gender-based violence) and mental health

Mother's Absolute Affection Programme

MAA-Mother's Absolute Affection" is an intensified programme to bring undiluted focus on promotion of breastfeeding and other infant and young child feeding practices through capacity building of health functionaries.

Lactation Management Centres

- Lactation Management Centres at high delivery load facilities provide comprehensive support for lactation management.
- It includes Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres (CLMCs) and Lactation Management Units (LMUs).
- In CLMCs, there is a provision of Donor Human Milk (DHM) collected from the mothers who voluntarily donate their excess breast milk free-of-cost for the newborns who have no access to their own mothers' milk.

GSSCORE

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

This programme aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the ninth day of every month. PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second or third trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities

o Anemia Mukt Bharat

- ► In 2018, Anemia Mukt Bharat strategy was launched to achieve the envisaged target of 3 per cent reduction in anemia prevalence every year under the POSHAN Abhiyan.
- The six interventions under Anemia Mukt Bharat strategy are: prophylactic iron folic acid supplementation; periodic deworming; intensified year-round behaviour change communication campaign including delayed cord clamping; testing and treatment of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment; mandatory provision of iron folic acid fortified foods in public health programmes; and addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers

Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers (NRCs) have been set up at public health facilities to provide medical and nutritional care to Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children under five years of age who have medical complications.

• Ayushman Bharat

Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) through Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) holistically addresses health (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care), at primary, secondary and tertiary levels by adopting a continuum of care approach. Ayushman Bharat comprises two components: Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres and Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

- Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres: The first component of Ayushman Bharat pertains to creation of 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) by upgrading the Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and rural and urban Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in order to bring healthcare closer to the community. These centres will provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), by expanding and strengthening the existing Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) and Communicable Diseases services and by including services related to Non-Communicable Diseases.
- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana: Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world. Households are included based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) for rural and urban areas respectively. It provides a cover of ₹ 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across public and private empanelled hospitals in the country; over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits; PM-JAY provides cashless access to healthcare services for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital; and it covers up to three days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days post-hospitalisation expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.

• National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme.

The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) (erstwhile Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme) is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme implementing Tuberculosis prevention and control activities in a mission mode to achieve a rapid decline in burden of TB, morbidity and mortality towards ending TB in India by 2025.



• Mental Healthcare

- To address the challenge of mental illnesses, the government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. Under NMHP, implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) has been approved for 692 districts of the country for early detection and management of mental disorders/illnesses.
- The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, which came into force on May 29, 2018 seeks to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfill the rights of such persons during delivery of services

• Medical Education

- The National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 for setting up a National Medical Commission and to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 has been passed by the Parliament. The Act was notified on August 8, 2019.
- Phase-III of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals has been approved on August 28, 2019 to established 75 new medical colleges

o Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) envisages creation of tertiary healthcare capacity in medical education, research and clinical care, in the underserved areas of the country. It aims at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the country. PMSSY has two components: projects involving setting up of new AIIMS like institutes and upgradation of existing Government Medical Colleges (GMCs).

• Indian Council of Medical Research

- It was established in 1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA).ICMR has been on the forefront in the fight against Corona virus since its beginning in Wuhan, Hubei Province of China (December 2019) and detection of first case in Kerala in India (January 2020). Corona Control Room was set up at ICMR headquarters to develop appropriate strategies, strengthen ICMR DHR Viral Diagnostic Research Laboratory Network and close monitoring of situation for preparedness. National Institute of Virology, Pune, was the only lab that detected the first case of the Coronavirus in the country in January 2020 and developed RT-PCR diagnosis.
- ICMR expanded its activities from diagnosis and testing to validation and evaluation, procurement and distribution of reagents to conduct sero-prevalence and from developing guidelines/advisories to initiate research on Covid-19 and development of new diagnostics (COVID KAWACH ELISA) and vaccine candidate (Covaxin).

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

- ▶ Food Safety and Standards Ac was enactedt in 2006.
- The Food Authority is assisted by Scientific Committee and Panels in setting standards and the Central Advisory Committee in coordinating with enforcement agencies.
- The Food Authority guides and regulates all persons engaged in manufacturing, processing, import, transportation, storage, distribution and retails of food, on issues of food safety and nutrition with primary responsibility for enforcement largely with the Commissioners of Food Safety of states/UTs.

• Drugs

SUGAM by Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) enables online submission of applications, their tracking, processing and grant of approvals online mainly for drugs, clinical trials, ethics committee, medical devices, vaccines and cosmetics. It provides a single window for multiple stakeholders (Pharma Industry, Regulators, Citizens) involved in the processes of CDSCO.



• e- Health

> National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB)

- The Committee constituted by the MoHFW to create an implementation framework for the National Health Stack (NHS) has come up with the National Digital Health Blueprint, after surveying the global best practices in adoption of digital technologies holistically. The key features of the blueprint include a federated architecture; a set of architectural principles; a 5-layered system of architectural building blocks; Unique Health Id (UHID); privacy and consent management, national portability; EHR, applicable standards and regulations; health analytics; and above all, multiple access channels like call centre, Digital Health India portal and MyHealth App. On August 15,2020, the National Digital Health
- Mission (NDHM) was implemented in the country. Currently, NDHM is being implemented in six UTs for pilot implementation.

Centre for Health Informatics (CHI)

• The Centre for Health Informatics (CHI) has undertaken multiple activities relating to e-Governance/ e-Health for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare system.

Sanjeevani and eSanjeevani OPD

 eSanjeevani, the telemedicine platform of MoHFW supports two types of teleconsultation services: Doctor-to-Doctor (it is known as eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (it is called eSanjeevani OPD) tele-consultations. eSanjeevani is an important component of the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) programme. On April 13, 2020, MoHFW also rolled out 'eSanjeevaniOPD'—the patient to doctor tele-consultation service owing to the Covid-19 pandemic during the lockdown when OPDs in the country were shut down

• AYUSH Systems of Healthcare

Ayurveda

• The Charak Samhita and Sushruta Samhita developed around 2500 BC are the main treaties of Ayurveda fully available today. According to Ayurveda, health is considered as a pre-requisite for achieving the goals of life, i.e., Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha.

▶ Yoga

• Yoga is essentially spiritual and it is an art and science of healthy living which focuses on bringing harmony between body and mind. The word 'Yoga' has two meanings; the first comes from the root 'Yujir' or 'Union', the second is derived from a different root 'yuja' which means 'samadhi'—the highest state of mind and the absolute knowledge. These two are the most important meanings of the word Yoga according to Panini, the most well-known Sanskrit grammarian.

Naturopathy

• Naturopathy is a system of medicine that advocates harmonious living with constructive principles of nature on physical, mental, moral and spiritual planes.

Unani

• The Unani system of medicine originated in Greece and passed through many countries before establishing itself in India during the medieval period. This system of medicine was documented in Al-Qanoon, a medical classics, by Sheikh Bu-Ali Sina (Avicena) (980-1037 AD), in Al-Havi by Razi (850-923 AD) and in many others books written by the Unani physicians.

Siddha

• The Siddha System of medicine is one of the ancient systems of medicine in India having its close links with Dravidian culture. The term 'siddha' means achievements and Siddhars are those who have achieved perfection in medicine. Eighteen Siddhars are said to have contributed towards the systematic development of this system and recorded their experiences in Tamil language.



▶ Homoeopathy

• The physicians from the time of Hippocrates (around 400 BC) had observed that certain substances could produce symptoms of a disease in healthy people similar to those of people suffering from the disease. Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician, scientifically examined this phenomenon and codified the fundamental principles of Homoeopathy. Homoeopathy was brought into India around 1810 AD by European missionaries and received official recognition by a Resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1948 and then by the Parliament.

► Sowa-Rigpa

• Sowa-Rigpa is among the oldest surviving health traditions of the world with a living history of more than 2,500 years. It has been in vogue and practised in Himalayan regions throughout particularly in Leh and Laddakh (J&K), Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Darjeeling, etc. Sowa-Rigpa is effective in managing chronic diseases like asthma, bronchitis, arthritis, etc. The basic theory of Sowa-Rigpa is explained in terms of: (i) the body and the mind as the locus of treatment; (ii) antidote, i.e., the treatment; (iii) the method of treatment through antidote; (iv) medicines that cure the disease; and lastly (v) pharmacology. Sowa-Rigpa emphasises the importance of the five cosmological physical elements in the formation of the human body.



15

Housing & Urban Affairs

THE Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal ministry for planning and coordination of urban transport matters at the central level. Urban development is a state subject and the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Act, 1992, enjoins upon the state governments to delegate many functions to urban local bodies.

The 2030 development agenda of the United Nations has emphasised the role of sustainable cities by incorporating Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), i.e., Sustainable Cities and Communities for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. As per the Census of India 2011, the population of India is 1,210.50 million, of which 377.10 million (31.2 per cent) is urban and 833.40 million (68.8 per cent) is rural.

• Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Housing for All (Urban)

- Mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched in 2015 as a flagship mission and is to be implemented during 2015-22. The mission provides central assistance to all eligible families/ beneficiaries across all statutory towns for houses.
- States/UTs will have the flexibility to include the Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified with respect to Statutory Towns and such Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified by development authorities. EWS family has been defined as the family with annual income up to ₹ 3 lakh and LIG with annual income between ₹ 3-6 lakh.
- Progress of the scheme
 - A comprehensive and robust MIS system is in place that helps all stakeholders to seamlessly manage information pertaining to physical and financial progress. The MIS is equipped with geotagging features and integrated with BHUVAN Portal of National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and BHARAT MAP of National Informatics Centre (NIC) for monitoring the progress of construction of houses.
 - The MIS is utilising services from UIDAI servers for 'on the fly' demographic authentication of Aadhaar of beneficiaries. The MIS has also been integrated with UMANG Mobile App, NITI Aayog Dashboard and DBT Bharat Portal for sharing of mission critical information with different stakeholders.
 - The mission has crossed the momentous milestone of 1 crore and is now one of the largest affordable housing programme in the world.

Smart Cities Mission

In the approach of the Smart Cities Mission, the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'smart' solutions. Under it, 100 Smart Cities have been selected in 4 Rounds based on an All India Competition. All 100 cities have incorporated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), City Level Advisory Forums (CLAFs) and appointed Project Management Consultants (PMCs).



• Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched in 2015. In all, 500 cities have been included in the Mission. All Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with a population of one lakh or more, all other capital cities of states/UTs and all Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) cities, identified cities on the stem of the main rivers, from hill states, islands and tourist destinations. Approximately 60 per cent of urban population in the country is covered under AMRUT.

• Heritage City Development

The National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), a central sector scheme of the Government of India was launched in 2015 with the aim of bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner. By November 2018 and after a total outlay of ₹ 500 crore, the scheme is being implemented in 12 identified cities, namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) since 2013 for reducing the poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households. The Mission covers all the statutory towns in the country, which are to be decided by the state as per local need and capability.

• The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016

Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) was passed by the Parliament in March 2016, heralding a new era of transformation in the real estate sector. The core objective of this transformative legislation is to ensure regulation and promotion of real estate sector in an efficient manner and to protect the interest of home buyers. The Act is applicable to all the states/UTs, except Jammu & Kashmir. Most of the states/UTs have notified the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules.

• I-Metros (Indian Metro Rail Organisations' Society)

A platform to exchange ideas, pooling of knowledge and sharing of experience, best practices, innovations, etc., among the Indian metro rail companies to nurture excellence in performance, was launched in March 2018.

• National Common Mobility Card

India's first indigenously developed payment ecosystem for transport based National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) was launched in March 2019. This will enable people to pay multiple kinds of transport charges, including metro services and toll tax, across the country. This inter-operable transport card allows the holders to pay for their bus travel, parking charges, retail shopping and even withdrawal of money.

Cost-effective Metro System

Standards for Light Urban Rail Transit System named "Metrolite" was issued by the Ministry in July 2019, the cost of which is likely to be lesser than that of high capacity metro rail system being developed presently in the country. This system is suitable for cities with lower projection of ridership. It can also be used as a feeder system to metro system. The Ministry has also standardised various metro rail components, viz., rolling stock, signalling and telecom systems, electrical and electromechanical systems and civil engineering structures to promote indigenisation.



16

India & The World

The Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent global lockdown pushed the world to the brink of recession. It triggered a rethink on the spread of global supply chains, and re-focused the world's attention towards non-traditional security threats that have the potency to fundamentally reshape the international system.

The Ministry was able to transform the challenges posed by the pandemic to conducting diplomacy into an opportunity by starting global conversations using virtual platforms

• Vande Bharat Mission

- The pace of our outreach efforts with the Indian diaspora also continued, with characteristic vigour and innovative mechanisms. The Vande Bharat mission, launched to repatriate Indian nationals stranded overseas in the wake of the pandemic and global lockdowns, has been the largest exercise of its kind ever undertaken by the government and has demonstrated a capacity to effectively carry out complex humanitarian missions.
- Bilaterally, Prime Minister's engagements with the United States, France, Japan, Australia, China, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and high level visits to Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as also to the Central Asian Republics, are illustrative of a new phase in the expansion of India's diplomatic engagements.

• Indo-Pacific Policy

- ► India's broadening horizons on maritime issues were postulated through presentation of a six-point Indo-Pacific policy, reinforcing our concept of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). India launched Mission SAGAR, and sent Indian Naval Ship Kesari to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar.
- India played a pioneering role in climate change and global warming issues. As on July 30, 2020, 87 countries had signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance and of these 67 had deposited their instruments of ratification. The International Solar Alliance was also launched jointly by India and France during COP21 in Paris.

Neighbourhood First

- India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' continued to be accorded the highest priority, with a focus on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity. The pace of bilateral engagements was maintained and the focus was on making progress on the execution of infrastructure and connectivity projects. Projects in rail, road, ports, inland waterways, shipping and energy and fuel transmission are being implemented with Indian partners in the neighbourhood
- Several cross-border connectivity projects under Indian assistance are at varying stages of implementation, especially with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Their speedier conclusion will enhance regional connectivity and promote seamless flow of goods and services between India and its immediate neighbourhood.



• Strategic Autonomy

India reaffirmed its commitment to its quadrilateral partnership with the US, Japan and Australia, and its Japan-India-America (JAI) trilateral relations. The year 2020 saw India, France and Australia hold their first trilateral meeting, vowing to strengthen their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

• Act East Policy

The Act East policy received a boost with the renewed global emphasis on the Indo-Pacific region. India and ASEAN have stepped up cooperation to boost maritime cooperation and physical, digital and cultural connectivity. There is also deepening synergy on non-traditional security issues like terrorism, cybersecurity, and environmental threats

• Think West

India's outreach to the Gulf and West Asian countries has become an increasingly important pillar of foreign policy. Engagement with Africa, both in political and economic terms, has also intensified as never before. The Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme announced by India has benefitted African nations by extending duty free access to 98.2 per cent of India's total tariff lines. Thirty-eight African countries benefit from the DFTP Scheme. India has become the fifth largest investor in Africa with cumulative investments of USD 54 billion.

• High Level Visits

- Prime Minister also participated in the NAM Contact Group on Covid-19. In addition, the Prime Minister addressed the Extraordinary Virtual G20 Leaders Summit in March 2020 where he emphasised the need to put human beings, rather than economic targets, at the centre of the vision of global prosperity and cooperation. India has been preparing for its G20 Presidency for 2023.
- ▶ India is interested in strengthening the global ecosystem of digital health technologies to promote health outcomes. India hosted the 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit in February 2019.

• Diplomacy for Development

Domestic transformation has been made integral to India's foreign policy strategy. Intensified engagements with partners have brought visible economic benefits to the people of India, through enhanced foreign investment and technology tie-ups, leading to the setting up of factories and creation of jobs. This dovetailing of diplomacy with development and prosperity has led to forging of foreign collaborations for promoting schemes of national renewal, including programmes like - Make in India, Skill India, Smart Cities, Digital India and Start-up India.

• Neighbourhood

► Afghanistan

• India participated in the inaugural session of the intra-Afghan negotiations held in Doha in September 2020. India has voiced its support for an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled peace process. New Delhi remains committed in its support to promoting peace, security, unity, sovereignty, plurality and democracy in Afghanistan.

▶ Bangladesh

• Development projects such as Rampal Maitree Power Plant, India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, and rail links between Akhaura-Agartala and Chilahati-Haldibari and Khulna-Mongla rail line are nearing completion. Protocol on Inland Water Transport and Transit was operationalised to improve inland water port facilities at key locations, such as the major river junction of Ashuganj.



• The year 2021 will mark 50 years of the liberation of Bangladesh and the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Bangladesh. India plans to issue a commemorative stamp on Bangabandhu during Mujib Barsho.

Bhutan

• The 720 MW Mangdechhu hydroelectric project was jointly inaugurated by Prime Ministers of both the countries. The Concession Agreement for the 600 MW Kholongchhu (Joint Venture) Hydroelectric Project was signed in June 2020 in Thimphu. Among key future projects, the Sankosh Hydro-electric project is one that India and Bhutan plan to work on soon.

Myanmar

• Myanmar's President visited India twice in 2019 and 2020. During this visit, in February 2020, ten agreements were signed. India has provided assistance for three rail, one road, three power transmission and two telecom projects. Both sides welcomed the appointment of a Port Operator to operate and maintain the Sittwe Port and Paletwa Inland Water Transport Terminal. To facilitate the easy movement of passenger and cargo traffic between the two countries, two land border crossing points at Tamu-Moreh and Rihkhawdar-Zowkhawthar were opened as international border gates in August 2018.

Maldives

• In August 2020, India announced its decision to support the Greater Male Connectivity Project through a grant of USD 100 million and a LoC of USD400 million. Progress has been made in the construction of the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies. Maldives has been the largest recipient of India's Covid-19 related assistance.

Pakistan

• The heinous terrorist attack in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, on 14 February 2019, was executed by the Pakistan-based and UN-proscribed terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The Government of India took the initiative to put in place state-of-the-art infrastructure and opened the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor on the auspicious occasion of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji in November 2019. This allowed pilgrims to undertake visits to the Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan is, however, yet to build the bridge across Budhi Ravi Channel which would facilitate safe movement of pilgrims.

Nepal

• In September 2019, Prime Ministers of both the countries jointly inaugurated South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline from Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal. India-Nepal developmental partnership has involved 43 road projects and 4 transmission line projects. India and Nepal have also been working in the areas of agriculture, inland waterways and railways. The Gorkha Housing Reconstruction Project which has received substantial funding from India is also nearing completion.

Sri Lanka

• Under the Indian Housing Project, 46,000 houses have been constructed for the internally displaced in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. Progress has been made in the construction of 14,000 houses for Tamils of Indian origin in the Up-Country region.

Mauritius

• 2019 saw the inauguration of two projects implemented by India: ENT Hospital Project and the first phase of age Metro Express Project. INS Shardul and INS Darshak paid friendly visits to Mauritius to undertake joint hydrographic survey on the request of the Mauritian government. In July 2020, India and Mauritius jointly inaugurated Mauritius' new Supreme Court building.

Seychelles

• Defence and security cooperation was deepened with the visits of INS Shardul, Sujata, Magar, Tarangini/Sudarshini, Kochi and Darshak and Indian Coast Guard Ships Sarathi and Vikram.



• Indian Ocean Rim Association

At the 21 st IORA Committee of Senior Officials held in Abu Dhabi, UAE in November 2019, mid-term review of IORA Action Plan 2017-2021 was discussed, and it was decided to continue the review at the next IORA Committee meeting of Senior Officials as well as consider the new IORA Action Plan 2021-2025.

• South East Asia and Indo-Pacific

As the pandemic disrupted conventional democracy, India held the first ever a bilateral virtual summit with Australia, in June 2020. During this meeting, India and Australia decided on a Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region to harness opportunities and meet challenges together as Comprehensive Strategic Partners. India is also actively engaged with New Zealand and Pacific Island countries (PICs) through political understanding, security and defence cooperation, and economic engagement.

• East Asia

▶ Japan

• India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership continued making strides in 2020, when the armed forces of the two countries signed the Agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services. The Agreement will further enhance the depth of defence cooperation between the two countries and contribute to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region

► Republic of Korea

• Bilateral trade amounts to around USD 21 billion, and the two plan to expand their trade relations to around USD 50 billion by the year 20.

• Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

SCO Foreign Ministers met in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) in May 2019 and in Moscow in September 2020. India has been taking active part in various SCO dialogue mechanisms under the Chairmanship of the Russian Federation in 2020.

• The Gulf and West Asia

► Gulf

• In 2019-20, close political ties with the countries in the region continued to grow. The visit of Saudi Crown Prince strengthened the bilateral partnership and opened avenues for enhanced cooperation and prospects of increased Saudi investments in India's infrastructure. PM visited Bahrain (first ever Indian PM visit to the nation) and UAE in August 2019, where he was conferred their respective nations' highest civilian awards. India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation at Foreign Ministerial level was held in August 2020.

▶ West Asia and North Africa

- West Asia and North Africa (WANA) continues to remain important from energy security, food security and for global peace and security. This region is a primary source of rock phosphates and its derivatives, and potash—the key raw materials for the production of various fertilisers. More than 80 per cent requirements of rock phosphates are sourced from the countries in this region. This region is also rich in minerals. India intensified its efforts to further secure its energy interests in the region.
- The Government of India conferred its second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan on the President of the Republic of Djibouti in March 2019.



• The Americas

North America

• The year 2020 marked US President's first official visit to India when the relationship was upgraded to a 'Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. Similar dynamic energy defined the PM's visit to the US in September 2019, wherein he was received by the Indian diaspora at the "Howdy Modi" event in Houston. These landmark visits were in addition to meetings at the Ministerial levels and high-level dialogue mechanisms, such as EAM's visit to the US and Canada (in December 2019) and the India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

Latin America

• The first ever India-CARICOM Leaders' meeting at PM level was held in September 2019 on the sidelines of UNGA. The meeting underscored India's firm commitment to strengthen its political, economic and cultural engagement with CARICOM.

• United Nations and International Organisations

Prime Minister participated in the online Summit of NAM Contact Group, hosted by Azerbaijan in May 2020 to discuss the response to the pandemic. EAM visited the United Kingdom in July 2019 to attend the 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting. India is now looking forward to its term as a non permanent member of the UN Security Council, starting in January 2021. In May 2020, India was also elected as the Chair of the WHO's Executive Board.

• Counter Terrorism

During 2019, India held CT dialogues with China, France, Canada, USA, Australia, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Russia, UK, Germany and participated in the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group meeting. Counter-terrorism also featured prominently in India's bilateral interactions with key partners in 2020.

• Global Cyber Issues

In keeping with its profile, the MEA upscaled its Global Cyber Issues Cell to create the new Cyber Diplomacy (CD) Division which has been entrusted with the responsibility of projection and safeguarding of Indian interests on the subject in international fora. The MEA Performance Monitoring Dashboard was launched in August 2019. The dashboard is created on three target areas capturing all major schemes programmes and initiatives of the Ministry with many major indicators sliced and diced across five clusters (diaspora engagement, development of partnership, international engagement, trade and commerce, and citizen services).

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17 Industry

• Department For Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) was established in 1995, the Department was earlier called Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion; and was renamed DPIIT in 2019.

The role and functions of the Department, primarily include:

- formulation and implementation of industrial policy and strategies for industrial development in conformity with the development needs and national objectives
- monitoring the industrial growth, in general, and performance of industries specifically assigned to it, in particular, including advice on all industrial and technical matters
- > formulation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy and promotion, approval and facilitation of FDI
- formulation of policies relating to Intellectual Property Rights in patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of goods and administration of regulations, rules made there under

• National Manufacturing Policy

- The National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) was notified with the objective of enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent and creating 100 million jobs over a decade or so.
- The policy envisages that central government will create the enabling policy framework; provide incentives for infrastructure development on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis through appropriate financing instruments; and state governments will be encouraged to adopt the instrumentalities provided in it.

• National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs)

These zones have been conceived as large integrated industrial townships with state-of-the-art infrastructure; land use on the basis of zoning; clean and energy efficient technology; necessary social infrastructure; and skill development facilities, etc., to provide a conducive environment for manufacturing industries.

Manufacturing Clusters

The objective of the National Plan for Manufacturing Clusters is to bring about convergence in the multiple models of development of industrial clusters by the central and state governments so as to affect better cost efficiency and optimal utilisation of resources.

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Foreign Direct Investment Policy

- DPIIT is the nodal department for formulation of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). It is also responsible for maintenance and management of data on inward FDI into India based on the remittances reported by the Reserve Bank of India.
- After abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), process for granting FDI approvals has been simplified wherein the work relating to processing of applications for FDI and approval of the government thereon under the extant FDI Policy and FEMA is now handled by the concerned ministries/ departments.
- DIPP is a single point interface of the government to facilitate investors for FDI through approval route.
- > DIPP is the nodal department for approvals in case of single brand retail trading, multi brand retail trading, food product retail trading, non-resident Indian/export oriented units investments.

• Investment Promotion

- The Department plays an active role in investment promotion and facilitation through dissemination of information on investment climate and opportunities within the country and by advising prospective investors about investment policies and procedures and opportunities. International co-operation for industrial partnerships is solicited through both bilateral and multilateral arrangements.
- It also coordinates with apex industry associations like Invest India (National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian industry (CII), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM), etc., in activities relating to promotion of industrial cooperation, both through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, intended to stimulate the flow of foreign direct investment into India.

• Make in India

- > The initiative was launched in September 2014, as a national effort towards making India an important investment destination and a global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.
- The programme is based on four pillars namely, new processes, new infrastructure, new sectors and new mindset.
- Action plans were put in place for 21 sectors covering infrastructure, manufacturing and services. The action plans include initiatives for infrastructure creation; ease of doing business; innovation and R&D; fiscal incentives and skill development.
- Make in India initiative is now focused on 27 sectors—15 manufacturing sectors and 12 champion service sectors.

• Ease of Doing Business

- In order to improve the business environment in the country, the DPIIT has taken up a series of measures to simplify and rationalise the regulatory processes (registration and inspection processes) and introduction of information technology as enabler to make governance more efficient and effective.
- India ranks 63rd in the World Bank's annual Doing Business Report (DBR) 2020 as against 77th rank in the DBR 2019.

• Startup India

- Startup India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to catalyse the startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India. Launched in 2016
- Under the Startup India Scheme, eligible companies can get recognised as startups by DPIIT in order to access a host of tax benefits, easier compliance, IPR fast-tracking and other benefits.



► Invest India

- Invest India has been set up as a joint venture (not for profit) company between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), CM, NASSCOM and various state governments.
- Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors.

Project Monitoring - Invest India Cell (PMIC)

• It is an institutional mechanism for resolving of issues and fast-tracking the setting up and expeditious commissioning of large public, private and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Projects

Intellectual Property Rights

• DPIIT is the nodal department for administration of various laws related to Intellectual Property Rights: patents; trade marks; industrial designs; Geographical Indications of goods; copyrights; and semiconductor integrated circuit layout designs.

National IPR Policy

• The National IPR Policy lays the future roadmap for intellectual property in India. The Policy recognises the abundance of creative and innovative energies that flow in India, and the need to tap into and channelise these energies towards a better and brighter future for all.

Productivity and Quality

- DPIIT is the nodal department for the promotion of productivity and quality in the industrial sector.
- The National Productivity Council (NPC) represents India in the Tokyo based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), of which India is a founder member.
- NPC undertakes productivity augmentation through domain specific consultancy; training; workshops; seminars and conferences to g2`12overnment; public and private sectors; productivity related research; monitoring and evaluation of various government schemes; and projects and information dissemination through collaboration with APO.

> Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

• The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project was launched in pursuance of anMoU signed between the Government of India and the Government of Japan in 2006. The DMIC is being developed on either side, along the alignment of the 1,504 km long Western Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor between Dadri (UP) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai.

> Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor

• The Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) proposes to address the infrastructure bottlenecks through a holistic approach while benefitting from the inherent strengths and competitiveness of each of the CBIC states.

> Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor

• The Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC) is intended to facilitate development of a wellplanned and resource-efficient industrial base served by world-class sustainable connectivity infrastructure, bringing significant benefits in terms of innovation, manufacturing, job creation and resource security to the two states.

> Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor

• In order to give a boost to industrial development in the densely populated states of northern and eastern India, the government is to commence work on creating an AmritsarKolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC). This will be structured around the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) as the backbone and also the highway system that exists in this route.



Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor

• The Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) is a key part of the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC), India's first coastal corridor. VCIC is aligned with the Golden Quadrilateral and is poised to play a critical role in driving India's Act East Policy.

Indian Leather Development Programme

• Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) aims at augmenting raw material base through modernisation and technology upgradation of leather units, addressing environmental concerns, human resource development, supporting traditional leather artisans, addressing infrastructure constraints and establishing institutional facilities.

Industrial Performance

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), measuring industrial performance monitors production in manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors and also in use-based groups such as primary goods, capital, intermediate, infrastructure/ construction goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables.
- IIP registered a growth rate of 3.8 per cent on account of growth in electricity generation (5.2 per cent), manufacturing (3.9 per cent) and mining (2.9 per cent) in 2018-19.

Performance of Eight Core Industries

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) monitors production of eight core industries, i.e., coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity every month.
- In line with the base year change in IIP, the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, revised the base year of Index of Eight Core Industries to 2011-12.
- These eight industries have combined weight of around 40.27 per cent in Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Cement Industry:

- Cement is one of the most technologically advanced industries in the country, this industry plays a crucial role in the development of housing and infrastructure sector of the economy.
- Price and distribution control of cement has been removed since 1989 and cement industry was de-licensed in 1991 under Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.
- India is producing different varieties of cement like Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC), Portland Blast Furnace Slag Cement (PBFS), Oil Well Cement, White Cement, etc.
- These different varieties of cement are produced as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications and its quality is comparable with the best in the world. Cement cannot be sold in the country without BIS mark.

Ceramic Industry:

• The ceramic industry is about 50 years old. It comprises ceramic tiles, sanitary-ware and crockery

India continues to rank No. 3 in terms of production and consumption of tiles in the world after China and Brazil. The industry gives direct and indirect employment to over 2 lakh people.

> Tyre & Tubes Industry:

- Tyres play an integral role to ensure mobility including movement of passengers and essential goods across the urban and rural landscape of the country using all types of vehicles ranging from carts, tractors, trucks and buses to the latest generation passenger cars that ply on the modern expressways.
- India is one of the few countries worldwide which has attained self-sufficiency in manufacturing a wide range of tyres for all applications.
- With the objective of ensuring the safety of human lives and vehicles and also availability of quality products, a Quality (Control) Order for Pneumatic Tyres and Tubes for Automotive Vehicles was notified by the Department in 2009.



Rubber Goods Industry

• The rubber goods industry excluding tyre and tubes consists of 4,550 small and tiny units generating about 5.50 lakhs direct jobs. The rubber industry manufactures a wide range of products like rubber cots and aprons, contraceptives, footwear, rubber hoses, cables, camelback, battery boxes, latex products, conveyor belts, surgical gloves, balloons, rubber moulded goods, etc.

► Salt Industry:

- India continues to hold third position in the production of salt in the world after China and USA with annual production of 260 lakh tonnes and is the second largest producer of iodised salt, next to China.
- From an era of shortfall and import at the time of independence, the country has made spectacular progress due to pragmatic policies in short time, sufficiency was achieved (1953) and made a dent in the export market..

Explosives

• There are 74 factories, in the medium and small-scale sector, engaged in the production of explosives. Site Mixed Explosives (SME) has a consolidated licensed capacity of 16,56,555.5 MT of explosives production.

> Light Engineering Industry Sector:

- The Light Engineering Industry is a diverse industry with the number of distinct sectors. This industry includes mother of all industries like castings and forgings to the highly sophisticated micro-processor based process control equipment and diagnostic medical instruments.
- This group also includes industries like bearings, steel pipes and tubes, fasteners, etc. The products covered under the engineering industry are largely used as input to the capital goods industry.

> Central Public Sector Enterprises

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, comprising the Department of Heavy Industry and the Department of Public Enterprises, functions under the charge of Cabinet Minister (Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).
- The Ministry promotes the development and growth of three sectors, i.e., capital goods, auto and heavy electrical equipment in the country; administers 31 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs); 5 Autonomous Organisations and frames policy guidelines for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and overall administration of CPSEs

► Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as a highly vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian economy over the last five decades.
- Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises envisions a vibrant sector by promoting growth and development of the sector, including Khadi, Village and Coir Industries, in cooperation with concerned ministries/departments, state governments and other stakeholders, through providing support to existing enterprises and encouraging creation of new enterprises.
- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act was notified in 2006 to address policy issues affecting MSMEs as well as the coverage and investment ceiling of the sector. The Act provides the first-ever legal framework for recognition of the concept of "enterprise" which comprises both manufacturing and service entities.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

• Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established under the Act of Parliament (No. 61 of 1956), and as amended in 1987 and 2006 is a statutory organisation under the Ministry of MSME and engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) for providing employment opportunities in the rural areas, thereby strengthening the rural economy.

► India Handloom Brand:

• Indian handlooms have worldwide recognition through India Handloom Brand (IHB) which guarantees high-quality, authentic handloom items made with organic substances.



► Silk

- In India, about 97 per cent of the raw mulberry silk is produced in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Three other commercially important types of silk fall into the category of non-mulberry silks namely: eri; tasar; and muga.

North Eastern Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS)

• The broad objectives of the scheme are to develop and modernise the sector by providing better infrastructure support, boosting production and productivity, technology upgradation, product diversification and value addition.

Cotton

- Cotton is one of the most important cash crops in India and the country accounts for around 25 per cent of the total global fibre production.
- Cotton sustains the livelihood of an estimated 5.8 million cotton farmers and 40-50 million people engaged in related activities such as cotton processing and trade.
- India has the largest area under cotton in the world with around 105 lakh hectares under cotton cultivation which is around 35 per cent of the world area.

> Cotton Corporation of India (CCI),

• A Public Sector Undertaking under the Textile Ministry, is the principal agency of Government of India for undertaking MSP operations in the event of prevailing seed cotton (kapas) price touching the MSP level.

▶ Jute

- India is the largest producer of jute in the world with an average production of about 80 lakh bales of raw jute annually.
- The Government of India provides support to the jute growers not only through MSP operation by the Jute Corporation of India but also through direct purchase of jute sacking valued at around ₹ 6,000 crore annually for packing foodgrains by invoking provisions under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. This is a major support not only to the jute farmers but also to jute milI workers.
- A software platform "Jute-SMART" (Jute Sacking Supply Management & Requisition Tool) was implemented for procurement of jute sacking from 2016.
- Jute-ICARE has been launched for increasing the income of jute farmers by at least 50 per cent through promotion of certified seeds, better agronomic practices and use of microbial retting of the jute plant

• New Initiatives

► Weavers 'Mudra Scheme:

• Weavers' Mudra Scheme was launched to provide concessional credit to the handloom weavers. Margin Money Assistance to a maximum of ₹ 10,000 per weaver and credit guarantee for a period of 3 years is also provided.

▶ e-Dhaga App:

• Government of India launched Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System and e-Dhaga mobile App in 2016 to bring efficiency in service delivery to the handloom weavers and help them to access information on 24x7 basis.

> BunkarMitra Helpline:

• To provide a single point of contact to handloom weavers for their professional queries "BunkarMitra" Helpline 18002089988 for handloom weavers was launched in 2017.



► MoU with Financial Corporations:

• MoU was signed with National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) to implement schemes of Government of India for OBC and SC artisans and weavers in 14 identified clusters with necessary forward linkages for income sustainability and enhancement.

► Man Made Fibre

- Share of Man Made Fibre (MMF) in the world textiles fibre consumption has been increasing steadily over the years.
- The global consumption pattern is in favour of synthetics (polyester, rayon, acrylic) and blends.

Steel

- The Ministry of Steel is responsible for planning and development of iron and steel industry, development of essential inputs such as iron ore, limestone, dolomite manganese ore, chromites, ferro-alloys, sponge iron etc., and other related functions.
- Crude steel production has shown a sustained rise since 2013-14 along with capacity. This industry has been a core pillar of industrial development in the country. India's crude steel capacity has steadily risen to 142 MT at present and India has become the world's second largest producer of steel (-111 MT crude steel production in 2018).

> Global Ranking of Indian Steel

- The consistent growth in production has ensured that India remains a dominant player in the global steel industry. Out of a total global crude steel production of 1,029 MT (during January-July 2020, down by 5.1 per cent), India was the 2nd largest crude steel producer (51.89 MT) with a 5.1 per cent share in total world production and a 21.9 per cent decline in production over the same period of 2019.
- China produced 593.17 MT of crude steel during this period and remained the largest crude steel producer in the world, accounting for 78 per cent of Asian production and 54 per cent of world crude steel production.

National Steel Policy

- The National Steel Policy (NSP) was launched in 2017 to ensure that the Indian steel sector is prepared to service the growing requirements of modern India and to promote a healthy sustainable growth for the sector.
- Key features of the NSP 2017 include establishing self sufficiency in steel production by providing policy support and guidance to private manufacturers, MSME steel producers and CPSEs.

► Key Initiatives

• The Ministry has initiated action on several initiatives to operationalise the actions enlisted in the National Steel Policy. In addition, an integrated steel hub is being set up in Eastern India that will act as a pilot location for several of these initiatives. The initiatives include:

Purvodaya

• The Eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Northern Andhra Pradesh) are home to 80 per cent of the Indian iron reserves. Additionally they have access to important logistic infrastructure such as ports, inland waterways and slurry pipelines. Therefore, for the envisaged expansion of Indian steel sector, the Eastern Hub will serve as the engine driving the growth of the steel sector.

Make in Steel

• Steel consumption rises rapidly during infrastructure building phase, steadies during capacity building and plateaus during expertise building phase.



 India is on the cusp of rapid development in its infrastructure building phase and given the proposed ₹ 100 lakh crore spend in infrastructure, India's steel demand has massive potential to grow. The Ministry is therefore undertaking several initiatives to enable increase in steel intensity across key sectors:

Mines and Minerals

• Ministry of Mines is responsible for survey and exploration of all minerals, other than natural gas, petroleum and atomic minerals; for mining and metallurgy of non-ferrous metals like aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, gold, nickel, etc., and for administration of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, and rules made thereunder in respect of all mines and minerals other than coal, natural gas and petroleum as well as Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 and rules made thereunder.



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Law & Justice

MINISTRY of Law and Justice is the oldest limb of the Government of India dating back to 1833 when the Charter Act, 1833 was enacted by the British Parliament. By virtue of this authority and the authority vested under him under Section 22 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, the Governor General in Council enacted laws for the country from 1834 to 1920.

Then there was Government of India Act, 1919, the legislative power was exercised by the Indian Legislature constituted ther eunder. The Government of India Act, 1919 was followed by the Government of India Act, 1935.

India became a Dominion and the Dominion Legislature made laws from 1947 to 1949 under the provisions of Section 100 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947.

Ministry of Law and Justice comprises the three Departments namely the Department of Legal Affairs, the Legislative Department and the Department of Justice

• National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms

- National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, interalia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation; increase in strength of subordinate judiciary; policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation; re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases; and emphasis on human resource development.
- The criteria of judge-population ratio for determining the adequacy of the Judge Strength in the country has been reviewed by the Law Commission in its 245th Report (2014) prepared on the direction of the Supreme Court in this case. In this report, the Law Commission has observed that filing of cases per capita varies substantially across geographic units as filings are associated with economic and social conditions of the population. As such, the Law Commission did not consider the judge-population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country.
- ➤ In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish their recommendations in this regard. NCMS submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March 2016. It has, interalia, observed that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of judicial hours required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, this Committee has proposed a "weighted" disposal approach— disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions.

Judicial Infrastructure

Until 2011, the central and state governments used to contribute an equal share under the scheme but from 2011-12 onwards the central government was contributing 75 per cent of the funds. In the case of north-eastern states, the central government provides 90 per cent of the funding. Central funding is, however, subject to budgetary allocation for the scheme.



e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project

The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the e-Governance projects being implemented in High Courts and district/subordinate courts of the country. The project has been conceptualised on the basis of the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary-2005" by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India.

• National Litigation Policy

Government is said to be the major litigant and there have been several Law Commission reports suggesting for a Litigation Policy to avoid unwarranted litigation by the government and thus bring down load on the court system as well as burden on the public exchequer. Therefore, the draft National Litigation Policy 2017, proposes to put in place a system which prevents, controls and reduces litigation.

• Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange

The Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange was established in 2000 under Section 18 of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. Under Section 19 of FEMA, the central government or any person aggrieved by an order made by Special Director (Appeals), or made by an Adjudicating Authority other than referred to in Sub-Section (i) of Section 1 7, may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal that may be filed within 45 days from the date of receiving the order by the aggrieved person or the central government.

• Enforcement Agencies

- ► All senior police posts in various states are manned by the Indian Police Service (IPS) cadres, recruitment to which is made on All-India basis.
- The central government maintains Central Police forces, Intelligence Bureau (IB), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), institutions for training of police officers and forensic science institutions to assist the states in gathering intelligence, in maintaining law and order, in investigating special crime cases and in providing training to the senior police.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police

• ITBP is basically a mountain trained force and most of the officers and men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers. ITBP mountaineers have also successfully climbed peaks in Nepal, Iran, Japan and South America. ITBP skiers have been national champions and have taken part in winter Olympics. They have also participated in adventurous White Water Rafting, through turbulent and mighty waters of the Brahmaputra, the Indus and the Ganges and also have international achievements to their credit in this field.

► Border Security Force

BSF's role during peace time is as follows: (i) to promote a sense of security among the people living in the border areas; (ii) to prevent trans-border crimes, unauthorised entry into or exit from the territory of India; (iii) to prevent smuggling and any other illegal activities on the border; (iv) anti-infiltraton duties; and (v) to collect trans-border intelligence. Its role during war time is as follows: (i) holding ground in assigned sectors; limited aggressive action against central armed police or irregular forces of the enemy; (ii) maintenance of law and order in enemy territory administered under the army's control; (iv) guarding of prisoners of war camps; (v) acting as guides to the army in border areas; (vi) assistance in control of refugees; (vii) provision of sectors; and (viii) performing special tasks connected with intelligence including raids.

Assam Rifles

 The Assam Rifles' contribution towards assimilation of the people of the north-east into the national mainstream is truly monumental. Their long association with the region reflects in the force being fondly called "The Sentinel of the North-East" and "Friends of the Hill People" security in the north-eastern region and guarding the Indo-Myanmar border.



► National Security Guard

• Specially equipped and trained forces like SAS of UK, Delta Force of USA and GSG-9 of West Germany were raised abroad. The need for creating a special force for executing surgical operations based on tactical intelligence was felt in India when Operation Blue Star was carried out by the army at the Golden Temple, Amritsar in 1984. National Security Guard (NSG) was conceptualised and created after studying and analysing Special Force like SAS in the United Kingdom, GIGN in France, GSG-9 in Germany, Shar-et-matkal in Israel and Delta Force in the USA.

Sashastra Seema Bal

- Sashastra Seema Bal" is guarding Indo-Nepal border since 2001 and was also given the additional responsibility of guarding Indo-Bhutan border in 2004. Its earlier aim was to build people's morale and inculcate a spirit of resistance in border population in the then NEFA, North Assam, North Bengal, hills of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (Ladakh). The area of operation was extended to other border areas in Manipur, Tripura, Jammu, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Mizoram, South Bengal and Nagaland between 1965-91.
- The role of SSB in earlier se-tup includes : (i) to inculcate a sense of security and spirit of resistance in border population; (ii) promoting national awareness and security consciousness; and (iii) organising and preparing border population to resist enemy.

• Civil Defence

The Civil Defence Act, 1968, was suitably amended by the Civil Defence (Amendment) Act, 2009 in 2010, to include the disaster management as an additional role for the Civil Defence Corps, while retaining its primary role. Although the Civil Defence Act, 1968, is applicable throughout the country, the organisation is only raised in such areas and zones which are tactically and strategically considered vulnerable from enemy attack point of view.

• Home Guards

- Home Guards is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbances and communal riots. Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and rules of the states/ union territories. They are recruited from various cross-sections of the people such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, private sector organisations, college and university students, agricultural and industrial workers, etc.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs formulates the policy in respect of role, target, raising, training, equipping, establishment and other important matters of Home Guards Organisation. Expenditure on Home Guards is generally shared between centre and state governments as per existing financial policy.

• Personal Law

They are governed by different sets of personal laws in respect of matters relating to family affairs, i.e., marriage, divorce, succession, adoption, wills, etc. The subject matter of personal laws is relatable to entry 5 of List III-Concurrent list in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and hence the Union Legislature, namely, the Parliament and subject to the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution. The state legislatures are also competent to make laws in the field.

► Marriage

- The Special Marriage Act, 1954, which provides for a special form of marriage and the registration of such marriages extends to the whole of India except the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, but also applies to the citizens of India domiciled in Jammu and Kashmir. Persons governed by this Act can specifically register marriage under the said Act even though they are of different religious faiths.
- Sections 36 and 38 have been amended to provide that an application for alimony or the maintenance and education of minor children be disposed off within 60 days from the date of service of notice on the respondent



- An attempt has been made to codify customary law which is prevalent among Hindus by enacting the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. This Act, which extends to the whole of India, except the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, applies also to Hindus domiciled in territories to which the Act extends and those who are outside the said territories. It applies to Hindus (in any of its forms or development) and also to Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and also those who are not Muslims, Christians, Parsis or Jews by religion. However, the Act does not apply to members of any scheduled tribes unless the central government by notification in the official Gazette otherwise directs
- Provisions as regard to divorce are contained in Section 13 of The Hindu Marriage Act and Section 27 of The Special Marriage Act. Common ground on which divorce can be sought by a husband or a wife under these Acts are: adultery, desertion, cruelty, unsoundness of mind, venereal disease, leprosy, mutual consent and being not heard of as alive for seven years.
- In The Divorce Act, 1869, comprehensive amendments were made through The Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act, 2001, to remove discriminatory provisions against women in the matter of divorce and to provide for dissolution of marriage by mutual consent. Further, Section 41 of the 1869 Act was amended by The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 2001, to provide that an application for alimony or the maintenance and education of minor children be disposed off within 60 days from the date of service of notice on the respondent.

Adoption

• Although there is no general law governing adoption, it is permitted by The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, amongst Hindus and by custom amongst a few numerically insignificant categories of persons. Since adoption is legal affiliation of a child, it forms the subject matter of personal law. Muslims, Christians and Parsis have no adoption laws and have to approach the court under The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890. Muslims, Christians and Parsis can take a child under the said Act only under foster care. Once a child under foster care attains the age of majority, that is eighteen years old, he is free to break away all these connections. Besides, such a child does not have the legal right of inheritance. Foreigners, who want to adopt Indian children, have to approach the court under the aforesaid Act

► Maintenance

- Under the **Code of Criminal Procedure**, **1973**, right of maintenance extends not only to the wife and dependent children, but also to indigent parents and divorced wives. Claims of the wife, etc., however, depends on the husband having sufficient means
- Under the **Hindu Law**, the wife has an absolute right to claim maintenance from her husband. But she loses her right if she deviates from the path of chastity. Her right to maintenance is codified in The **Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act**, **1956**.
- The Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 further amended the Divorce Act, 1869 (4 of 1869), the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939 (8 of 1939), the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 so as to omit the provisions that are discriminatory to the leprosy affected persons contained therein. The Amendment Act came into force on March 1, 2019.
- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019, which replaced the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Second Ordinance, 2019, was enacted as Act 20 of 2019 on the July 31, 2019. The enactment is for prevention of divorce by way of talaq-e-biddat by certain Muslim husbands in spite of the same having been set aside by the Supreme Court. This Act is in force from September 19, 2018, (i.e. the date from which the first Ordinance, namely, the Muslim Woman (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2018.
- The **Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936,** recognises the right of wife to maintenance—both alimony and permanent alimony. The maximum amount that can be decreed by the court as alimony during the time a matrimonial suit is pending in court, is one-fifth of the husband's net income. The **Divorce Act, 1869,** governs maintenance rights of a Christian wife. The provisions are the same as those under the Parsi Law and the same considerations are applied in granting maintenance, both alimony and permanent maintenance.



• Election Laws and Electoral Reforms

The Acts in connection with the conduct of elections to Parliament, state legislatures and to the offices of the President and the Vice President are: (i) The Representation of the People Act, 1950; (ii) The Representation of the People Act, 1951; (iii) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952; (iv) The Delimitation Act, 2002; (v) The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Act, 2005; and (vi) The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Act, 2010. These are administrated by the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

> Delimitation of Constituencies

- The periodic readjustment of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies is mandatory in a representative system where single-member constituencies are used for electing political representatives. The electoral boundaries are drawn on the basis of the last published census figures and are relatively equal in population.
- Equally populous constituencies allow voters to have an equally weighted vote in the Legislature. Electoral constituencies that vary greatly in population - a condition called "malapportionment" - violate a central tenet of democracy, namely, that all voters should be able to cast a vote of equal weight. Delimitation and Elections are the two basic pillars of a parliamentary democracy.
- The first Delimitation Commission in India was constituted in 1952, the second in 1962 and the third in the year 1973. The third delimitation exercise -based on 1971 census was completed in the year 1975. The present delimitation, based on 2001 census, has been undertaken after 30 years. The population increased by almost 87 per cent and the nature of constituencies in the country, by and large, had become malapportioned.
- Although the rules for delimitation vary across countries, tasks involved in drawing boundaries are generally similar. In India, the drawing of boundaries, generally, entails: (a) allocating seats to the states and districts within a state; (b) creating a database composed of maps, population figures and the details showing geographic/natural/administrative conditions of the area concerned; (c) associating the statutory representatives from the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies; (d) distributing the states and districts into geographic units called the constituencies; (e) having an extensive exercise for public input into delimitation process; (f) summarising and evaluating the constituencies; and (g) passing and publishing the final order. The procedure for delimiting the constituencies in India stands clearly spelt out in The Delimitation Act, 2002.
- With the issuance of the Presidential Order specifying the date on which the delimitation orders notified by the Delimitation Commission shall take effect, it was necessary to amend the relevant provisions and the First and Second Schedules of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to reflect the changes made by the delimitation orders notified by the Delimitation Commission. As a consequential requirement, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008, amending the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in conformity with the delimitation was enacted and made effective from 2008.
- By this amendment Act, the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, were replaced including other amendments.
- Further, a new Section 8(A) was inserted in the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which, provided that if the President of India is satisfied that the situation and the conditions prevailing in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland are conducive for the conduct of delimitation exercise, he may, by order, rescind the said deferment orders issued under Section 10(A) of The Delimitation Act, 2002 in relation to any of those states and provide for the conduct of delimitation exercise in the states by the Election Commission of India.

Electronic Voting Machines

- The use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was started in the country on experiment basis in 1982.
- It took more than two decades for the universal use of EVMs and during the General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 2004, EVMs were used in all polling stations across the country.
- The EVMs were developed at the behest of the Election Commission jointly with two Public Sector Undertakings, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bengaluru and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad in 1989.



> Voting Rights to the Citizens of India Living Abroad

- Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides that every person who is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is ordinarily a resident in the constituency shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral rolls for that constituency.
- The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006, introduced on February 27, 2006 in the Rajya Sabha and introduced a fresh Bill, namely, The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2010, in August 2010, to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to: (a) provide
- that every citizen of India, whose name is not included in the electoral roll and who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education, or otherwise outside India (whether temporarily or not), shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located; (b) provide that the Electoral Registration Officer shall make corrections of entries in electoral rolls and inclusion of names in electoral rolls after proper verification; and (c) confer power upon the central government to specify, after consulting the Election Commission of India, by rules, the time within which the name of persons referred to in sub-paragraph above shall be registered in the electoral roll and the manner and procedure for registering of such persons in the electoral roll.
- The central government has issued necessary notification bringing the Act into force from February 2011. The Indians overseas can now furnish the documents self-attested by them and get their name enrolled in the electoral roll of their respective constituency.

19

LABOUR SKILL & EMPLOYMENT

• Labour

Ministry of Labour and Employment is to protect and safeguard the interests of workers in general and the poor, deprived and disadvantaged sections of the society, in particular. Further, the Ministry aims to create a healthy work environment for higher production and productivity and to develop and coordinate vocational skill training and employment services. Labour being the subject in the Concurrent List under the Constitution of India, the state governments are also empowered to enact legislations.

• New Initiatives

Pm Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana

- A pension scheme for unorganised workers to ensure old age protection for unorganised workers (e.g. home-based workers, street vendors, midday meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers etc)
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis between enroller & central government
- A subscriber would receive the following benefits: (i) Minimum Assured Pension: each subscriber
 under the PM-SYM, shall receive minimum assured pension of ₹ 3,000 per month after attaining
 the age of 60 years; (ii) Family Pension: during the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the
 spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50 per cent of the pension received by the
 beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse; (iii) if a beneficiary has
 given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before the age of 60 years), his/her spouse
 will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution
 or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit & withdrawal.
- The Scheme is being implemented through LIC and Common Services Centres-SPV. LIC is the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out, CSC-SPV is responsible for enrolling the beneficiaries through its approx. 3 lakh CSCs across the country.

• Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana

- Government of India will pay the Employees 'Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of 8.33 per cent for all new employees enrolling in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the first three years of their employment.
- > The Scheme will be applicable to those having earnings of ₹ 15,000 per month.

• National Career Service Project

 National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment-related services like career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internships etc through NCS portal and dedicated helpdesk (multilingual)



- ▶ It has a rich repository of career content of over 3,600 occupations.
- The NCS Project has also been enhanced to interlink all employment exchanges with the NCS Portal so that services can be delivered online.

• Labour Inspection Scheme

- A computerised list of inspections is generated randomly based on risk based objective criteria. Serious matters are to be covered under the mandatory inspection list.
- > Mandatory uploading of inspection reports is to be done within 72 hours

• Shram Suvidha Portal

- A unified web portal 'ShramSuvidha Portal' to bring transparency and accountability in enforcement of labour laws and ease compliance.
- It caters to four major organisations under the Ministry namely Office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central); Directorate General of Mines Safety; Employees' Provident Fund Organisation; and Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

• Single Unified Annual Return

- > It is Single Unified Annual Return for eight Labour Acts.
- This facilitates filing of simplified Single Online Return by the establishments instead of filing separate Returns, under these Acts: (i) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936; (ii) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; (iii) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; (iv) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; (v) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996; (vi) The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; (vii) The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979; and (viii) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

• Common Registration

Facility for Common Registration under five Central Labour Acts has been developed on e-Biz portal of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. The Acts covered under this include: The Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948; The Building & Other Construction Workers (RECS) Act, 1996; The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970; and The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RECS) Act, 1979.

• Legislative Initiatives

Draft Small Factory Bill

- The Bill provides for regulation of working and service conditions of workers in small manufacturing units employing less than 40 workers.
- The Bill amalgamates, simplifies and rationalises the provisions of six Labour Laws at one place for these small factories.

• Social Security

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation
 - To provide medical care and cash benefits in case of sickness, maternity and employment injuries, the Employees' State Insurance Act was enacted in 1948.
 - Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is implementing the ESI Scheme since 1952
 - Health Reforms Agenda of ESIC: A series of Health Reforms Agenda were launched. These include online availability of Electronic Health Record of ESI Beneficiaries (insured persons and their family members); AbhiyanIndradhanush etc.



• Digital India—e-initiatives of ESIC

- ► **ESIC e-biz Platform**: Registration of Employers through e-biz portal of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion [DIPP] to promote ease of business and curb transaction costs.
- **e- Pehchan**: A process of establishing the identity of the insured person through Aadhaar number has been set up by seeding Aadhaar number to the insurance number.
- Mobile App for IPs: Our IPs have been provided with a Mobile App "Ask An Appointment" (AAA+) to enable them to book an appointment with the doctors online prior to actually making a visit to the hospital.
- ► **Incorporation of Government Directives**: Various Government Directives regarding GeM, E-Office etc., have either been incorporated or are in the process of incorporation, adaptation and adoption.
- Empowerment to IP: A system is in place to enable the workers to verify their status as covered/ uncovered along with their wages/attendance/contribution deposited by their employers. ICT division has successfully upgraded the system commensurate with the rapid growth of ESIC Un

• Rajiv Gandhi ShramikKalyanYojana (RGSKY)

- Unemployment allowance under this scheme has been enhanced from 12 to 24 months.
- The eligibility of contribution condition has also been reduced from three to two years for getting the benefits.
- In order to encourage employment of disabled persons, the employers' share of contribution in respect of such disabled employees is paid by the central government for initial ten years.
- The employers are exempted from paying their share of contribution up to 10 years in respect of all permanently disabled persons irrespective of their wages working in factories and establishments covered under ESI Act.

• Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

- The Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, provides for Provident Fund, Pension Scheme and Insurance Fund in factories/establishments employing twenty or more employees in industries mentioned in Schedule-I to the Act.
- ➤ The following three schemes framed are: Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952; Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995; and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976. The Government of India through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) administers the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF&MP) Act, 1952.

• Universal Account Number

- > The facility of Universal Account Number (UAN) for EPF subscriber.
- It provides automatic portability of Provident Fund account on change of employment if the employee has activated his UAN by seeding his Know Your Customer details (through the employer).

• Minimum Pension

> The minimum pension for all member/widow/disabled/nominee/dependent parent pensioners whose original pension was less than ₹ 1,000 p.m. have been fixed at the minimum of ₹ 1,000 p.m.

Industrial Relations

- ► Twenty-two Central Government Industrial Tribunal (CGIT)-cum-Labour Courts have been set up under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for adjudication of industrial disputes in organisations for which the central government is the appropriate authority.
- Through Finance Act, 2017, the powers to settle the Appeals arising out of EPF&MP Act, 1952, have also been entrusted upon to these Tribunals.
- Tribunals are located at Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Mumbai, New Delhi and Chandigarh (two courts each) and one each at Kolkata, Jabalpur, Kanpur, Nagpur, Lucknow, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad, Ernakulam, Asansol and Guwahati.

GSSCORE

- > The two Industrial Tribunals at Mumbai and Kolkata also function as National Tribunals
- er to reduce pendency of cases, LokAdalats are being organised by the CGITcum-Labour Courts as an Alternate Grievance Redressal System.

• Child Labour

- Child Labour is an area of great concern and the Government of India is committed to address the issue. Considering the magnitude and nature of the problem, it is following a robust multi-generation schemes.
- Government has adopted an approach to withdraw and rehabilitate working children from all occupations and processes

• Policy on Child Labour

- ▶ The National Policy on Child Labour, announced in August 1987, addresses this complex issue in a comprehensive, holistic and integrated manner.
- As per the provisions of the Act, the employment of children below the age of 14 years was prohibited in 18 occupations and 65 processes.
- Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, covers the complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes; linking the age of the prohibition of employment with the age for free and compulsory education under Right to Education Act, 2009
- Prohibition on employment of adolescents (14 to 18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes and making stricter punishment for the employers contravening the provisions of the Act; and projectbased action plan in the areas of high concentration of child labour

National Child Labour Project (NCLP)

- Central Sector Scheme was started in 1988 to rehabilitate children rescued from child labour in 270 districts in country.
- Under the Scheme, working children are identified through child labour survey, withdrawn from work and put into the special training centres so as to provide them with an environment to subsequently join mainstream education system. In these special training centres, besides formal education, the children are provided stipend, supplementary nutrition, vocational training and regular health checkups.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

- > Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched in 1978
- Under the scheme, state governments are provided central assistance on matching grants (50:50) basis for the rehabilitation of bonded labour.
- The rehabilitation grant has been raised from ₹ 10,000 per identified bonded labour, to ₹ 20,000 per identified bonded labour based on district wise survey

• The Minimum Wages Act,1948

- ► The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was enacted to safeguard the interests of the workers mostly in the unorganised sector.
- Under the provision of the Act, both the central and state governments are the appropriate governments to fix, revise, review and enforce the payment of minimum wages to workers in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions.
- > There are 45 scheduled employments in the central and as many as 1,697 in the state sphere.
- The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is ensured at two levels i.e in the central sphere, the enforcement is done through the inspecting officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated a Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the state is ensured through the state enforcement machinery.



- In order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the central government has introduced Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) linked to the Consumer Price Index.
- ► A concept of National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW) was mooted on the basis of the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in 1991.
- ► NFLMW has been revised from time to time. The central government has revised the NFLMW from ₹ 137 to ₹ 160 per day from 2015 which is a non-statutory measure.

► Payment of Wages

- The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, ensures timely payment of wages and that no unauthorised deductions are made from the wages of the workers.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (6) of Section 1 of the Act, the central government, on the basis of figures of the Consumer Expenditure Survey published by National Sample Survey Office, has enhanced the wage ceiling from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 18,000 per month from 2012.

Payment of Bonus

- The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, has been amended to revise the statutory eligibility limit under Section 2 (13) from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 21,000 per month and the calculation ceiling under Section 12 from ₹ 3,500 to ₹ 7,000 or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, as fixed by the appropriate government, whichever is higher.
- The changes in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, are effective retrospectively from 2014.

• Occupational & Health Safety

- The provisions on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) of workers as provided for in the Constitution of India are being implemented through the offices of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI).
- The DGMS enforces the safety and health provisions for the workers in the mining industry through its Inspectors appointed under the Mines Act, 1952.
- The Prime Minister's Shram Awards are given to the workers employed in department/public sector undertakings of the central and state governments and the manufacturing units employing 500 or more workers in the private sector in recognition of their performance, devotion to duty, etc.
- The VishwakarmaRashtriyaPuraskars (VRPs) are given to individual workers or group of workers for their outstanding suggestions leading to improvement in productivity, safety and health as well as the import substitution resulting in the savings of foreign currency.
- The National Safety Awards (NSAs) are given in recognition of good safety performance on the part of the industrial establishments covered under the Factories Act, 1948, the employers covered under the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 and Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.
- The National Safety Award (Mines) are given at the national level in recognition of outstanding safety performance in mines under the Mines Act, 1952.

• National Board For Workers' Education & Development

- ► The DattopantThengadi National Board for Workers' Education and Development was established in 1958 to implement the Workers' Education Programmes at national, regional and unit/village level.
- ► The Board undertakes training programmes, which cover workers from organised, unorganised, rural and informal sectors.
- Headquarters at Nagpur, the Board has a network of 50 regional and 8 sub-regional Directorates spread throughout the country. The six zonal Directorates at Delhi, Guwahati, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Bhopal monitor the activities of the regional directorates of their respective zone.
- The Board is tripartite in character and consists of representatives from central organisations of workers/employers, central/state governments and educational institutions.
- V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, set up in 1974, has grown into a premier institute of labour research and training.



Skill Development

- The percentage of skilled workforce is between 60 and 90 per cent of the total workforce, India records an abysmal 4.69 per cent of workforce with formal vocational skills.
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is responsible for coordination of all skill development efforts; removal of disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower; building the vocational and technical training framework; skill upgradation, building of new skills; and innovative thinking not only for existing jobs but also jobs that are to be created
- It is aided in these initiatives by its function arms: National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and 33 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) as well as 187 training partners registered with NSDC.

National Skill Development Mission

- The National Skill Development Mission was launched in 2015 on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day.
- It consists of a three-tier institutional structure, where the cascading functions of the bodies consist of providing policy directives and guidance, reviewing and monitoring overall progress, and actual implementation in line with Mission objectives.
- The Mission will also run select submissions in high priority areas. At the outset, seven submissions have been proposed in the following areas: (i) Institutional Training; (ii) Infrastructure; (iii) Convergence; (iv) Trainers; (v) Overseas Employment; (vi) Sustainable Livelihoods; and (vii) Leveraging Public infrastructure

National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

- The first National Policy on Skill Development (NPSD) was notified in 2009. The NPSD 2009 laid out the broad framework as well as objectives and outcomes for the skilling landscape in the country.
- The new National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was notified in 2015 which replaced the policy of 2009. The skill component of the policy addresses key issues in the skill landscape: low aspirational value, non-integration with formal education, lack of focus on outcomes, quality of training infrastructure and trainers, among others.
- The policy aims to align supply with demand, bridge existing skill gaps, promote industry engagement, operationalize a quality assurance framework, leverage technology and promote apprenticeship to tackle the identified issues.
- It also aims to promote equitable skilling opportunities for socially/geographically marginalised and disadvantaged groups as well as women. In the entrepreneurship domain, the policy seeks to promote an entrepreneurial culture through advocacy and integration of entrepreneurship education as a part of formal/skill education, enhance support for entrepreneurs in terms of credit and market linkages, foster innovation-driven and social enterprises and improve ease of doing business.
- It also suggests ways to further fillip entrepreneurship among women besides endeavouring to meet the entrepreneurial needs of socially/geographically marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Schemes and Initiatives

• Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

PMKVY is the flagship outcome-based skill training the objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilise a large number of youth to take up outcome-based skill training to become employable and earn their livelihood launched in 2015.

• Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK)

 Ministry, through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), implements PradhanMantriKaushal Kendra (PMKK) Scheme for setting up of model skill centre in every district of the country while ensuring coverage of all the parliamentary constituencies.



The PMKK envisages to: create benchmark institutions that demonstrate aspirational value for competency-based skill development training at district level to ensure wider reach of programme; focus on elements of quality, sustainability and connect with stakeholders in skills delivery process; and transform from a mandate-driven footloose model to a sustainable institutional model.

National Skill Development Corporation

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a public private partnership firm set up by the Ministry of Finance, under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- It has an equity base of ₹ 10 crore, of which the government holds for 49 per cent, while the private sector has the balance 51 per cent.
- It aims to promote skill development by catalysing creation of large, quality, vocational institutions. NSDC is now under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). NSDC provides funding to build scalable for-profit vocational training initiatives.
- ► Its mandate is also to enable support systems such as quality assurance, information systems and train the trainer academies either directly or through partnerships.
- NSDC acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies and organisations that provide skill training.
- The main objectives of NSDC include: (i) to catalyse the creation of market-based, scalable business by providing funding through a combination of debt, equity and grants;(ii) implementing skills voucher programme; and (iii) promoting centres of excellence for training of trainers in coordination with states and SSCs, etc.

• Schemes for Entrepreneurship

Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana

- This Scheme aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurship promotion among youth through entrepreneurship education and training, advocacy, easy access to entrepreneurship support network and promotion of social entrepreneurship.
- The specific objectives of the scheme are as follows: (a) educate and equip potential and early stage entrepreneurs; (b) connect entrepreneurs through networks of peers, mentors, incubators, funding and business services; (c) support entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship Hubs (EHubs); and (d) catalyse a culture shift to support aspiring entrepreneurs.
- The Scheme is being implemented in partnership with both public and private stakeholders.

▶ Udaan

- The Special Industry Initiative (SII) for Jammu and Kashmir is funded by Ministry of Home Affairs and implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
- The programme is a part of the overall initiative for addressing economic issues in the UT and is focused on providing skills and job opportunities to the youth.
- Simultaneously, the aim is also to provide exposure to corporate India towards the rich talent pool available there.

Entrepreneurship Development

- For entrepreneurship promotion and mentoring of micro and small businesses, a scheme covering six major religious and holy townships, [i.e., (i) Puri (Odisha); (ii) Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh); (iii) Haridwar (Uttarakhand); (iv) Kollur (Karnataka); (v) Pandharpur (Maharashtra); and (vi) Bodh Gaya (Bihar)], was launched by the Ministry in November 2019.
- The objective of the project is to catalyse the entrepreneurial activities in the holy cities through resumption of existing livelihood activities by supporting the existing enterprises to scale-up and to tap the potential entrepreneurs for mentoring and handholding support for setting-up enterprises by them.

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Mass Communication

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through the mass communication media consisting of radio, television, films, press and print publications, advertising and traditional modes of communication such as dance and drama, plays an effective role in helping people to have access to free flow of information.
- The Ministry is divided into **four wings**:
 - ▶ The Information Wing handles policy matters of the print and press media and publicityrequirements of the Government. This Wing also looks after the general administration of the Ministry.
 - The Broadcasting Wing handles matters relating to the electronic media and the regulation of the content of private TV channels as well as the programme matters of All India Radio and Doordarshanand operation of cable television and community radio, etc
 - ➤ The Film Wing handles matters relating to the film sector. It is involved in the production and distribution of documentary films, development and promotional activities relating to the fi Im industry including training, organization of fi Im festivals, import and export regulations, etc.
 - The integrated Finance Wing looks after the financial aspects of the Ministry.
- The Ministry functions through its 21 media units/ attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and PSUs.

• Prasar Bharati

Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is the **public service broadcaster** in the country, with **Akashvani (All India Radio) and Doordarshan**as its two constituents. It came into existence on November 23, 1997, with a mandate to organize and conduct publicbroadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanceddevelopment of broadcasting on radio and television.

• All India Radio

- After the invention of Radio and the starting of broadcasting in the western countries, broadcastingby private Radio Clubs started in a few cities in India like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.
- ▶ The first radio programme was broadcast by the Radio Club of Bombay in June, 1923.
- It was followed by the setting up of a Broadcasting Service that began broadcasting on July 23, 1927on an experimental basis at Mumbai and Kolkata simultaneously under an agreement between theGovernment of India and a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company Ltd.

Three-tier Broadcasting System

- AIR has a three-tier system of broadcasting. These three levels of programmes are the National,Regional and Local each having distinct audiences.
- National programmes are broadcast from Delhi for relay by the Capital, Regional and Local RadioStations. Some of these are the National Programme of Talks and Features in Hindi and English,the National Programmes of Drama and Music.



- The National Channel of All India Radio located in Delhi broadcasted programmes which wereheard on Medium Wave and also on Short Wave. Started on 18th May 1988, this channel workedas a night service from 6.50 PM to 6.10 AM the next morning. It has been closed on January, 2019.
- Local Radio is relatively a newer concept of broadcasting in India. Local radio stations serve smallcommunities, showcase local culture and broadcast area specific programmes for the benefit ofthe community. The transmission is in the FM mode. At present there are 88 LocalStations spread across the country.

VividhBharati

- The popular VividhBharati Service provides entertainment for 17 hours a day from 41 CBS-VB centres.
- Besides this, VividhBharati Service is also relayed through 65 Local Radio Stations and 100 watt FM transmitters located across the country.

► News Services Division

- The News Services Division (NSD) of All India Radio has been expanding its presence across various domains with the aim of reaching diverse cross-section of people.
- The News Services Division has substantially increased its presence on the social media and crossed major milestones in reaching out audiences far and wide.

Mann Ki Baat

- ► For Mann Ki Baatprogramme, **live webcasting** is done on website news on **air.nic.in**.
- **Special window and page** is created for the purpose.

• National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimeda

- National Academy of Broadcasting and Multimedia (NABM) (Programme) hitherto known as Staff Training Institute (Programme) is the apex training institute of PrasarBharati.
- It is responsible for training of in-service Programme and Administrative personnel working at various stations of AIR and Doordarshan.

• Doordarshan

- From an experimental service begun at Delhi in September 1959, Doordarshan (DD) over the years has grown tremendously to become one of the leading TV organisations of the world.
- Doordarshan is presently operating 34 satellite channels and has a vast network of 67 studios and 1,416 transmitters of varying power providing TV coverage to about 92 per cent population of the country. In addition, it is providing free-to-air DTH service.
- Doordarshan has 7 national channels, 1 English news channel, and 20 regional language satellite services channels. Its present bouquet contains 161 channels (38 DD channels, 2 Parliamentary channels,51 co-branded educational channels, 2 foreign public broadcasting channels and remaining private C&S GEC, movie, news and music channels) and 48 radio channels.
- > Currently being available in 38 million households, it is the largest DTH platform in the country.

• Electronic Media Monitoring Centre

- In India, Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) is entrusted with the task of monitoring the content being aired by TV channels.
- EMMC is among one of the premier organisations of the world that monitor the broadcasting sector and the content being aired by broadcasters.
- > The Centre is also one of the youngest among the government-owned media units in the country.



• Press Information Bureau

- The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print, electronic and social media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements.
- > It functions as an interface between the government and the media and also provides feedback to the government on the reaction of people as reflected in the media.
- PIB disseminates information through different means such as press releases, press notes, feature articles, backgrounds, press briefings, interviews, press conferences and press tours, etc., to cater to the needs of regional media.
- > PIB has social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

• News Agencies

> Press Trust of India

- India's largest news agency, Press Trust of India (PTI), is a non-profit sharing cooperative owned by the country's newspapers with a mandate to provide efficient and unbiased news to all subscribers.
- Founded in August 1947, PTI began functioning from 1949.
- It offers its news services in English and Hindi languages.
- Bhasha is the Hindi language news service of the agency.

United News of India

- United News of India (UNI) was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, in December 1959 and started functioning effectively from 1961.
- In the past five decades, UNI has grown into a major news organisation in India and, with its vibrant presence, provided the much-needed spirit of competition in the vital areas of news gathering and dissemination.

Press Council of India

- The Press Council of India is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority mandated by the Parliament for the twin objectives of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India exercising equal quasi-judicial functions over the authorities as well the press person.
- The Press Council has the responsibility to preserve the freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country.
- The Council discharges its functions primarily through adjudications on complaint cases received by it, either against the press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the press for interference with its freedom. The decisions of the Council are final and cannot be questioned in any court of law.

Publications Division

- Publications Division, a repository of books and journals highlighting subjects of national importance and India's rich cultural heritage, was established in 1941.
- It is among the premier publishing organisations of the Government of India involved in production, sale and distribution of popular books and journals on matters of national importance.
- Publications Division enjoys credibility among the publishers and is well recognised for the authenticity
 of content and affordable price of publications.

• Films Division

► Central Board of Film Certification

• Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.



National Film Heritage Mission

- National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM), a prestigious mission of Government of India project was set up in November 2014, for restoring and preserving the film hertiage of India.
- This initiative will be greatly appreciated by the film industry. This new plan scheme has taken care of digitisation/restoration of films available with NFAI.

> Film and Television Institute of India

- The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in 1960. Following the addition of Television Wing in 1974, the Institute was re-designated as Film and Television Institute of India.
- The Institute became a Society in October 1974, under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860.
- The Society consists of eminent personalities connected with film, television, communication, culture, alumni of institute and ex-officio government members.
- The Institute is governed by a Governing Council, headed by a Chairman.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

- ► The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, came into existence in 1965.
- The Institute was established with the basic objective of undertaking teaching, training and research in the area of mass communication.

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Planning

Planning in India derives its objectives and social premises from the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution. Public and private sectors are viewed as complementary.

• NITI Aayog

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) came into existence in 2015 replacing the Planning Commission which was established in 1950.
- ➤ The NITI Aayog is the successor to the Planning Commission. It is envisaged to be a catalyst to the developmental process, nurturing an overall enabling environment-through a holistic approach to development-going beyond the limited sphere of the public sector and Government of India.
- > It was created to serve as the think tank of the Government of India.

► Functions

- The institution plays a leadership role in policymaking in the central government; works closely with state governments; serves as a knowledge hub; and monitors progress in the implementation of policies and programmes of the Government of India.
- The institution provides the central and state governments with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum on matters of national and international importance on the economic front; dissemination of best practices from within the country and from other nations; and the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support.
- The institution designs strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitors their progress and their efficacy regularly.

• Erstwhile Planning Commission

➤ The Planning Commission was set up in March 1950, in pursuance of declared objectives of the government to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community.

► First Plan

• Keeping in view the large-scale import of foodgrains in 1951 and inflationary pressures on the economy, the First Plan (1951 -56) accorded the highest priority to agriculture including irrigation and power projects.

Second Plan

- The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-57 to 1960-61) sought to promote a pattern of development, which would ultimately lead to the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society in India.
- It laid emphasis on industrialisation, increased production of iron and steel, heavy chemicals including nitrogenous fertilisers and development of heavy engineering and machine building industry.



► Third Plan

- The Third Plan (1961-62 to 1965-66) was aimed at securing a marked advance towards self-sustaining growth.
- Its immediate objectives were to:
 - achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains and increase agricultural production to meet the requirements of industry and exports
 - expand basic industries like steel, chemicals, fuel and power and establish machine building capacity so that the requirements of further industrialisation could be met within a period of about 10 years mainly from the country's own resources;
 - fully utilise the manpower resources of the country and ensure a substantial expansion in employment opportunities;
 - establish progressively greater equality of opportunity and bring about reduction in disparities of income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power.

Annual Plans

- The situation created by the Indo-Pakistan conflict in 1965, two successive years of severe drought, devaluation of the currency, general rise in prices and erosion of resources available for Plan purposes delayed the finalisation of the Fourth Five Year Plan.
- Instead, between 1966 and 1969, three Annual Plans were formulated within the framework of the draft outline of the Fourth Plan.

► Fourth Plan

- The Fourth Plan (1969-74) aimed at accelerating the tempo of development of reducing fluctuations in agricultural production as well as the impact of uncertainties of foreign aid.
- The Plan laid particular emphasis on improving the conditions of the less privileged and weaker sections especially through provision of employment and education.

► Fifth Plan

- The Fifth Plan (1974-79) was formulated against the backdrop of severe inflationary pressures.
- The major objectives of the plan were:
 - to achieve self-reliance and adopt measures for raising the consumption standard of people living below the poverty line.
 - to bring inflation under control and to achieve stability in the economic situation.

Sixth Plan

• Removal of poverty was the foremost objective of the Sixth Plan (1980-85). The strategy adopted was to move simultaneously towards strengthening the infrastructure for both agriculture and industry.

Seventh Plan

- The Seventh Plan (1985-90) emphasised policies and programmes
- It aimed at rapid growth in foodgrain production, increased employment opportunities and productivity within the framework of basic tenets of planning, namely, growth, modernisation, self-reliance and social justice.

• Eighth Annual Plans

- The Eighth Five-Year Plan could not take off due to the fast-changing political situation at the Centre. The Eighth Five-Year Plan commenced in 1992 and that 1990-91 and 1991 -92 were treated as separate Annual Plan
- The basic thrust of these Annual Plans was on maximisation of employment and social transformation.



► Eighth Plan

- The Eighth Five-Year Plan (1990-95) was launched immediately after the initiation of structural adjustment policies and macro stabilisation policies, which were necessitated by the worsening Balance of Payments position and the position of inflation during 1990-91.
- Some of the salient features of economic performance during the Eighth Five-Year Plan indicate:
 - a faster economic growth;
 - a faster growth of the manufacturing sector and agriculture and allied sectors;
 - significant growth rates in exports and imports, improvement in trade and current account deficit and a significant reduction in the central government's fiscal deficit.

Ninth Plan

- The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) was launched in the 50th year of India's Independence.
- The Plan aimed at pursuing a policy of fiscal consolidation.
- The specific objectives of the Ninth Plan included:
 - priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generate adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty;
 - accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices;
 - ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society;
 - providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary healthcare facilities, universal primary education, shelter, nutritional support to children, connectivity of all, streamlining of the public distribution system in a time-bound manner;
 - containing the growth rate of population;
 - ensuring mobilisation and participation of people at all levels;
 - empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development;
 - promoting and developing people's participatory institutions like Panchayati Raj Institutions, cooperatives and self-help groups;
 - strengthening efforts to build self-reliance.

► Tenth Plan

- The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07) was approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 2002.
- The Plan developed the NDC mandate objectives, of doubling the per capita income in ten years and achieving a growth rate of 8 per cent of GDP per annum.
- The Plan also aimed at harnessing the benefits of growth to improve the quality of life of the people by setting of the following key targets:
 - Reduction in the poverty ratio from 26 per cent to 21 per cent, by 2007;
 - decadal population growth to reduce from 21.3 per cent in 1991 -2001 to 16.2 per cent in 2001-11;
 - growth in gainful employment, at least, to keep pace with addition to the labour force;
 - all children to be in school by 2003 and all children to complete five years of schooling by 2007;
 - reducing gender gaps in literacy and wage rates by 50 per cent;
 - literacy rate to increase from 65 per cent in 1999-2000, to 75 per cent in 2007;
 - providing potable drinking water to all villages;
 - increase in forest/tree cover from 19 per cent in 1999-2000 to 25 per cent in 2007;
 - cleaning of major polluted river stretches.



Eleventh Plan

• The Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-12) provided a comprehensive strategy for inclusive development, building on the growing strength of the economy, while also addressing weaknesses that had surfaced.

Twelfth Plan

- The Twelfth Plan fully recognized that the objective of development is broad-based improvement in the economic and social conditions of our people.
- It envisaged that the current slowdown in GDP growth can be reversed through strong corrective action, including especially an expansion in investment with a corresponding increase in savings to keep inflationary pressures under control.

• Atal Innovation Mission

- ➤ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the central government, set up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country. It is envisaged as an umbrella innovation organisation that would play an instrumental role in alignment of innovation policies between central, state and sectoral innovation schemes, incentivising establishment of an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship at various levels—higher secondary schools, science, engineering and higher academic institutions, and SME industry/corporate levels.
- AIM is setting up Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across all 700+ districts across the country. These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces.

Mentor India

• The Mentor India programme launched by AIM is a path-breaking initiative to catalyse the academiaindustry partnerships. Under it, more than 3,200 mentors from all over the country belonging to various industry sectors have been assigned to work with 1,800+ ATLs on a continuous basis.

► Atal Incubation Centres

• Atal Incubation Centres (AlCs) and Established Incubation Centres are incubation spaces intended to provide incubation facilities to innovative startups like capital equipment and operating facilities along with sectoral experts for mentoring, business planning support, access to seed capital, industry partnerships, training and other critical components.

> Atal New India Challenge

• Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) is an initiative by Atal Innovation Mission aimed at supporting innovators to create products/solutions based on advanced technologies in areas of national importance and social relevance through a grant-based mechanism. AIM is working with separate ministries on this programme to identify areas of importance and attract innovations in them.

Initiatives and Reforms

> Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office

- The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), an attached office of NITI Aayog, is the apex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) office of the Government of India.
- DMEO has advisory powers across the ministries and departments of the union government, and is one of the few institutions within the government to provide a cross- and inter-ministerial perspective.

► Agriculture Reforms

Implementation of MSP for notified crops

• NITI Aayog in consultation with central ministries and states developed a mechanism for implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different agricultural crops.



• Three concepts were discussed: (i) Market Assurance Scheme (MAS); (ii) Price Deficiency Procurement Scheme (PDPS); and (iii) Private Procurement and Stockists Scheme (PPSS).

Contract Farming

- The union government provided, for the first time, an opportunity to the farmers to decide the price of their produce and negotiate with buyers through Model Act on Contract Farming.
- It covers the entire value and supply chain from pre-production to post-harvest marketing including services contract for the agricultural produce and livestock.

Reforms in Nutrition

 POSHAN Abhiyaan:Ascheme for holistic nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission, is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Launched in 2018, it directs the attention of the country towards the problem of malnutrition and addresses it in a mission-mode.

POSHAN Maah

• September was celebrated as Rashtriya POSHAN Maah in 2018. The activities in POSHAN Maah focused on Social Behavioural Change and Communication (SBCC).

Health Sector Reforms

Ayushman Bharat: PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojanaThe National Health Policy 2017 envisages creation of a digital health technology ecosystem aiming at developing an integrated health information system .Ayushman Bharat comprising twin missions is set to transform the nation's health system by: operationalising 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres offering preventive and primary care, on the supply side; and offering financial protection of up to ₹ 5 lakhs per year per family for the deprived 10 crores plus households towards secondary and tertiary care, on the demand side.

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Rural Development

Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation.

In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development, increased participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralisation of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged.

Community Development Programme

- In 1952, an organisation known as Community Projects Administration was set up under the Planning Commission to administer the programmes relating to community development.
- The Community Development Programme, inaugurated in 1952, was an important landmark in the history of rural development.

• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- In October 1974, the Department of Rural Development came into existence as a part of Ministry of Food and Agriculture.
- ➤ In August 1979, this Department was elevated to the status of a new Ministry of Rural Reconstruction. That ministry was renamed as Ministry of Rural Development and again converted into a Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- ▶ In 1991, the Department was upgraded as Ministry of Rural Development.
- Presently, the Ministry of Rural Development consists of two departments, namely, Department of Rural Development and Department of Land Resources.

• Major Programmes for Rural Development

Rural Employment

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a rights based wageemployment programme implemented in rural areas of the country.
- The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing not less than 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- The objectives of the scheme are:
 - enhance livelihood security of the rural poor
 - strengthening and securing the livelihood resource base of the rural poor;
 - ensure empowerment to women;
 - ensuring social inclusion
 - strengthening grass-root democratic institutions.



Direct Benefit Transfer

- To streamline the fund flow mechanism and bring down delay in payment of wages, the Ministry of Rural Development has implemented National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) across the country.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission
 - It aims at mobilizing all rural poor household into Self Help Groups (SHGs) in a phased manner and also aims at supporting all women SHGs of the poor, including those promoted by other state agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
 - Key components of the NRLM:
 - Promoting Institutions of Poor
 - Training, Capacity Building and Skill Building
 - Community Investment Support Fund
 - National Special Fund Support for Convergence under DAY-NRLP
 - Infrastructure creation and Marketing Support
 - Sensitive Support Structures
 - MahilaKisanSashaktikaranPariyojana (MKSP)
 - AajeevikaGrameen Express Yojana

Rural Self Employment Training Institute

- Government decided to set up one Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in each district of the country.
- RSETIs are bank-led initiatives with the active support of state government.
- RSETIs are expected to train 750 rural poor youth each year to take up self-employment in the area they reside.583 RSETIs are functioning in the country.

Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana

- PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) 2000 is a centrally sponsored scheme to assist the states, though rural roads are in the State List under the Constitution.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to provide connectivity by way of an all-weather road to the eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 500 persons (as per 2001 Census) and above in plain areas.
- In respect of 'special Category States' (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, former state of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), the desert areas, the tribal (Schedule V) areas and 88 selected tribal and backward districts, the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations as per Core-Network with a population of 250 persons and above (Census 2001).

Rural Housing

- The rural housing scheme Indira AwaasYojana (IAY) implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, aimed at providing houses to families below the poverty line (BPL) in rural areas has since inception provided assistance for construction of 360 lakh houses.
- In the context of government's priority for "Housing for All" by 2022, the rural housing scheme IAY has been restructured to PradhanMantriAwaasYojana— Gramin (PMAY-G), which came into effect from the financial year 2016-17.

National Social Assistance Programme

• National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was launched in 1995 as a centrally sponsored scheme under which 100 per cent central assistance.



- NSAP is a social assistance programme for poor households—for the aged, widows, disabled and in the case of death of the breadwinner, thereby aiming at ensuring minimum national standards in addition to the benefits that the states are providing or might provide in further.
- At present, NSAP comprises:
 - Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme
 - Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme
 - Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme
 - National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
 - Annapurna

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

- It is a critical component of the National Skill Development Policy, and has an ambitious agenda, to benchmark wage placement-linked skill programmes to global standards and requirements.
- The ultimate aim is to convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend by developing rural India into a globally preferred source of skilled labour.
- DDU-GKY has its roots in the Swarnjayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY).

Key Features

- The focus of this programmes is on the rural youth from poor families, in the age group of 15 to 35 years, belonging to:
 - MGNREGA worker household in which household members have together completed 15 days of work;
 - RSBY household;
 - Antyodaya Anna Yojana card household;
 - BPL PDS card households;
 - NRLM-SHG household;
 - Household covered under auto inclusion parameters of SECC 2011.
- The programme promotes the economic strategies— Make In India, through proactive partnership with industry through multi-pronged engagement—champion employer policy, captive employer policy and industrial internship policy.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

- SaansadAdarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched in 2014 with the aim to develop one village by each Member of Parliament as a model village by 2016 and two more by 2019.
- The goal of SAGY is to translate the comprehensive and organic vision of Mahatma Gandhi into reality.
- SAGY also aims at instilling certain values, such as people's participation; Antyodaya; gender equality; dignity of women; social justice; spirit of community service; cleanliness; eco-friendliness; maintaining ecological balance; peace and harmony; mutual cooperation; self-reliance; local selfgovernment; transparency and accountability in public life, etc., in the villages and their people so that they get transformed into models for others.

Key Features

- The features of SAGY are as follows:
- **Village Development Plan:** The Gram Panchayats adopted under SAGY prepared Village Development Plans (VDPs) containing prioritised time-bound activities to achieve holistic progress of the village, through convergence of resources.



- **PanchayatDarpan:** The Ministry has developed a 35-point impact monitoring tool to gauge the impact of SAGY in the GPs. Progress is measured through outcome indicators broadly covering basic amenities, education, health, sanitation, livelihood, women empowerment, financial inclusion, food security, social security and e-governance.
- A campaign, namely, Gram SwarajAbhiyan was also started. This campaign, undertaken under "SabkaSath, SabkaGaon, SabkaVikas", is to promote social harmony, spread awareness about propoor initiatives of the government, reach out to poor households to enroll them as also to obtain their feedback on various welfare programmes.

• Land Reforms

Watershed Management Programme

- A watershed is a topographically delineated area that is drained by a stream system. It includes physical and hydrological natural resources.
- Watershed management is the process of guiding and organising land use and use of other natural resources in a watershed.
- Watershed development is a multi-disciplinary field, for sustainable natural resource management. Watershed development activities also contribute towards mitigation and adaptation to global warming.

Watershed Development

- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** was launched in 2015-16 by amalgamating ongoing schemes of three ministries, viz., Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programmed (AIBP) and PMKSY (WR) of the Ministry of Water Resources; River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR RD and GR); Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources (DoLR); and the Micro Irrigation component of On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW).
- Under the erstwhile IWMP, the activities undertaken interalia include ridge area treatment; drainage line treatment; soil and moisture conservation; rainwater harvesting; nursery raising; afforestation; horticulture; pasture development; livelihoods for assetless persons, etc.
- In 2015-16, the IWMP was amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).**
- National Land Records ModernisationProgramme
 - The scheme of National Land Records ModernisationProgramme (NLRMP) has been renamed as Digital India Land Records ModernisationProgramme (DILRMP) and is being implemented since 2008.
 - Under it, several states/UTs have computerised the registration of records (RoRs) of land in their respective areas, stopped manual issue of RoRs and have uploaded data on their websites. Besides these, several states/UTs have done computerisation of Registration and have done integration of land records with registration.

• Panchayati Raj

The mandate of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), which was set up in 2004, is to ensure the compliance of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution, provisions regarding the District Planning Committees as per Article 243 ZD, and PESA.

Constitutional Mandate

• Part IX of the Constitution of India provides for setting up of three tiers of Panchayats (only two tiers in case of states or union territories having population less than 2 million):



- gram panchayats at village level;
- district panchayats at district level;
- intermediatepanchayats at sub-district level in between gram panchayats and district panchayats.
- The Constitution envisaged that Panchayats will function as institutions of local government and prepare plans and implement schemes for economic development and social justice, but leaves the precise devolution of powers and authority to panchayats to the states.

Rajiv Gandhi PanchayatSashaktikaranAbhiyan

 To improve the functioning of PRI, the MoPR implemented the Rajiv Gandhi PanchayatSashaktikaranAbhiyan (RGPSA) in the 12th Five Year Plan period, to address the major constraints of inadequate devolution of powers, lack of manpower, inadequate infrastructure and limited capacity in the effective functioning of panchayats by providing manpower, infrastructure, training and promotion of devolution of power to panchayats and put in place structures of accountability.

Rashtriya Gram SwarajAbhiyan

• The Rashtriya Gram SwarajAbhiyan (RGSA) will focus on capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions for convergent action to deliver basic services and achieve development goals.

e-Panchayat

• e-Panchayat was identified as one of the 27 Mission Mode Projects under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) formulated in 2006.

• Recommendations of Fourteenth Finance Commission

- ► Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award for the period 2015-2020 grants to the tune of ₹ 2,00,292.20 crore are being devolved to gram panchayats in the country constituted under Part IX of the Constitution.
- The FFC has not recommended grants to Non-Part IX areas under Schedule VI in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Assam, the areas in the hill districts of Manipur, rural areas of Nagaland and Mizoram.

• Drinking Water and Sanitation

➤ It is the nodal ministry for the overall policy, planning, funding and coordination of the flagship programmes of the Government of India, viz., the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for rural drinking water supply and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)] for sanitation in the country.

Swachh Bharat Mission

- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014. The concept of Swachh Bharat Mission is to provide access for every person to sanitation facilities including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems and village cleanliness.
- The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Mission aims to increase the access to sanitation from 39 per cent in 2014 to 100 per cent by October 2019. The Action Plan calls for an Open Defecation Free (ODF) India in five years.
- To begin with, as part of Swachh Bharat, priority was given to build separate toilets for boys and girls in all schools of the country.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

• To bring the focus on the issue of sanitation, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) was launched in 2014.

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- The main objectives of the SBM(G) are : (a) to bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation; (b) accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by October 2, 2019; and (c) encourage cost-effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.
- Behaviour change is the primary focus and fundamental tool for achievement of ODF outcomes.

SwachhataPakhwada

• SwachhataPakhwada was started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging Gol ministries and departments in their jurisdiction.

NamamiGange

- NamamiGangeProgramme is an initiative of Ministry of Jal Shakti, aimed at making villages on the bank of river Ganga ODF and interventions dealing with solid and liquid waste management.
- The Ministry has taken up 24 villages on the bank of river Ganga to transform them as Ganga Grams in coordination with National Mission for clean Ganga (NMCG).
- The Project is focused on better cleanliness and infrastructure facilities, through convergence with other departments.
- Gram Panchayats have been empowered to play an active role in ownership and maintenance of Ganga Gram activities.

Swachhta Action Plan

• Swachhta Action Plan (SAP), a first of its kind inter-ministerial programme for Swachhta, is a concrete realisation of the vision that swachhta is everyone's business. All Union ministries/ departments have started to work for its realisation in a significant manner with appropriate budget provisions.

Swachh Iconic Places

- The Ministry has taken up a multi-stakeholder initiative focusing on cleaning up 100 places across the country that are "iconic" due to their heritage, religious and/or cultural significance.
- This initiative is in partnership with ministries of Urban Development, Tourism and Culture with Ministry of Jal Shakti being the nodal ministry.

National Rural Drinking Water Programme

- The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing adequate and safe drinking water to the rural population of the country.
- The NRDWP is a component of Bharat Nirman which focuses on the creation of the infrastructure.
- Rural drinking water supply is a state subject and is also included in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution amongst the subjects that may be entrusted to panchayats by the states. Thus, the participation of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the rural drinking water supply sector is an important area of focus.

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Scientific & Technological Developments

Department of Science and Technology

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) functions as the nodal agency to connect science and technology sector to government verticals.
- DST provides the largest extramural research and development support in the country to strengthen national S&T capacity and capability through a competitive mode to scientists cutting across institutions and disciplines.

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy

- The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy unveiled in 2013 includes a thrust for innovations in science and technology sector.
- STI policy reveals an aspiration to gain global competitiveness and link science sector to the developmental agenda of the country. Science, research and innovation system for high technology led path for India (SRISHTI) is the main policy goal.

• CAWACH for Covid-19

- ▶ To combat the pandemic, DST launched a funding initiative-Centre for Augmenting WAR with Covid-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) in March 2020.
- The aim was to nationally scout and support the innovations and start-ups in the areas of diagnostics and drugs, disinfectants and sanitizers, ventilators and medical equipment, PPEs and informatics to address Covid-19 challenges by scaling up efforts at the national level.

• Science and Engineering Research

- ➤ The research and development in frontier areas of science and engineering has received an overwhelming support with the establishment of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).
- Several initiatives have been launched by the Board recently to reverse the brain drain at different stages of scientific careers
- **Teachers' Associates for Research Excellence (TARE) Mobility Scheme:**
 - The Scheme launched in 2016-17 aims to facilitate mobility of faculty members working in a regular capacity in state universities/colleges/academic institutions such as NTs, MSc, IISERs, national labs, etc., located nearer to the institution where the faculty member is working.

Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems

• CPS is an integrated system involving sensors, communication, actuators, control, interconnected computing networks and data analytics.



- Government approved it in 2018 for a period of five years to be implemented by DST.
- Its main objectives include: technology development, translational research and commercialisation in CPS and associated technologies; produce next generation skilled manpower; accelerate entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem development in CPS; and give impetus to advanced research in CPS, technology development and higher education in science, technology and engineering disciplines, etc.

Opportunities for Women Scientists

- Department of Science and Technology launched several initiatives for women in science under its flagship scheme namely KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing).
- It provides opportunity to women scientists who had break in their career, primarily due to family reasons.

• Attracting Young Talent

- The department is implementing Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge (MANAK) scheme under its flagship programme Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE).
- MANAK scheme is a unique initiative to attract talented school students at an early age to study science and pursue research career apart from fostering a culture of innovation among them.

• Water Technology Initiative

- Water Technology Initiative (WTI), initiated in 2007, aims to promote R&D activities aimed at providing safe drinking water at affordable cost and in adequate quantity using appropriate science and technology interventions evolved through indigenous efforts.
- Technology Mission on Winning, Augmentation and Renovation (WAR) for Water was launched in 2009 to undertake research-led solutions, through a coordinated approach, to come out with technological options for various water challenges in different parts of the country.

• Nano Science and Technology

- > National Mission of Nano Science and Technology an umbrella programme was launched in 2007.
- ► The main objectives of this mission are : basic research promotion, research infrastructure development, nano application and technology development, human resource development, international collaboration and orchestrating national dialogues.

• Climate Change

 National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and National Mission for Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change (NMSKCC) launched under National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) are under implementation by the Department.

Clean Energy Research Initiative

- The initiative supports fresh ideas/concepts, including feasibility assessment of various emerging and disruptive technologies, for their potential conversion into useful technology/product.
- This initiative of the department directly caters to furthering the Sustainable Development Goal #7 (SDG 7), which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI)
 - It has evolved as an umbrella scheme for a seamless innovation ecosystem booster.



• Major links of the innovation to market value chain would be supported and strengthened at various nodes (each node signifying a cluster of 3 neighbouring districts) across the country to attain the mission of nation building through innovation, entrepreneurship and incubation.

Research for Covid-19

- To ramp up the Covid-19 testing capacity in the country, DST has engaged five of its laboratories for Covid-19 testing related activities as per the ICMR guidelines in collaboration with the Department of Health Research.
- A unique type of face mask, named as Tribo-E mask, was designed and developed. This mask has a design (patent pending) that helps to create enough space in front of the mouth while speaking.

Translational Research Programme

- Translational Research Programme was launched along with five technical research centres with a mission to provide techno-legal-commercial and financial support to scientists, entrepreneurs, and business fraternity.
- This was mainly to achieve translation of research into products and processes for greater economic and societal benefits in DST institutions

• Survey of India

- Survey of India (SOI), the national survey and mapping organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, was set up in 1767. It is the National Principal Mapping Agency,
- ➤ It has also been called upon extensively to deploy its expertise in the field of geodetic and geophysical surveys, study of seismicity and seismotectonics, glaciology, participation in Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica and projects related to digital cartography and digital photogrammetry, etc., to provide basic data to keep pace with Science and Technology Department.
- > The digital data is being used by various agencies for planning and GIS applications.
- ► It also undertakes large scale surveys for various developmental projects including hydro-electric, irrigation, command area, canal area, cantt. area schemes, etc.
- The Department is responsible to fix the external boundary of India, their depiction on maps published in the country and also advise on the demarcation of inter-state boundaries.
- Survey Training Institute, Hyderabad established under UNDP assistance is a premier institution for training in various disciplines of surveying and mapping to the trainees sponsored by the Department, other state/central government organisations and neighbouring countries.

NATMO - National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)

• While Survey of India meets the national needs in cartography, some specialised thematic maps required to meet the needs of the specific users are taken care of by the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) operating under the Department.

• Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) constituted in 1942 is an autonomous body, which is known for its cutting edge R&D knowledge base in diverse S&T areas.
- ➤ It covers a wide spectrum of science and technology—from radio and space physics, oceanography, earth sciences, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology.
- CSIR is the nation's custodian for measurement standards of mass, distance, time, temperature, current, etc. It has created and is the custodian of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).
- > It maintains Microbial Type Culture Collection (MTCC) and Gene Bank.

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• Atomic Energy

- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), established in 1954, is engaged in the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry, and basic research.
- > Objective: increasing the share of nuclear power
 - developing advanced technologies such as accelerators, lasers and encourage transfer of technology to industry; support to basic research in nuclear energy
 - support to R&D projects having a bearing on DAE's programmes and international cooperation in related areas of research and contribution to national security.
- The Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad manufactures fuel assemblies for pressurised heavy water reactors, boiling water reactors and fast breeder reactor.

Nuclear Power Programme

- To utilise uranium and large thorium reserves in the country for electricity generation, India has been pursuing a three-stage nuclear power programme (NPP).
- For the first stage of nuclear power programme the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a Public Sector Enterprise under DAE, is responsible for siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power reactors.
- At present, 22 nuclear power reactors with an installed capacity of 6,780 MW are running.

The Heavy Water Board (HWB)

• It has contributed successfully to the first stage of Nuclear Power Programme by producing heavy water for all pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) in a cost-effective manner enabling the Department to provide nuclear power at an affordable cost.

Solvent Technology

• In the area of solvents, both the industrial facilities at HWP, Baroda and Talcher for production of TBP (Tributyl Phosphate) and D2EHPA have performed very well enabling HWB to meet the entire requirement of NFC, NRB and all other units of DAE.

Boron Enrichment

• In consonance with the material input required for second stage of NPP based on Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs), HWB, with its decades of experience of handling isotope separation process, took up development, demonstration and deployment of indigenous technologies for production of enriched boron.

Sodium

• Sodium is another important input for FBRs, used as coolant in the reactor. HWB has developed indigenous and safer closedelectrolytic cell technology for production of nuclear grade sodium.

Mineral Exploration and Mining

• Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) continued the accelerated pace of exploration activities by integrated, multi-disciplinary methodology and judicious utilisation of manpower with a focused approach on augmentation of uranium, thorium and rare metals.

R&D Support to Power Sector

• The research and development support to the Nuclear Power Programme is provided by the research centers of DAE.

Health Safety and Environment

• Review of safety of operating stations was carried out on a regular basis. It continued to maintain low radiation exposure in the public domain due to operation of nuclear power stations.



• An online thoron monitoring network was installed and made operational at Power Reactor Thoria Reprocessing Facility (PRTRF) at Trombay to monitor the thoron gas concentration at various locations in the facility.

Fast Breeder Reactors

- For the second stage of the Nuclear Power Generation Programme, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) is pursuing development of sodium cooled fast breeder reactors and associated fuel cycle technologies.
- Breeder reactors produce more fuel than they consume.
- The Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), operating at Kalpakkam for over 25 years, also caters to technology development related to fast reactors.

Thorium Based Reactors

- Nuclear power employing closed fuel cycle is the only sustainable option for meeting a major part of the world energy demand. World resources of thorium are larger than those of uranium.
- The Indian Nuclear Power Programme Stage-3 aims at using thorium as fuel for power generation on a commercial scale.
- In the thorium fuel cycle, thorium 232 is transmuted into the fissile isotope uranium 233 which is a nuclear fuel.

Kalpakkam Mini (Kamini) Reactor

- Kamini reactor was operated successfully for neutron radiography of various pyro devices for Department of Space.
- High temperature fission chambers required for neutron flux measurement of Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) were successfully tested.

Advanced Technologies

• The research centres of DAE are engaged in developing advanced technologies such as accelerators, lasers, advanced materials, robotics, supercomputers, instrumentation and others.

Electronics & Instrumentation

• The Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) continued to remain engaged in the design; development; manufacture; supply; installation and commissioning of electronic equipment for the atomic energy; defence; aerospace; security; information technology; and e-governance sectors.

Robotics

• A robot-based frameless stereotactic system is developed at BARC for performing neurosurgery which has accuracy and patient comfort level comparable to frame-based system.

Cryogenics

• A cryogenic system consisting of cryogen distribution lines for liquid helium and liquid nitrogen, sub-atmospheric vacuum jacketed lines for helium, warm helium lines between the helium buffer tanks and compressors, and a 500 watt helium liquefier is being set-up for the superconducting electron and heavy-ion linacs at VECC.

Radioisotopes & Radiation Technology

- Radioisotopes are produced in the Dhruva Research Reactor at Trombay, accelerator at Kolkata and the various nuclear power plants of NPCIL
- The Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) produced and supplied a wide range of radioisotope products, and radiation technology equipment for medical and industrial uses.



Homi Bhabha National Institute

• HBNI offers various courses with its eight boards of studies, namely, as chemical sciences, engineering sciences, health sciences, life sciences, mathematical sciences, physical sciences, strategic studies and undergraduate studies.

• Indian Space Programme

- Space activities in the country were initiated with the setting up of Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) in 1962.
- ► In the same year, work on Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) near Thiruvananthapuram was also started.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in August 1969. The Government of India constituted the space commission and established the Department of Space (DOS) in 1972 and brought ISRO under DOS in 1972.

Chandrayaan-2 Mission

- India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV Mklll-M 1, successfully launched Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into its planned orbit with a perigee and an apogee of 45,475 km.
- The launch took place from the second launch pad at SatishDhawan Space Centre SHAR Sriharikota.
- It comprised an orbiter, lander and rover to explore the unexplored South Pole of the moon.
- The mission was designed to expand the lunar scientific knowledge through detailed study of topography, seismography, mineral identification and distribution, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics of top soil and composition of the tenuous lunar atmosphere.

Other Activities

- Six launch vehicle missions were successfully accomplished.
- The successful launch of GSLV-MkIII D2, the second developmental flight of India's most powerful launch vehicle was the highlight of 2018.
- Successful launch of GSLV-F11 and four PSLV launches from SatishDhawan Space Centre were also accomplished
- Pad Abort Test, which was conducted in July 2018, was one the major milestones in proving critical technologies for Gaganyaan.

Space Applications

- The social services from INSAT/GSAT systems in various areas of communication in addition to tele-education and telemedicine have continued.
- Remote Sensing applications projects at national, state and local levels made significant progress through a well-established multi-pronged implementation architecture of National Natural ResourcesManagement System (NNRMS) in the country.
- Indian Remote Sensing Satellite constellation helped in providing vital inputs in agricultural crops inventory, agricultural drought assessment, forest fire monitoring, effective use of ground-water prospects maps, and varieties of governance applications.
- The Disaster Management Support (DMS) Programme of ISRO is continuing to provide space based inputs for the effective management of disasters in the country.
- The Decision Support Centre (DMSDSC), established at National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), is engaged in monitoring of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, landslides, forest fires, etc.
- National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) continued to provide disaster related inputs for states/UTs with multi-scale geo-spatial database.



Space Science and Planetary Research

- **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM),** which is India's first inter-planetary spacecraft mission, continues to provide vital information on regular basis about Mars. Scientific analysis of the data being received from the spacecraft is being done on various aspects of the planet.
- **AstroSat**, India's first multi-wavelength observatory, is now being operated as an 'Observatory', in which observational time is allocated based on the proposals received from interested researchers and scientists in the country, through IRSO's Announcement of Opportunity (AO).

Space Commerce

- Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Department of Space, is marketing the Indian space products and services in the global market. It offers a wide range of services from the space-based systems through specific commercial contracts with other agencies, including foreign customers.
- New Space India Limited (NSIL) is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of Department of Space. It was created with the vision to provide the products and services emanating from the Indian Space Programme to the Indian and global customers and spur the growth of the Indian Industry to undertake technological challenges in space related activities.

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

• Towards capacity building in human resources and to meet the growing demands of the Indian Space Programme, the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (11 ST), a deemed university, was established at Thiruvananthapuram in 2007.

• Earth Sciences

- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) holistically addresses all the aspects relating the earth system science for providing weather, climate, ocean, coastal state, hydrological and seismological services.
- The services include forecasts and warnings for various natural disasters.

Earth System Science Organisation

- The Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO) operates as an executive arm of the MoES for its policies and programmes.
- It was established in 2007 as a virtual organisation, bringing all meteorological and ocean development activities under one umbrella, recognising the importance of strong coupling among various components of the earth, viz., atmosphere, oceans, cryosphere and geosphere.
- It is primarily aimed to develop and improve capability to forecast weather, climate and hazard related phenomena for social, economic and environmental benefits including addressing aspects relating to climate change science, and climate services.
- It also promotes research in polar science of both Antarctic and Arctic regions.

Atmospheric and Climate Research

- A high resolution global deterministic weather prediction model was commissioned for generating operational weather forecasts at a horizontal resolution of 12 km.
- Under the Monsoon Mission, operational dynamical model systems have been implemented for extended range and seasonal forecasts.
- For the first time, forecasts on different time-scales during the hot weather season (April to May) including heat waves were issued by the India Meteorological Department.

Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services

• The Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provides the Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) for the benefit of farmers.



• Farmers make use of these services for planning the operations like sowing, irrigation, application of fertiliser and pesticide, harvest and protection of crops from weather disasters.

Forecasts for Heat and Cold Waves

- To provide adequate warnings about heat waves and associated health hazards, MoES for the first time started issuing forecasts for heat waves over the country.
- A Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) for short and medium range prediction at 12 km using 21 members of the model was commissioned in 2018.
- A new early warning system of air quality in Delhi was developed in collaboration with National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA.
- India Meteorological Department and Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) launched a web portal dedicated exclusively to the energy sector.
- The Mumbai Weather Live Mobile App was developed by collating ground weather observations recorded by IMD and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.

Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science

- Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART), has been put in place for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- The services rendered under it will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, defence, shipping, ports, etc.
- Implementation of O-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14, which aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development.

Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services

- Atmospheric and Climate Research, Observations Science Services (ACROSS) pertains to the atmospheric science programmes of the Ministry.
- Its objective is to provide reliable weather and climate forecast for betterment of society. It also aims at improving skill of weather and climate forecast through sustained observations and intensive R & D.

• Ocean Services: Technology and Observations

Potential Fishery Zone (PFZ) Advisories

• The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) provides PFZ advisories to 2.75 lakh fishermen on a daily basis to help them to easily locate the areas of abundant fish in the ocean.

Ocean Forecasts

- Ocean state forecastes (forecasts of waves, currents, sea surface temperature, etc.) to fisher folk, shipping industry, oil and natural gas industry, navy, coast guard and other stakeholders have improved considerably.
- The ocean state forecasts were also provided before and during the launch day of Re-usable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The ocean forecast services were extended to two other Indian Ocean Rim countries, namely, Sri Lanka and Seychelles.



Tsunami Warning System

- The Indian Tsunami Warning System established by the Ministry at the Indian Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, has been recognised as the Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RSTP) for the Indian Ocean region by UNESCO to provide warning to countries of the Indian Ocean.
- Indian Tsunami Warning System is equipped to issue warnings within ten minutes of occurrence of earthquakes.

Open Cage Culture

- An open sea cage culture mooring system was designed and developed for commercially important marine finfishes suitable for Indian sea conditions to meet this demand with available marine engineering and biological expertise.
- It seems to be an ideal alternative livelihood option for the coastal fishers

Remotely Operated Vehicle

• Indigenously developed 500m depth rated shallow water/polar remotely operated vehicle (PROVe) was successfully deployed in the Andaman coral islands to record high quality underwater visuals of coral reef biodiversity with spectral irradiance.

Polar and Cryosphere Research (PACER)

- National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa established a high altitude research station in Himalaya called Himansh (literally meaning, a slice of ice), situated above 13,500 ft (>4000 m) at a remote region in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.
- Glaciers were monitored for mass balance, dynamics, energy balance and hydrology.

Seismology and Geoscience Research (SAGE)

- The national seismological network consisting of 115 observatories has been functioning smoothly.
- Scientific deep drilling in Koyna which started in 2016 is aimed at setting up of borehole observatory(s) at depth for directly measuring the in-situ physical properties of the rocks in the near field of earthquakes— before, during and after their occurrence

Research, Education and Training Outreach Programme

• Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT) Programme is a scheme that provides support to academic/research organisations in various sectors of earth system sciences including technology development.

• Biotechnology

- A multi-agency board namely National Biotechnology Board (NBTB) was setup in 1982 with participation of DST, UGC, ICMR and CSIR to promote activities in biotechnology.
- It was upgraded to a full-fledged Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1986.
- DBT has formulated the National Biotechnology Development Strategy which emphasizes on the need for building a skilled workforce and leadership through specialised training programmes for professionals to facilitate technology competence, creating new career options for students aimed at motivating young minds towards biotechnology, supporting faculty improvement programme for continuous improvement and attracting skills for imbibing scientists and post docs.
- Also from the time the Covid-19 struck in 2019-20, the DBT has been engaged relentlessly to contribute to mitigate the crisis.

GSSCORE

Autonomous Institutions

- **National Institute of Immunology (NII),New Delhi** promotes state-of-the-art teaching and training facilities in advanced biological sciences using an inter-disciplinary approach so as to inculcate the highest level of aptitude and ability in the country's skilled manpower pool.
- **National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune**deals with cutting-edge research areas in structural biology, stem cell biology, deciphering the role of RNA in biological control processes and the cellular and molecular basis of memory.
- Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad provides services for agricultural and processed food products for testing purity of samples of agricultural commodity using DNA markers that can distinguish different Basmati varieties and also traits identification and validation.
- **Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneshwar** focuses on infectious disease biology, gene function and regulation and translational research.
- National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar focuses on generation of skilled manpower in brain research that would help India to achieve international leadership in this frontier area of science.
- National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), Delhi focuses on research on understanding of the structure, expression and function of genes.

Industrial and Entrepreneurship Development

Biotechnology Parks and Incubators

- The Department of Biotechnology promotes biotech research and helps to translate research into products and services.
- Biotechnology Parks are facilities for technology incubation, technology demonstration and pilot plant studies are provided for accelerated commercial development of biotechnology.

Bangalore Life Science Cluster for Multi-scale Basic and Applied Research in Biological Sciences (B-Life), Bengaluru

- It promotes research and technology development through generation of ideas, sharing resources and infrastructure amongst the partnering institutes.
- The cluster partnering institutes are: Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), and Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB).

NCR Biotech Science Cluster

• It is established by involving five autonomous institutes of DBT (NII, NIPGR, NBRC, THSTI and RCB). The Cluster is supporting discovery-driven research in biology and developments of novel technologies and facilitation of public-private partnerships through biotech business incubators and parks.

• Public Sector Undertakings

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)

 BIRAC is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, public sector enterprise, set up as an interface agency to strengthen and empower the emerging biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL)

• BIBCOL is a leading biotechnology company based in Uttar Pradesh, currently manufactures and produces a range of pharmaceutical products such as Oral Polio Vaccines (OPV Vaccine), zinc tablet and diarrheal management kit, etc. Its mission is to save the lives of millions of children from avoidable disability, through polio vaccination.



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Transport

Transport plays vital role in sustainable economic growth of country. Our transport system consists of rail, road, coastal shipping, air transport etc. Transport sector showed growth over the years both in spread of network and in output of the system. The Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways are responsible for the formation and implementation of policies and programmes for the development of various modes of transport.

• Railways

- ➤ The Railways in India provide the principal mode of transportation for freight and passengers. "It provides transport of public and makes possible the conduct of business, pilgrimage and "education. It has bound the economic life of the country and helped in accelerating the development of industry "and agriculture. First steam engine train in 1853, ran between Mumbai to Thane, a distance of 34 kms. From then "Indian Railways have grown into a vast network of 7,321 stations spread over a route length of 67,415 km. It has played a vital role in the economic, industrial and social development of the country. The network runs multi-gauge operations extending over 67,415 route kilometres
- Central Public Sector Enterprises: There are 13 undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways,viz., (i) RITES Ltd.; (ii) IRCON International Limited; (iii) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC); (iv) Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR); (v) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL); (vi) Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC); (vii) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC); (viii) Railtel Corporation of India Ltd. (Rail Tel); (ix) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL); (x) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL); (xi) Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Ltd. (BWEL); (xii) Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL); and (xiii) Braithwaite and Company Limited (BCL).
- Research and Development: The Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) at Lucknow is the R&D wing of Indian Railways. RDSO has developed a new design of wider and heavier prestressed concrete sleeper RT-8527 to achieve higher frame resistance against bucking, higher rubber pad life.
- Railway Finance: Railway Budget was being presented separately to Parliament since 1924. The Railways had its own 16 demands for grants, which also used to be considered and passed by the Parliament separately. The Government decided to merge the Railway Budget with the general Budget from 2017-18. The unified budget will bring the affairs of the Railways to centre stage and present a holistic picture of the financial position of the Government. This merger would facilitate multimodal transport planning between highways, railways and waterways. Instead of the erstwhile scheme of sixteen demands for grants, the Ministry of Finance introduced one demand for grant for the Ministry of Railways
- Railway Electrification: In pre-independence period, electrification remained confined to 388 Route Kilometers (RKMs) and it is only in the post independence period that further electrification was taken up. By March 2019, electrification was extended to 34,319 RKMs out of the total rail network of 67,415 RKMs. This constitutes 50.91 per cent of the total railway network.



• Major Indian Railway Zones, Headquarters and their Divisions

Zonal Railways: Headquarters

- Central: Mumbai
- Eastern: Kolkata
- East Coast: Bhubaneshwar
- East Central Hajipur
- Northern: New Delhi
- North Central: Allahabad
- North Eastern: Gorakhpur
- Northeast Frontier:Maligaon (Guwahati)
- North Western: Jaipur
- Southern: Chennai
- South Central:Secunderabad
- South Eastern: Kolkata
- South East Central Railway: Bilaspur
- South Western Railway: Hubli
- Western: Mumbai
- West Central Railway: Jabalpur
- Metro Railway Kolkata

• Roads

- ➤ The "Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was formed in 2009 by bifurcating the erstwhile Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways into two independent ministries. Road transport is a critical infrastructure for economic development of a country. The "Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules, regulations and laws relating to road transport and transport research.
- ➤ The break-up is: national highways/expressways-1,34,380 kms; state highways-1,54,814 kms; other roads-56,08,477 kms totalling to 58,97,671 kms. The Ministry has been entrusted with the responsibility of development and maintenance of national highways (NHs). All roads other than national highways in the states fall within the jurisdiction of respective state governments.
- In order to assist the state governments in the development of state roads, central government also
 provides financial assistance out of the Central Road Fund (CRF)

Development and Maintenance of National Highways

The Government is implementing National Highways Development Project (NHDP), the largest Highways Project ever undertaken in the country since 2000. The NHDP is mainly being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL).

Bharatmala Pariyojana

The Ministry has taken up detailed review of NHs network with a view to develop the road connectivity to border areas, development of coastal roads including road connectivity for non-major ports, improvement in the efficiency of national corridors, development of economic corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes along with integration with Sagarmala, etc.,underBharatmalaPariyojana. The network identified under the Pariyojana has been further optimized to improve connectivity across key economic centres through discussions with all stakeholders.



• Setu Bharatam

 In order to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic, the Ministry has envisaged a plan for replacement of level crossing on national highways by Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) under a scheme known as SetuBharatam.

• Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana

This project envisages development of easy access to the four prominent Dhams, namely, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, situated in Uttarakhand. These four Dhams are prominent pilgrimage centres. The project entails development of 889 km of roads with configuration of twolane with paved shoulders.

• National Highways Authority of India

➤ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up under the NHAI Act, 1988. It has been entrusted with National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which along with other minor projects. The total length of NH (including expressways) in the country is 1,32,499 kms. While highways/ expressways constitute only about 1.7 per cent of the length of all roads, they carry about 40 per cent of the road traffic.

National Highways Development Project

- The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in the country to a higher standard. The project was started in 1998. This project is managed by NHAI under the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways. The NHDP has been subsumed in the ongoing Bharatmala project.
- Some of the major National Highways constructed under this programme include Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) connecting 4 major metropolitan cities, viz., DelhiMumbai-Chennai-Kolkata, North-South & East-West Corridors (NS-EW) connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Porbandar with a spur from Salem to Cochin, road connectivity of major ports of the country to national highways.

• National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation

The NHIDCL is a fully owned company of the Ministry that exclusively carries out the task of construction/ up-grading/widening of national highways in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries in order to promote regional connectively with neighbouring countries on a sustainable basis.

• Indian Academy of Highway Engineers

 Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) is a registered society under the administrative control of the Ministry.

• Major Initiatives

- National Registry of Vehicle and License. Transport Mission Mode Project has successfully automated RTO operations, set up a consolidated transport database. The salient aspects of this Mission Mode Project are two flagship applications - Vahan and Sarathi. While Vahan consolidates vehicle registration, taxation, permit, fitness and associated services across the country, Sarathi looks after the driving license, learner licence, driving schools and related activities. The database is integrated with Aadhaar for biometric authentication and eKYC, integration with digilocker. This allows use of virtual documents like driving license, registration certifi cates, permits, etc., as authorized soft copy.
- Road Safety: The Government has approved a National Road Safety Policy so as to minimize road accidents. The important schemes on road safety operated by the Ministry include publicity measures and awareness campaign on road safety, Scheme for Setting up Institutes for Driving Training, Refresher Training of Drivers in Unorganized Sector and Human Resource Development, National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS), setting up of inspection and certification centres and road safety and pollution testing equipment and programme implementation.



- e-tolling: In order to remove traffic bottleneck at toll plazas and ensure seamless movement of vehicles and hassle-free collection of toll, the Government has implemented a nationwide Electronic Toll Collection based on passive Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).It provides for electronic collection of toll through FASTags. The project was first launched in 2015.
- National Green Highways Project: In order to develop eco-friendly highways, the Green Highways (Plantation Transplantation Beautification and Maintenance) Policy was firmed up in 2016. The Policy aims to develop eco-friendly National Highways with the participation of community, farmers, NGOs and private sector.

• Shipping

The Ministry of Shipping was formed in 2009. The Ministry of Shipping encompasses within its fold shipping and port sectors which also include shipbuilding and ship repair, major ports and inland water transport.

- Maritime Development: India has a long coastline of about 7,517 km, spread on the western and eastern shelves of the mainland and also along the Islands. There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports. Approximately 95 per cent of the country's trade by volume and 68 per cent by value is moved through maritime transport. Shipping continues to remain unchallenged as the world's most efficient means of transportation
- SagarmalaProgramme: Government of India has embarked on the ambitious Sagarmala Programme to promote port-led development in the country. The vision of the Programme is to reduce logistics cost of EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment. The objectives of the Programme include: port modernisation, new port development, port connectivity, coastal community development, etc.
- Ship Building: The Indian shipbuilding industry has continued to concentrate on defence, coastal and inland vessels. The fleet expansion plans of Indian Navy and the vessels for the Indian Coast Guard are the two prime segments which were targeted by the Indian shipyards.
- Ship Repair:Indian ship owners continued to rely on overseas repair facilities owing to insufficient capacity and high level of taxation. There are 27 shipyards in the country, 6 under central public sector, 2 under state governments and 19 under private sector.
- Ship Recycling: India has 25-30 per cent share in the global ship recycling industry. Ship recycling is carried out mainly at Alang-Sosiya in Gujarat. Started in February, 1983, Alang-Sosiya is the largest ship recycling yard in the world.Ship recycling serves the nation by producing about more than 3.5 million ton per annum of re-rollable steel

Major Ports

- There are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports along India's Coastline which is about "7517 km. The 6 major ports Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar (Ennore), Chennai and V.O. Chidamananar are on the east coast and the other major ports viz., Cochin, New Mangalore, Mormugao, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Sheva, Navi Mumbai) and Deendayal (erstwhile Kandla) are on the west coast.
- The major ports are under the direct administrative control of the Central Government and fall in "Union List 7th Schedule of Constitution. Ports other than the major ones are under jurisdiction of the respective maritime state government and fall in Concurrent List. Of the total traffic handled by all Indian ports, 57 per cent is handled by major ports and 43 by others.
- **Kolkata Port:** It is the only riverine major port in the country having been in existence for about 138 years. The port has twin dock systems viz., Kolkata Dock System on the eastern bank and Haldia Dock Complex on the western bank of river Hooghly.
- **Paradip Port:** Government of India took over the management of the port from the state government in 1965. The Government of India declared Paradip Port Trust (PPT) as the eighth major port the country 1966 making it the first major port in the east coast commissioned in independent India.
- **New Mangalore Port:** It was declared as the ninth major port in 1974 inaugurated in 1975. The port has 16 berths and one single point mooring.



- **Cochin Port:**The modern port of Cochin was developed during the period 1920-1940 with efforts of Sir Robert Bristow. Cochin Port is strategically located on the South-West Coast of India and at a commanding position at the cross-roads of the East-West Ocean trade. It is a natural gateway to the vast industrial and agricultural produce markets of the South-West India.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port: Constructed in the mid 1980's and commissioned in 1989, Jawaharlal Nehru Port has come a long way by becoming a world-class international container handling port. It is a trendsetter in port development in India through new initiatives like private sector participation.
- **Mumbai Port:** It is a fully integrated multi-purpose port handling container, dry bulk, liquid bulk and break bulk cargo.
- **Chennai Port:** It is an all-weather artificial harbour with one outer harbour and one inner harbour with a wet dock and a boat basin with round the clock navigation facilities.
- **Mormugao Port:** It is situated on the west coast of India, is more than a century old port. It has modern infrastructure capable of handling a wide variety of cargo. It is a natural harbour protected by a breakwater and also by a mole.
- V.O. Chidambarnar Port (Tuticorin): It is located strategically close to the east-west international sea routes on the south eastern coast of India at latitude 80°45'N and longitude 78°13'E. located in the Gulf of Mannar, with Sri Lanka on the south east and the large land mass of India on the west.
- **Deendayal Port (Kandla):** It was established in 1950 as a central government project and Union Government took over Kandla for its development as a major port.
- **Visakhapatnam Port:** Port of Visakhapatnam, a natural harbour, was opened to commercial shipping in 1933.
- **Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore):** Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), the 12th major port under the Ministry of Shipping was commissioned in 2001, primarily as a coal port dedicated to handling thermal coal requirements of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB).

• Inland Water Transport

- India has one of the longest navigable and inland water networks. However, cargo transport through "these inland waterways is, presently less than 1 per cent of the total cargo movement in the country.
- ➤ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was constituted in 1986, for the development and "regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation. 111 inland waterways have been declared as 'National Waterways' under the National Waterways Act, 2016.
- Jal Marg Vikas Project: It is being implemented by IWAI for the capacity augmentation of National Waterway I on the Haldia – Varanasi stretch of Ganga – Bhagirathi – Hoogly river system with the assistance from World Bank.The salient features of JMVP include: construction of three multimodal and inter-modal terminals, new navigational lock at Farakka, integrated vessel repair and maintenance facilities, day and night navigational aids, river conservancy work, etc.
- Coastal Shipping: Coastal Shipping is fuel-efficient, environment-friendly and helps in easing trafficcongestion on roads. In other large economies like China, USA and Japan the share of waterways is more than that of India. Presently, the share of waterways in transportation of domestic goods is less than its potential.
- Cruise Shipping: 'Cruise Tourism' is a fast-growing component of the leisure industry, worldwide. Through this segment of niche tourism, huge amount of foreign exchange can be earned and income generated onshore by providing the right policy environment and infrastructure. With the steady development of India's economy, growing middle class and increasing disposable income, the overall environment is conducive for the promotion of cruise tourism within the country.
- Director General of Shipping: The Directorate General of Shipping, an attached office of the Ministry of Shipping, was established in 1949 for administering the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 on all matters relating to shipping policy and legislation, implementation of various international conventions relating to safety, prevention of pollution and other mandatory regulations of the international maritime organizations, promotion of maritime education and training, examination and certification, supervision of other subordinate offices for their effective functioning etc.



Civil Aviation

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation is responsible for formulation of national policies and programmes for the development and regulation of the civil aviation sector in the country. It is responsible for the administration of the Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and various other legislations pertaining to the aviation sector in the country. Ministry provides guidance to the organisation in the implementation of policy guidelines, monitors and evaluates their activities and also provides their interface with the Parliament.
- National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016 It aims at creating an ecosystem that will push the growth of the civil aviation sector, which in turn, would promote tourism, increase employment and lead to a balanced regional growth. The Policy aims to take flying to the masses by making it affordable and convenient, enhance ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance and promote the entire aviation sector chain in a harmonized manner covering cargo, MRO, general aviation, aerospace manufacturing and skill development.

Regional Connectivity Scheme

• The **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN** was envisaged in National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016 with the twin objective of promoting balanced regional growth and making flying affordable for masses. The Scheme, which will be in operation for a period of 10 years, envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through revival of existing air strips and airports.

• Air Sewa

Air Sewa is aninitiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation launched in 2016 to offer people a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience. It includes a mechanism for grievance redressal, back-office operations for grievance handlingflight status/schedule information, airport Information and FAQS.

FDI Liberalization

• Government of India has raised the FDI limit for 49 to 100 per cent in scheduled and non-scheduled yair transport services, FDI in scheduled airlines upto 49 percent permitted under automatic route and FDI beyond 49 percent through Government approval. For NRIs, 100 percent FDI will continue to he allowed under automatic route.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation

 The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and is headed by Director General (Civil Aviation). DGCA is primarily responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards. It is also responsible for licensing of pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers and monitoring of flight crew standards; regulation of civil aircraft; investigation of minor air incidents; supervision of training activities of flying/gliding clubs and other such regulatory functions

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

 BCAS is the regulator for civil aviation security in the country and is responsible for laying down the standards for pre-embarkation security and anti-sabotage measures in respect of civil flights and ensuring their compliance through regular inspections and security audits. The aim of BCAS is to safeguard civil aviation operations against acts of unlawful interference and it is the regulatory authority for discharging all relevant national and international obligations in respect of aviation security responsibilities which include, interalia, planning and coordination of all aviation security related activities, operational emergencies and crisis management

Airports Authority of India

• Airports Authority of India (AAI) came into being in April 1995. AAI is a Mini Ratna



Category-I PSE involved in building, upgrading, maintaining and managing airports infrastructure across the country. It owns and maintains 125 airports (96-operational and 29 - non-operational). AAI manages the designated Indian air space measuring 2.8 million square nautical miles which includes land area measuring 1.05 million square nautical miles and oceanic airspace measuring 1.75 million square nautical miles. Air Navigation Services are also provided by the AAI at 11 other airports that are not managed by AAI namely Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Lengpui, Diu, Latur, Mundra, Nanded and Sathya Sai Puttaparthy airports, which are joint venture airports, state government owned airports and private airports.

GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):

• GAGAN is an augmentation system to enhance the accuracy and integrity of GPS signals to meet precision approach requirements in Civil Aviation and it is being implemented jointly by AAI and ISRO.

Air India

- Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Air India Ltd. and Indian Airlines, a new company viz., National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was incorporated. Consequently post-merger, the new entity is known as "Air India" and the appointed date of the merger is 1 April 2007. The "Maharaja" is retained as its mascot.
- Air-India Charters Limited (AICL)operates a low cost airline under the brand name "Air India Express". Launched in 2005 with a fleet of 3 leased B737-800 aircraft, it operated from 3 stations in Kerala to 5 stations in the Gulf.Alliance Air operates air services in the North East Regiony under an MoU with the North Eastern Council (NEC). It also operates flights between Agatti and the mainland under an undertaking of grant of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) by the Lakshadweep Administration.

Vande Bharat Mission

• Vande Bharat Mission consists of special repatriation flights operated by Indian carriers and chartered flights operated by both Indian and foreign carriers. As per the information provided by the Ministry of External Affairs till August 2020, more than 11 lakh Indians (excluding land border crossings) have returned to India under this mission.

Lifeline UDAN

• Ministry of Civil Aviation launched 'Lifeline UDAN' in March 2020. It is an initiativeto ensure a steady supply of essentials as well as medical supplies, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), test kits, etc., to all parts of the country.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

• The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is a statutory body constituted under the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 in 2009 with its head office at Delhi.





Water Resources

• Water Resources

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation lays down policies and programmes for development and regulation of the water resources of the country.

The Ministry has been renamed Ministry of Jal Shakti (Jal Shakti Mantralaya) with two departments, i.e., Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Water Availability

- India receives mean annual precipitation of about 3,880 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). The average annual water availability, after evaporation, is assessed at 1,999.20 BCM
- Due to geological and other factors, the utilisable water available is limited to 1,122 BCM per annum, comprising of 690 BCM of surface water and 432 BCM of groundwater. Out of this, the water potential utilised is around 699 BCM, comprising 450 BCM of surface water and 249 BCM of groundwater.
- ► For India, the average annual per capita water availability of water for the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed at 1,816 cubic meters and 1,545 cubic meters respectively.
- The average annual per capita water availability is projected to further reduce to 1,340 cubic meters and 1,140 cubic meters in the years 2025 and 2050 respectively

• National Water Policy, 2012

- The policy emphasises the need for a national water framework law; comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-state rivers and river valleys; evolving a system of benchmarks for water uses for different purposes to ensure efficient use of water; setting up of water regulatory authority by each state; and incentivising recycle and reuse of water.
- ➤ It also lays emphasis on community participation in management of water resources projects and services; incentivising water saving in irrigation through methods like micro-irrigation, automated irrigation operation, etc; undertaking conservation of rivers, river corridors, water bodies and infrastructure in a scientifically planned manner through community participation; and arresting declining groundwater levels in over-exploited areas.

National Water Mission

- National Water Mission (NWM) was set up as per the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- The five identified goals of the Mission are: (a) comprehensive water database in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resources; (b) promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (c) focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas; (d) increasing water use efficiency by 20 per cent; and (e) promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.



National Mission for Clean Ganga

- ➤ The Ganga basin is the most populous in the world, with more than 400 million people in the country alone. It accounts for 28 per cent of India's water resources, holds about 26 per cent of landmass and hosts 43 per cent of the population. The main stem of the river traverses five major states namely, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal and travels 2,525 kms
- In 2015, the "NamamiGange" Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission programme was launched. This was at an indicative cost of ₹ 20,000 crores, as an umbrella programme with an aim to integrate previous and currently ongoing projects and new initiatives planned as its part. In 2016, through the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order 2016, National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has been replaced with National Ganga Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has also been converted to an authority

o Pradhan Mantri Krishi SinchayeeYojna

The main objectives of the scheme include: achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level (preparation of district level and, if required, sub-district level water use plans); enhance the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (har khet ko pani); improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage and increase availability both in duration and extent; enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices; promote extension activities relating to water harvesting, water management and crop alignment for farmers and grassroot level field functionaries; and attract greater private investments in precision irrigation

• Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched in 1996-97 to provide Central Assistance to major/medium irrigation projects in the country, with the objective to accelerate implementation of such projects, which were beyond resource capability of the states or were in advanced stage of completion.

• Command Area Development and Water Management

- ➤ The Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme was launched in 1974-75 for development of adequate delivery system of irrigation water up to farmers' field with an objective to enhance water use efficiency and production and productivity of crops per unit of land and water for improving socio-economic condition of farmers. The pogramme envisages integration of all activities relating to irrigated agriculture in a coordinated manner with multi-disciplinary team under a Command Area Development Authority.
- ➤ The Programme was restructured and renamed as Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) Programme in 2004. The Programme is being implemented pari-passu with Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the XII Five Year Plan. The programme is under implementation as a sub-component of Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) from 2015-16 onwards.

• Participatory Irrigation Management

➤ It has been recognised that participation of beneficiaries will help greatly in the optimal upkeep of irrigation system and effective utilisation of irrigation water. The participation of farmers in the management of irrigation would include transfer responsibility for operation and maintenance and also collection of water charges to the Water Users' Association in their respective jurisdiction.

• Flood Management

Flood Management Programme

• During the XI Plan, the government launched Flood Management Programme for providing central assistance to the state governments for undertaking the works related to river management and flood control



• Another scheme Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) was merged with the Flood Management Programme (FMP) and River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA) schemes.

River Management Activities related to Border Areas

• This central sector scheme is in place since 2014 to cover the major works/schemes during the XII Plan. It has the following components: (i) hydrological observations and flood forecasting on common border rivers with neighbouring countries- Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China

Ganga Flood Control Commission

- With the objective to effectively tackle critical and chronic flood problems in the Ganga Basin, Ganga Flood Control Board (GFCB) was set up in 1972.
- Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC), a subordinate office of this Ministry with its headquarters at Patna, was also created in 1972 to act as the secretariat and executive limb of GFCB and to deal with the floods and its management in Ganga Basin states.
- There are 11 states in Ganga Basin, namely, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and NCT Delhi.

• Central Ground Water Board

Ground Water Development

• CGWB carries out periodic assessment of groundwater resources jointly with the state groundwater departments.

Aquifer Mapping and Formulation of Aquifier Management Plan

• Aquifers are natural rock formations which can store and economically yield water. In the XII Plan, CGWB has taken up the National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) to facilitate identification, delineation, characterisation and effective management of Aquifers to ensure sustainability of groundwater resources.

Demonstrative Projects on Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting

• CGWB has implemented demonstrative projects on artificial recharge to groundwater and rainwater harvesting in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh etc

Central Ground Water Authority

- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of regulating and controlling groundwater development and management in the country and issuing necessary directives for the purpose.
- The Authority performs the following functions: exercise of powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all the matters referred to in sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the said Act; to resort to penal provisions contained in Sections 15 to 21 of the said Act; to regulate and control, management and development of groundwater in the country; and to issue necessary regulatory directions for the purpose.

Central Water Commission

• The work of the Commission is divided among 3 wings, namely, Designs and Research Wing (D&R), Water Planning and Projects Wing (WP&P) and River Management Wing (RM)



Functions

- The main functions of CWC include:
 - to carry out techno-economic appraisal of irrigation, flood control and multipurpose projects proposed by the state governments;
 - to collect, compile, publish and analyse the hydrological and hydro-meteorological data relating to major rivers in the country, consisting of rainfall, run-off and temperature, etc.;
 - to collect, maintain and publish statistical data relating to water resources and its utilisation including quality of water throughout the country;
 - to provide flood forecasting services to all major flood-prone inter-state river basins of the country;
 - to undertake construction work of any river valley development scheme on behalf of the Government of India or state government concerned

Hydrological Observations

Central Water Commission is operating a network of 878 hydro-meteorological observation stations throughout the country on all major river basins to observe: (i) water level (gauge); (ii) discharge; (iii) water quality; (iv) silt; (v) selected meteorological parameters including snow observations at key stations

• Water Quality Monitoring

 Central Water Commission is monitoring water quality at 429 key locations covering all the major river basins of India. It is maintaining a three-tier laboratory system for analysis of the physio-chemical parameters of the water

• Flood Forecasting

 CWC has been making continuous endeavours for modernisation and expansion of its flood forecasting network in order to have desired automatic system of data collection and real time data transmission.

• Morphological Studies

The study of river morphology and implementation of suitable river training work as appropriate have become imperative as large areas of the country are affected by floods every year causing severe damage to life and property in spite of existing flood control measures taken both by central and state governments

Design Consultancy

 Central Water Commission is actively associated with design of majority of the mega water resources projects in India and neighbouring countries

Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) is the World Bank assisted project at an estimated cost of ₹ 2,100 crore with the provision of rehabilitation of about 223 large dams in the seven participating states, along with institutional strengthening component for participating states and Central Water Commission.

• Water Resource Information System

• CWC and ISRO jointly developed Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) in 2010


The information system contains several GIS layers on water resources projects, thematic layers like major water bodies, land use/land cover, wastelands, land degradation, etc., environmental layers as well as infrastructure and other administrative layers

• Betwa River Board

 Betwa River Board (BRB) was constituted in 1976 to execute the Rajghat Dam Project and Power House. The project authority started construction of the project under the overall guidance of Betwa River Board Act, 1976. The benefits and cost of the above project are shared equally by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee

• The Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee (SSCAC) was constituted by the Government of India in accordance with the directives of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) in 1980.

Tungabhadra Board

• The Tungabhadra Board was constituted in 1953. The Board consists of representations from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Government of India

Upper Yamuna River Board

• Upper Yamuna River Board (U YRB) is a subordinate office under this Ministry. The Board was constituted in 1994 with Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and National Capital Territory of Delhi as its measure.

Brahmaputra Board

• Brahmaputra Board, an autonomous statutory body, was set up and started functioning in 1982. The jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board includes both Brahmaputra and Barak valley and covers all the states of north-eastern region, Sikkim and northern part of West Bengal falling under Brahmaputra basin

• Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal Award

➤ The Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal (NWDT) was constituted in 1969 to adjudicate upon the water dispute pertaining to river Narmada.Accordingly, the central government framed the Narmada Water Scheme interalia constituting the Narmada Control Authority (NCA).

Krishna River Management Board

• Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) was constituted in 2014 with autonomous status under this Ministry. The functions of the Board are: to regulate the water supply from projects to the respective states with regard to: awards granted by the Tribunals constituted under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956

Polavaram Project Authority

 Polavaram Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project which is on the river Godavari near Ramayyapeta village of Polavarammandal about 42km upstream of Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage, where river emerges out of last range of the Eastern Ghats and enters the plains in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

• Indo-Bangladesh Water Resources Cooperation

 An Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) is functioning since 1972 with a view to maintain liaison in order to ensure most effective joint efforts in maximising the benefits from common river systems.



• India-Nepal Water Resource Cooperation

- The management of floods due to the rivers flowing into India from Nepal has been a concern and the related issues are discussed in the existing Indo-Nepal bilateral mechanisms
- Indus Waters Treaty
- Under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, India and Pakistan have each created a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters. Each Commissioner is the representative of his government and serves as a regular channel of communication on all matters relating to implementation of the Treaty. The two Commissioners together form the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC).

National Water Development Agency

- The National Water Development Agency was set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of the links under peninsular component of national perspective plan.
- ▶ Its functions were subsequently modified from time to time and the present functions include:
 - to carry out detailed survey and investigations of possible reservoir sites and inter-connecting links in order to establish feasibility of the proposal of peninsular river development and Himalayan river development components forming part of the National Perspective for Water Resources Development;
 - to carry out detailed studies about the quantum of water in various peninsular river systems and Himalayan river systems which can be transferred to other basins/states after meeting the reasonable needs of the basin/states in the foreseeable future;
 - to undertake/ construct/repair/renovate/rehabilitate/implement the projects either on its own or through an appointed agency/organisation/PSU or company and the projects forming part of interlinking of rivers, for completion of projects falling under PMKSY of which projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme are also included and similar other projects.

• Minor Irrigation and Water Bodies Census

- In the MI Censuses detailed information on various aspects/parameters like irrigation sources (dug well, shallow tube well, medium tube well, deep tube well, surface flow and surface lift schemes); irrigation potential created; potential utilised; ownership; holding size of land by the owner; devices used for lifting water; source of energy; energy conserving devices such as sprinkler and drip irrigation; use of non-conventional energy sources such as solar pumps; windmills etc. is collected.
- Detailed database on minor irrigation works in the country has been generated through five censuses carried out under the scheme so far with reference years 1986-87,1993- 94,2000-01,2006-07 and 2013-14 respectively. The census reports are available on the website of this Ministry

GSSCORE



In 1985-86, the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare was bifurcated into the Department of Women and Child Development and the Department of Welfare. Simultaneously, the Scheduled Castes Development Division, Tribal Development Division and the Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Division were shifted from the Ministry of Home Affairs and also the Wakf Division from the Ministry of Law to form the then Ministry of Welfare.

Subsequently, the name of the Ministry was changed to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in May 1998. Further, in October 1999, the Tribal Development Division was moved out to form a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In January 2007 the Minorities Division along with Wakf Unit were moved out of the Ministry and formed a separate Ministry and the Child Development Division was merged with the Ministry of Women and Development

• Events Related to Scheduled Caste Welfare

Celebration of Constitution Day

- On August 29,1947, the Constituent Assembly set up a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.R Ambedkar to prepare a draft Constitution for India
- Dr. B.R Ambedkar is regarded as the principal architect in the framing of the Constitution of India which is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world
- The national committee that was formed under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister for celebrating the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, decided to increase awareness about the Constitution

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

• The Constitution contains several provisions in the nature of safeguards for the Scheduled Castes. The following two Acts specifically aim at curbing: (i) untouchability and (ii) atrocities against SCs and STs, and are therefore very important for the Scheduled Castes: (a) The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and (b) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Protection of Civil Rights

• In pursuance of Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was enacted. Subsequently, it was amended and renamed in 1976 as the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. Rules under this Act, viz., The Protection of Civil Rights Rules, 1977 were notified in 1977. The Act extends to the whole of the country and provides punishment for the practice of untouchability. It is implemented by the respective state governments and union territory administrations

Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

• The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (The PoA Act) came into force in 1990. This legislation aims at preventing commission of offences by persons



other than scheduled castes and scheduled tribes against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Comprehensive Rules under this Act, titled Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 were notified in 1995, which, inter alia, provide norms for relief and rehabilitation.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015 and 2016

- High incidence of occurrences of offences against members of SCs and STs indicated that the deterrent effect of the PoA Act was not adequately felt by the accused.
- There have been addition of several new offences and rephrasing of existing ones. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018, inserts Section A after Section 18, which is as follows:
- For the purposes of this Act—(a) preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person; or (b) the investigating officer shall not require approval for the arrest, if necessary, of any person, against whom an accusation of having committed an offence under this Act has been made and no procedure other than that provided under this Act or the Code shall apply; (c) the provisions of Section 438 of the Code shall not apply to a case under this Act, notwithstanding any judgment or order or direction of any Court.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes

- The National Commission for SCs and STs (NCSC) which was set up under Article 383 of the Constitution in 1990 was bifurcated into two Commissions namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after the 89th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2003.
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is responsible for monitoring the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and also to review issues concerning their welfare

• Special Central Assistance

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan

• Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) is a central sector Scheme, started in 1980, under which 100 per cent grant is given to the states/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). The main objective is to give a thrust to family-oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below the poverty line

Scheduled Castes Development Corporations

• The main functions of such corporations are identification of eligible SC families and motivating them to undertake economic development schemes, sponsoring the schemes to financial institutions for credit support, providing financial assistance in the form of margin money at low rate of interest and subsidy in order to reduce the repayment liability and providing necessary tie-up with other poverty alleviation programmes.

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

• The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) was set up in 1989 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (formerly Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956). The broad objective of NSFDC is to provide financial assistance in the form of concessional loans to scheduled caste families, and skill-cum-entrepreneurial training to the youth of the target group, living below double the poverty line for their economic development.

Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes

• Government announced the setting up of a Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes in 2014. This was to promote entrepreneurship among the scheduled castes and to provide concessional finance to them.



Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes

• In 2014, the government announced that a sum of ₹ 200 crore will be allocated towards credit enhancement facility for young and start-up entrepreneurs, belonging to scheduled castes, who aspire to be part of neo-middle class category with an objective to encourage entrepreneurship in the lower strata of the society resulting in job creation.

Welfare of Persons with Disabilities

- In order to give focused attention to different policy issues and meaningful thrust to the activities aimed at welfare and empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities, a separate Department of Disability Affairs was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2012.
- According to Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in the country (who constitute 2.21 per cent of the total population).
- These include persons with visual, hearing, speech and locomotor disabilities, mental illness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities and other disabilities

Constitutional Provisions

- The Constitution of India through its Preamble, inter alia, seeks to secure to all its citizens, justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity. Part-Ill of the Constitution provides for a set of six Fundamental Rights to all the citizens
- The Directive Principles of State Policy have been incorporated in Part- IV of the Constitution
- Article 41- Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases, provides: "The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want".

Persons with Disability

• Section 2 (t) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, defines a person suffering from not less than 40 per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority: (a) the disability being blindness; (b) low vision; (c) leprosy cured; (d) hearing impairment; (e) loco-motor disability; (f) mental illness; (g) mental retardation; (h) autism (i) cerebral palsy

Mental Health Act

• Mental illness has been recognised as one of the disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The treatment and care of the mentally ill persons are governed by the Mental Health Act, 1987. The Act is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Persons with Disabilities Act

• The law deals with both prevention and promotion aspects of the rehabilitation such as education, employment and vocational training, creation of barrier-free environment, provision of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, institutional services and supportive social security measures like unemployment allowance and grievance redressal machinery both at the central and state levels

Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

- The Chief Commissioner is an important statutory functionary, appointed under Section 57 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- The functions and duties of the Chief commissioner include: coordinating the work of state commissioners for persons with disabilities, monitoring of utilisation of funds disbursed by the



central government, taking steps to safeguard rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities and also to look into complaints with respect to deprivation of rights of persons with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Council of India

• The Rehabilitation Council of India is a statutory body set up under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. The Council is responsible for regulating the training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of rehabilitation and special education.

Economic Development

- The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is an apex-level financial institution for extending credit facilities to persons with disabilities for their economic development
- It also extends loans for pursuing education at graduate and higher levels. Besides, it assists in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills to enable beneficiaries to manage their production units efficiently.

• Tribal Affairs

Development of Scheduled Tribes

• The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socioeconomic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the most underprivileged of the society, in a coordinated and planned manner

Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas

- The Fifth Schedule under Article 244 (1) of Constitution defines "Scheduled Areas" as such areas as the President may by Order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of the state. The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 (2) of the Constitution relates to those areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are declared as "Tribal Areas" and provides for district councils and/or regional councils for such areas.
- Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) shall be established in states having Scheduled Areas. The role of TAC is to advise the state government on matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes in the state as may be referred to it by the Governor.
- The state-wise details of Tribal Areas are as: Part-I Assam: 1. The North Cachar Hills District; 2. The Karbi-Anglong District; and 3. The Bodo Land Territorial Area Districts; Part II Meghalaya: 1. Khasi Hills District; 2. Jaintia Hills District; and 3. The Garo Hills District; Part II Tripura: Tripura Tribal Areas District; and Part III Mizoram: 1. The Chakma District 2. The Mara District; and 3. The Lai District.

Procedure for Declaration as ST

- Article 342 prescribes the procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of scheduled tribes. In terms of Article 342(1), the President may, with respect to any state or union territory, and where it is a state, after consultation with the Governor thereof, notify tribes or tribal communities or parts thereof as scheduled tribes.
- The criteria generally adopted for specification of a community as a scheduled tribe are: (a) indications of primitive traits; (b) distinctive culture; (c) shyness of contact with the community at large; and (d) geographical isolation, i.e., backwardness. These are not spelt out in the Constitution but have become well established

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

• National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was set up with effect from February 19, 2004, by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution, through the Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Commission



have been conferred the rank of Union Cabinet Minister and Minister of State respectively, while the members of the Commission have been given the rank of a Secretary to the Government of India.

Tribal Sub Plan

- The Ministry has issued revised guidelines for inter-state allocation of funds and implementation of programmes/activities under proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution and under special central assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) in 2016.
- These guidelines provide focused approach on sectoral allocation and revised inter-state allocation factoring population, area and outcome-based performance as parameters. Further, inter-district allocation is also clearly spelt out. Major ST communities are also given priority. Conjunctural use with dovetailing of financial resources from ongoing activities of line department is resorted to ensure larger spatial and higher demographic coverage.

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

• With a view to pay a focused attention and accelerate the pace of economic development of scheduled tribes, the erstwhile National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Financial Development Corporation was bifurcated and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The NSTFDC has been granted license under Section 25 of the Companies Act (A not for profit Company).

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), was set up in 1987 as a national level apex body under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984
- Under its revised mandate, TRIFED has stopped bulk procurement in Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) from tribals. TRIFED now functions as a 'market developer' for tribal products and as 'service provider' to its member federations

Forest Rights of STs

• The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, seeks to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but, whose rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognised in the consolidation of state forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to them. The Act has been notified for operation from 2007

Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

• The central government launched an approach, namely, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) with a view to translate the available resource into overall development of tribal population with an outcomebased orientation. The VKY has been adopted as a strategic process. It aims at creating enabling environment for need-based and outcome-oriented holistic development of tribal people

Welfare of Other Backward Classes

- The Second Backward Classes Commission (commonly known as Mandal Commission), constituted under Article 340, submitted its report in 1980. In the light of this report, the Government of India provided 27 per cent reservation in central government posts for persons belonging to the socially and economically backward classes (also referred to as "Other Backward Classes" or OBCs)
- The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was set up in 1993 as per the provision of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act passed in 2018 gave constitutional status to the Commission



National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

• National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) was incorporated in 1992 as a not for profit company with an objective to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of backward classes and to assist the poorer sections of these classes in skill development and self employment ventures. It is a Government of India Undertaking under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Social Defence

• In the areas of Social Defence, the Ministry is committed towards welfare of older persons and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The programmes for the targeted groups are given next.

National Policy for Older Persons

 The existing National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons. The Policy envisaged state support to ensure financial and food security, healthcare, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives

National Council for Older Persons

• The government has reconstituted National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) to advise and aid the government on developing policies and programmes for older persons. It provides feedback to the government on the implementation of the national policy on older persons and the specific initiatives for older persons. The NCOP is the highest body to advise and coordinate with the government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, was enacted, inter alia, to curb drug
abuse. Section 71 of the Act provides that the government may, in its discretion, establish as many
centres as it thinks fit for identification, treatment, education, after-care, rehabilitation, social
reintegration of addicts and for supply, subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be
prescribed by the concerned government of any narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to the
addicts registered with the government and to others where such supply is a medical necessity

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy

 Ministry of Finance in consultation with all stakeholders including the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has brought the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Policy (NDPS Policy) which aims to: (a) spell out the policy towards narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; (b) serve as a guide to various ministries and organisations in the government and to the state governments as well as international organisations, NGOs, etc.; and (c) re-assert India's commitment to combat the drug menace in a holistic manner.

Minorities

The Ministry of Minority Affairs was established in 2006. It has been mandated for formulation
of policies, schemes and programmes for welfare and socio-economic development of 6 notified
minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, which
constitute more than 19 per cent of India's population. From October 2016, the mandate of the
Ministry has been expanded to manage Haj Pilgrimage as well

15-Point Programme for Minorities

 The Prime Minister's 15-Point programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in 2006. The objectives of the programme are: (a) enhancing opportunities for education; (b) ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to state and central



government jobs; (c) improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes; and (d) prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence.

Scholarship Schemes for Minority Students

• This Ministry is implementing three scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment ot students belonging to the notified minority communities: (i) pre-matric scholarship; (ii) post-matric scholarship; and (iii) merit-cum-means based scholarship.

Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme

• The Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to miniority communities was launched in 2007 by this Ministry.

Nai Udaan

• The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing Preliminary Exams conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adquately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the state governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the civil services by giving direct financial support to candidates.

Padho Pardes

• The objective of the Scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability. The interest subsidy under the Scheme shall be available to the eligible students only once, either for Masters or Ph.D.

Nai Roshni

• This Ministry implements an exclusive scheme 'Nai Roshni' for leadership development of minority women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in them by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. It is implemented through empanelled non-governmental organisations.

National Commission for Minorities

• The Minorities Commission which was set up in 1978 became a statutory body with the enactment of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, after which it was renamed as the National Commission for Minorities. The first statutory National Commission was set up in 1993. The provision under Section 3(2) of the Act stipulates that five members including the Chairpersons shall be from amongst the minority communities

• National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities

• The Office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (CLM) was established in 1957 in pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution which envisages investigation by CLM of all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in the country under the Constitution and reporting to the President upon these matters at such intervals as the President may direct

Constitutional Safeguards for Linguistic Minorities

• Article 29 and 30 seek to protect the interests of minorities and recognise their right to conserve their distinct language, script or culture and to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.



- Article 347 makes provision for Presidential direction for official recognition of any language spoken by a substantial proportion to the populations of a state or any part thereof for such purpose as the President may specify.
- Article 350 gives the right to submit representation for redressal of grievances to any authority of the union or a state in any of the languages used in the union/ states. Article 360A provides for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- Article 350B provides for a Special Officer designated as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

Women and Child Development

• A separate Ministry of Women and Child Development came into existence in 2006 with the prime intention of addressing gaps in state action for women and children and for promoting interministerial and inter-sectoral convergence to create gender equitable and child centred legislation, policies and programmes

Acts relating to Women and Children

The Ministry is in charge of the administration of the following Acts relating to women and children: (a) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (as amended in 1986); (b) The Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act; 1986 (60 of 1986); (c) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 as amended in 1986; (d) The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988); (e) The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act; 2006 (notified in January 2007); (f) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; (g) National Commission for Women Act, 1990; (h) Infant Milk Substitutes; Feeding Bottles and Infant food (Regulation of Production; Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (41 of 1992); (i) Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act; 2005; (j) Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000; (k) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and POCSO Rules, 2012; and (I) Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal), 2012. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill was passed in Parliament in August 2011

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

• Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is one the flagship programmes of the government, launched in 2015 to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and other related issues of disempowerment of women

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

• PMMVY envisages providing cash incentive amounting to ₹ 5,000 directly to the bank/post office account of PW and LM in DBT mode during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling specific conditions.

PoshanAbhiyaan

 PoshanAbhiyaan is a flagship programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh Bharat Mission and Public Distribution System (PDS).

Mahila Shakti Kendra

• The Scheme aims to provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements and also empowering them through training and capacity building

GSSCORE

One Stop Centres

• One Stop Centres (OSC) was conceived and is being implemented across the country since April 2015. A woman who has suffered violence can get medical, police, legal and psychological counselling assistance at these centres. These also have a place for them to temporarily stay in case their condition so warrants

Panic Button on Mobile Phones

• To provide emergency response to women in distress, MWCD had taken up the installation of physical panic button on mobile phones

Mahila Police Volunteers

• The broad mandate of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs) is to report to authorities/police the incidences of violence against women such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry harassment and violence faced by women in public spaces.

Swadhar Greh

• The Ministry is implementing the SwadharGreh Scheme which targets the women who have been victims of unfortunate circumstances and who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.

Reservation for Women in Police Force

• The WCD Ministry has been working along with the Ministry of Home Affairs to improve overall police responsiveness to gender sensitive cases and to bring visibility to more women and strengthen gender sensitivity in police force. An advisory has been issued to all state governments to increase representation of women in police to 33 per cent of the total strength.

Inclusion of Acid Attack as Disability

• The recently enacted Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 notified in 2016, included acid attack as a kind of disability. Acid attack victims can now avail disability benefits.

Gender Budgeting Initiatives

• To institutionalise such budgeting in the country, the setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs) in all ministries/departments was mandated by the Ministry of Finance in 2007. The MWCD as the nodal agency for gender budgeting is undertaking several initiatives for taking it forward at the national and state levels

Extending Maternity Leave Duration

• Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out suitable amendments in the Act, which are as follows: (i) enhancement of maternity leave under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks; (ii) extension of maternity benefit to adopting mothers and commissioning mothers; and (iii) establishment of creche facility within the office/factory premises. The Act is now called the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace

• To ensure safety and security of women at workplaces, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is working towards the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

Village Convergence and Facilitation Service

• Village Convergence and Facilitation Service (VCFS) is an initiative launched in 2015 aimed at creating awareness through community engagement. Dedicated village coordinators are selected to facilitate convergence on women's issues and work in close coordination with the gram panchayat and its subcommittees.



Mahila e-Haat

• The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched "Mahila e-Haat", a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/SHGs/ NGOs in 2016.

• Initiatives for Women

Ujjawala Scheme

• Ujjawala is a comprehensive scheme to combat trafficking. The Scheme was launched in 2007 with the objective to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, to facilitate rescue of victims and placing them in safe custody, to provide rehabilitation services by providing basic amenities/needs, to facilitate reintegration of victims into the family and society, to facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims

NRI Marriages

• The Government of India has constituted an Expert Committee to look into the issues and difficulties faced by Indian nationals married to overseas nationals of Indian origin and suggest amendments in existing laws/ policies/regulation.

Nirbhaya Fund

• The Government had set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya Fund in 2013, for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. Under the scheme, the central ministries/departments and state governments/UT administrations send proposals factoring in women safety issues in their sector within the public sphere.

Nari Shakti Puraskar

• Every year, International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March. On this day, a large number of events are held across the country to inspire and celebrate achievements of women in various spheres.

Children's Issues

• A major part of India's population—around 158 million - consist of children in the age of 0-6 years (2011 Census). The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering various schemes for the welfare, development and protection of children

Khoya-Paya Portal

• In order to bring citizen participation for protecting children, a new citizen-based portal Khoya-Paya was launched in 2015 which enables posting of information of missing and sighted children

• Expansion of Childline

> This Childline is a nation-wide initiative for rescuing and assisting children in distress conditions

POCSO e-Box

• In order to provide them with a safe and anonymous mode of making a complaint, an internet based facility, e-Box, has been provided. Here, a child or anyone on his/her behalf can file a complaint with minimal details. As soon as the complaint is filed, a trained counsellor immediately contacts the child and provides assistance. The counsellor also registers a formal complaint on behalf of the child wherever required. POCSO e-Box, launched in 2016, has received and handled several complaints.



Juvenile Justice

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 (JJ Model Rules, 2016) was notified thereby repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2007 (JJ Rules, 2007). The JJ Model Rules, 2016, are based on the philosophy that children need to be reformed and reintegrated into society.
- The Rules are appreciative of the developmental needs of children and therefore the best interest of the child is the primary consideration. Child-friendly procedures are incorporated across the board

National Nutrition Mission

 National Nutrition Mission (NNM) is proposed to achieve improvement in nutritional status of children (0-6years), adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers in a time-bound manner over a period of three years with the objectives of preventing and reducing undernutrition in children (0-3 years); reducing the prevalence of anaemia among young children (6-59 months); reducing the prevalence of anaemia among women and adolescent girls (15-49 years); and reducing low birth weight.

Anganwadi Services

- The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme now known as Anganwadi Services Scheme was launched in 1975 with the objective to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the agegroup 0-6 years; lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropouts; achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and enhance the capability of the mothers to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the children through proper nutrition and health education
- These objectives are achieved by providing a package of six services by AWWs/AWHs under the ICDS scheme, viz., supplementary nutrition; pre-school non-formal education; nutrition and health education; immunisation; health checkup; and referral services

Major Initiatives of Food and Nutrition Board

• Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) under MWCD is in process of setting up of 4 food testing Laboratories, viz., central laboratory at Faridabad and 3 regional food testing laboratories at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata for analysing the food and nutritional supplements for food safety and quality to ensure nutritional and feeding norms for supplementary nutrition in ICDS Scheme

National Plan of Action for Children

• The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), 2016, is based on the principles embedded in the National Policy for Children, 2013. The Action Plan has four key priority areas: survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection; and participation. The NPAC seeks to ensure convergence of ongoing programmes and initiation of new programmes so as to focus on objectives through well-defined strategies and activities to achieve desired level of outcome for children.

National Creche Scheme

• The National Creche Scheme is being implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme through the states/UTs from 2017 to provide day-care facilities to children of working mothers and other deserving women.

National Early Childhood Care and Education

• Ministry launched the National Early Childhood Care and Education (NECCE) Policy in 2013. The Policy lays down the way forward for a comprehensive approach towards ensuring a sound foundation for survival, growth and development of child with focus on care and early learning.



Organisations under WCD

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has six autonomous organisations as well. These are:

- National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development: National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development popularly known as NIPCCD, is a premier organisation devoted to promotion of voluntary action research, training and documentation in the overall domain of women and child development.
- National Commission for Women: The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislative measures; facilitate redressal of grievances; and advise the government on all policy matters affecting women
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights: NCPCR is a statutory body to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- **Central Adoption Resource Authority:** Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body that functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate incountry and inter-country adoptions. CARA is designated as the central authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- **Central Social Welfare Board:** The Central Social Welfare Board was established in 1953 to carry out welfare activities for promoting voluntarism, providing technical and financial assistance to the voluntary organisations for the general welfare of family, women and children
- **Rashtriya MahilaKosh:** RMK is a national level organisation for socio-economic empowerment of women. The operating model currently followed by RMK is that of a facilitating agency wherein it provides loans to NGO-MFIs termed as Intermediary Organisations (IMO)

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Youth Affairs & Sports

- The youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India is one of the 0 youngest nations in the world, with about 65 per cent of the population under 35 years of age. The youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.5 per cent of the population.
- This 'demographic dividend' offers a great opportunity. In order to capture this demographic dividend, o it is essential that the economy has the ability to support the increase in the labour force and the youth have the appropriate education, skills, health awareness and other enablers to productively contribute to the economy.

National Youth Policy, 2014 Θ

- ▶ The "National Youth Policy, 2014 (NYP-2014) was launched in 2014, replacing the erstwhile National Youth Policy, 2003. NYP-2014 has been finalised after extensive consultations with all the stakeholders. "The Policy defines 'youth' as persons in the age-group of 15-29 years.
- ► The objectives identified under the NYP-2014 have been given below:

Objectives

- Create a productive workforce that can make a sustainable contribution to India's economic development.
- Develop a strong and healthy generation equipped to take on future challenges.
- Instil social values and promote community service to build national ownership.
- Facilitate participation and civic engagement at levels of governance.
- Support youth at risk and create equitable opportunity for all disadvantaged and marginalised youth.

Schemes for Youth ο

Schemes under Rashtriya Yuva Sasha ktikaran Karyakram

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

• Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), launched in 1972, is one of the largest youth organisations in the world. NYKS has presence in 623 districts through Nehru YuvaKendras (NYKs). The objective of the Programme is to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities. The areas of focus of the NYKS activities include literacy and education, health and family welfare, sanitation and cleanliness, environment conservation, awareness on social issues, women empowerment, rural development, skill development and self-employment, entrepreneurship development, civic education, disaster relief and rehabilitation, etc. The youth associated with Nehru YuvaKendras are not only socially aware and motivatedbut are also inclined towards social development work through voluntary efforts.



National Youth Corps

- The Scheme of National Youth Corps (NYC) was launched in 2010-11 and the same is
- being implemented through NYKS. The main objectives of the Scheme are as follows: to set up a group of disciplined and dedicated youth who have the inclination and spirit to engage in the task of nation-building; to facilitate the realisation of inclusive growth (both social and economic); to act as group modulators and peer group educators; and to act as role models for the younger cohort, especially towards enhancement of public ethics, probity and dignity of labour

National Service Scheme

• National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. An NSS volunteer places the'community' before 'self'. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and the motto of NSS is "Not Me, But You".'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS. "

• Objectives of NSS

NSS aims at developing the following qualities/competencies among the volunteers:

- To understand the community in which the NSS volunteers work and to understand themselves in yrelation to their community;
- To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem solving yexercise;
- To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility;
- To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems;
- To gain skills in mobilizing community participation;
- To acquire leadership qualities and democratic values;
- To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and
- To practice national integration and social harmony.
- NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'.

• Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an institute of National Importance' under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The RGNIYD was set up in 1993 as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1975 and was conferred the status of 'Deemed to be University' under 'De-novo' category in 2008, by the Ministry of Human Resources Development. The institute functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at post graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development and conducting training/ capacity building programmes in youth development, besides the extension and outreach initiatives across the country.

National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

- National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) is an "Umbrella Scheme" of the Ministry under which financial assistance is provided to Government/ non-Government organisations for taking up activities for youth and adolescent development. The Scheme is operational since April 1, 2008.
- > The assistance under NPYAD is provided under five major components which are:
 - Youth leadership and personality development training;



- Promotion of national integration (National Integration Camps, Inter State youth exchange programmes, youth festivals, multi-cultural activities, etc.);
- Promotion of adventure;
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards;
- Development and empowerment of adolescents (life skills education, counseling, career guidance, etc.); and
- Technical and resource development (research and studies on youth issues, documentation, seminars/workshops).

• National Youth Festival

- > Under promotion of national integration of NPYAD, a National Youth Festival is
- organised in January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (12th January), which is celebrated as National Youth Day

• Youth Hostels

Youth Hostels are built to promote youth travel and to enable the young people to experience the rich cultural heritage of the country. Youth hostels are located in areas of historical and cultural value, in educational centres, in tourist destinations, etc. Youth hostels provide good accommodation for the youth at reasonable rates. The construction of the youth hostels is a joint venture of the central and state governments.

• Sports

 Sports and games have always been seen as an integral component in all-rounddevelopment of human personality. Apart from being means of entertainment and physical fitness, sports have also played a great role in generation of spirit of healthy competition and bonding within the community.

• National Sports Policy 2001

National Sports Policy, 2001 envisages mainly broad basing and promotion of excellence in sports. The salient features of the National Sports Policy 2001 are:

- Broad basing of sports and achievement of excellence;
- > Up-gradation and development of infrastructure;
- > Support to National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;
- Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;
- Incentives to promote sports;
- > Enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth;
- > Involvement of corporate sector in sports promotion; and
- > Promotion of sports mindedness among the public at large.

• Sports Authority of India

- > The Sports Authority of India (SAI) was established in 1984 as a registered society.
- primarily to ensure effective maintenance and optimum utilisation of the sports infrastructure that was built in Delhi during ASIAD, 1982. It is now the nodal agency in the country for broadbasing sports and for training of sportspersons to achieve excellence in national and international sports.



• Khelo India

- It has been formed after merger of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS). The Scheme is being implemented as a central sector scheme. The revamped Khelo India has twelve components, which aim at achieving the twin objectives of the National Sports Policy 2001- broadbasing of sports and achieving excellence in sports.
- Its 12 verticals are: play field development; community coaching development; state level Khelo India centres; annual sports competitions; talent search and development; utilisation and creation/ upgradation of sports infrastructure; support to national/regional/state sports academies; physical fitness of school-going children; sports for women; promotion of sports among persons with disabilities; sports for peace and development; and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games.

National Sports Development Fund

➤ The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was instituted with a view tomobilising resources from the government as well as non-governmental sources, including the private/corporate sector and non-resident Indians, for promotion of sports and games in the country. To make contributions to the fund attractive, 100 per cent exemption from income tax is available on all contributions

• Incentive Schemes for Sports persons

• The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports also implements various schemes to give incentives to sports persons to take up sports as given below.

• Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

- ➤ The scheme was launched in the year y1991-92 with the objective of honouring sportspersons to enhance their general status and to give them greater dignity and place of honour in society. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 7.5 lakh is given as award for the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year in which award is to be given.
- ▶ For 2020, this award has been conferred upon Shri Rohit Sharma for cricket, Ms.
- Manika Gupta for table tennis, Shri Mariyappan T. for para athletics, Ms. Vinesh for wrestling and Ms. Ravi for hockey.

• Arjuna Award

The award was instituted in 1961. To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have not only good performance consistently for the previous four years at the international level with excellence for the year for which Award is recommended, but should have also shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline. The awardee is given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh.

Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievements in Sports and Games

➤ This award was instituted in 2002. This award is given to honour those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career. The awardee is given a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh. For 2019, this award was given to three sportspersons

• Dronacharaya Award

➤ This award was instituted in 1985 to honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international competitions. The awardee is given a statuette of Guru Dronacharaya, a certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash prize of Rs. five lakh.



Rashtriya Khel ProtsahanPuruskar

With a view to recognizing the contribution made to sports development by entities other than sportspersons and coaches, Government has instituted a new award titled Rashtriya Khel ProtsahanPuruskar from the year 2009. It has four categories, namely: Identification and nurturing of budding/young talent', 'Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility', 'Employment of sports persons and sports welfare measures' and 'Sports for Development'. The award consists of a citation and a trophy in each of the above mentioned categories. There is no cash award.

• Scheme of Sports to Meritorious Sportspersons

This scheme was launched in y1994. Those sportspersons, who are Indian citizens and have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Paralympics Games, have attained the age of 30 years and have retired from active sports career, are eligible for life pension under this Scheme.

• Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons

- > The name of National Welfare Fund for sportspersons was changed to Pandit Deendayal
- ► Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for sportspersons from 2017. This Fund was set up in 1982 with a view to assisting outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, living in indigent circumstances who had won glory for the country in sports. Assistance is given in the form of lumpsum financial assistance to, sportspersons or their families in case of sustaining a fatal injury during training for, or participation in, an international competition; sportspersons sustaining injury other than a fatal injury; families of sportspersons living in indigent circumstances, for medical treatment of sportspersons; and for sports promoters (referees, coaches and umpires) living in indigent circumstances. Assistance is provided to those whose monthly income from all sources is less than ₹ 2,00,000 per annum.

• Scheme of Assistance for Anti-Doping Activities

Doping is the deliberate or inadvertent use by sportspersons of a substance or method banned by Medical Commission of International Olympic Committee/ World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in pursuit of gold and glory. The Government of India became one of the members of the Foundation Board of WADAconstituted for ensuring concerted effort to check doping.

• National Anti-Doping Agency

 This agency is the national organization responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control programme in sports in the country. The Anti-Doping rules of NADA are compliant with the Anti-Doping Code of WADA.

• National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)

It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. This is responsible for testing dope samples and conducting advance research on the subject by maintaining close association with the WADA and WADA accredited laboratories. NDTL achieved WADA accreditation in September 2008. NDTL has state-of-the-art facilities for both routine and research activities. Apart from human dope testing, it has diversified in the area of horse dope testing and proficiency testing programme in the field of drugs.

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