

# Important Schemes launched by Government for RBI Grade B Exam June 2023

## MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

### 1. Mission Vatsalya

#### Recent News:

- NIPCCD organized a **Refresher Training Programme** on Mission Vatsalya from 29- 31 May 2023 at NIPCCD Regional Centre, Mohali.
- The program involved discussions on the following themes: improve the functioning of statutory bodies, strengthen service delivery services, upscale institutional care/ services Encourage non-intuitional community-based care, Training, and Capacity building of duty holders

#### About:

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, launched in 2023
- Subsumed the **Child Protection Services” Scheme,2017**.
- In 2023-24, **Rs 1,472 crore** has been allocated to the scheme
- It promotes family- based non-institutional care of children in difficult circumstances to ensure a healthy & happy childhood for every child in India
- Under the scheme, a **monthly grant of Rs. 4000/- per child** is provided for family-based non-institutional care, including Sponsorship (kinship) or Foster Care or After Care.
- It also provides support to a **24x7 helpline service** for children in partnership with States and Districts
- Under the Mission, **Cradle Baby Reception Centres** in at least one Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) are envisaged to be set up in each district to save abandoned children.
- The establishment of **open shelters by the state government** will also be encouraged to provide care for children who are homeless, missing, being trafficked, working, living on the streets, beggars, substance abusers, etc.

#### Components:

Components under Mission Vatsalya include

- Improve the functioning of statutory bodies
- Strengthen service delivery structures
- Upscale institutional care/services
- Encourage non-institutional community-based care
- Emergency outreach services
- Training and capacity building

### 2. Mission Shakti

#### Recent News:

The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized an online Workshop on ‘**Communication & Counselling Skills**’ for Trainers & Functionaries of Women Care Institutions & NGOs from 29 to 31 May 2023 under Mission Shakti.

#### About:

- Implemented for a period of **2021-22 to 2025-26**
- The total financial cost of the scheme is **Rs 20989 Crore**.

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- The mission consists of two sub-schemes - **Sambal and Samarthya**.
- The scheme seeks to make **women economically empowered**, exercising free choice over their minds and bodies in an atmosphere free from violence and threat.
- It also seeks to **reduce the care burden on women and increase female labor force** participation by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, access to microcredit, etc.

### About Sambal:

- Aims to ensure the **safety and security of women**
- Subsumed existing schemes of **One Stop Centres (OSC), Women Helplines (181-WHL), and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)**.
- Implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with **100 percent central funding from Nirbhaya Fund/ MWCD budget** with provision for direct release of funds to the District Collector or the concerned Directorate/Commissionerate in State/ UT.
- A new component of **Nari Adalats** has been added to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.

### About Samarthya:

- Aimed at **empowering women**.
- Implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a funding ratio of **60:40** and **90:10**. For UTs without a legislature, 100 percent funding will be provided by the Central Government.
- Subsumed existing schemes of **Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel, National Creche Scheme, and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**
- A new Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment component has been added to the scheme to enable central, state, and district government stakeholders to undertake gender budgeting through enhanced capacities, knowledge, and skills.

### 3. Mission Poshan 2.0

#### Recent News:

The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) organized an Online Training on 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi and Management of SAM & MAM' [under Mission Poshan 2.0](#) at the Regional Centre, Mohali.

#### About:

- Launched in **February 2021**
- It is an umbrella scheme covering the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan, Scheme For Adolescent Girls, and National Creche Scheme**.
- The scheme has been approved for the period of **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content
- It also aims to promote diet diversity, and food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge and popularising the use of millets.
- Since **2018**, the month of **September** has been designated as **POSHAN Maah** to promote better nutrition for children, teenage females, pregnant women, and nursing moms.

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### Objectives:

- To prevent and reduce Stunting in children (0- 6 years) by **2% per annum**
- To prevent and reduce under-nutrition in children (0-6 years) by **2% every year**
- To reduce the prevalence of anemia among young Children (6-59 months) by **3% per annum**
- To reduce the prevalence of anemia among Women and Adolescent Girls in the age group of 15-49 years by **3 percent** every year
- To reduce Low Birth Weight (LBW) by **2% every year**

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

### 4. National Mission for Mentoring (NMM)

#### Recent News:

- For effective implementation of the National Mission of Mentoring (NMM, CTE (National Council for Teachers Education) conducted a 2-day capacity building workshop for the **60 mentors** on 31st May and 1st June 2023 to provide quality professional support to teachers along with the essential mentoring skills and techniques.

#### About:

- The mission aims to establish a **substantial group of highly skilled experts** who can provide guidance and support to school teachers, ensuring their continuous professional growth.
- National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) launched NMM in Pilot mode on 29th July 2022 in selected **30 Central Schools** (15 KVs, 10 JNVs, 5 CBSE) across the country
- A “**Bluebook on Mentoring**” has been prepared by NCTE for the Pilot run.
- Mentor capacity-building workshops will be conducted for ensuring quality **mentor-mentee**
- **NMM Web Portal** serves as an interface for conducting successful and effective mentoring sessions for teachers that are facilitated by trust, discovery, and constructive feedback.

## MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

### 5. Nyaya Vikas

#### Recent News:

The **Nyaya Vikas Portal** has been created for monitoring the implementation of the centrally sponsored scheme, Nyaya Vikas.

#### About:

- Initiated in **1993-94**.
- Aims for the **Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary**
- Under the Scheme, central assistance is provided to the State Government / UT Administrations for the construction of **court halls and residential units** for Judicial Officers / Judges of District and Subordinate Courts.
- Some new features like **Lawyers Hall, Toilet complexes, and Digital computer rooms** have been added to the scheme for the convenience of lawyers and litigants, court halls and residential units are also included in 2021.

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- The funds sharing pattern under the Scheme for Center and State is **60:40 & 90:10** for North Eastern and Himalayan States, and 100% in respect of Union Territories.

### MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

#### 6. Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP)

##### Recent News:

Recently, the Government of India has launched the **OALP Bid Round-VIII**, offering 10 blocks for International Competitive Bidding.

##### About:

- It was launched under the **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)** in **2017**.
- It is aimed at **faster survey and coverage** of the available geographical area which has potential for oil and gas discovery.
- It enables companies to apply for a particular area they deem to be attractive to invest in, and the Centre then puts those areas up for bids.
- It provides **uniform licenses for the exploration and production** of all hydrocarbons, enabling contractors to explore conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources.
- Fields are offered under a **revenue-sharing model** and throw up marketing and pricing freedom for crude oil and natural gas produced.
- The objective is to bring more area under exploration, leading to an **increase in domestic production and a reduction in imports**.
- Applications can be submitted throughout the year.
- **Auctions** are held **twice a year**.

##### Features:

- Freedom to carve out areas of choice
- Revenue-sharing model
- Complete marketing and pricing freedom
- Lower regulatory burdens
- Submission of the applications throughout the year.
- More flexibility to the industry
- Single License for conventional and non-conventional hydrocarbons.

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMER'S WELFARE

#### 6. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

##### Recent News:

- The eighth edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was announced by Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Government of India on June 5, 2023.
- The **Indian Agricultural Research Institute**, popularly known as the Pusa Institute, shines as an acme of excellence in Agriculture sciences under NIRF, 2023.

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### About:

- Launched by the **Ministry of Education (MoE)** in **2015**.
- The framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country
- Ranking of institutions of **Higher Education** will be done annually.
- NIRF ranking **promotes healthy challenges** among different institutes to improve their functioning and other aspects
- The ranking is based on **5 parameters** which include:
  1. **Teaching, Learning & Resources** – This parameter checks the core activities in the education institutions.
  2. **Research and Professional Practice** – Excellence in teaching and learning is closely associated with the scholarship
  3. **Graduation Outcome** – Tests the effectiveness of learning/core teaching
  4. **Outreach & Exclusivity** – Lays special emphasis on the representation of women
  5. **Perception** – Importance is also given to the perception of an institution

### Disciplines covered:

The disciplines covered are

1. Engineering
2. Management
3. Pharmacy
4. Medical
5. Dental
6. Architecture and Planning
7. Law
8. Agriculture and Allied Sectors

### Recent Amendments:

- Introduction of a new subject namely **Agriculture & Allied Sectors**
- Expansion of scope of **“Architecture”** to **“Architecture and Planning”** to include institutions imparting courses in Urban and Town Planning.
- Integration of the **“Innovation”** ranking previously executed by the **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)** into the India Rankings to reduce the burden on institutions of providing similar data to two different agencies.

## MINISTRY OF COAL

### 7. Exploration of Coal & Lignite Scheme

#### Recent News:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the continuation of the **Central Sector Scheme of “Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme”** with an estimated expenditure of **Rs. 2980 crore** from **2021-22 to 2025-26** co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission cycle.

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- The primary objective of exploring coal and lignite resources is to assess their **presence, quantity, and quality** within the country.
- Under this scheme, exploration for coal and lignite is conducted in two broad stages: (i) **Promotional (Regional) Exploration** (ii) **Detailed Exploration in non-Coal India Limited blocks.**
- Under Promotional (Regional) exploration, an outlay of **Rs 1,650 crore** has been approved and an approximate area of **1,300 sq km** will be covered.
- While under Detailed Exploration. An outlay of **Rs 1,330 crore** and about **650 sq km** area will be covered for detailed drilling in non-CIL areas.

### Benefits:

- Helps in preparing detailed project reports to start coal mining.
- Reports prepared through this exploration are used for auctioning new coal blocks and the cost is thereafter recovered from successful allocations.

## MINISTRY OF POWER

### 8. Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)

#### Recent News:

- The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched a National Mission titled “Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)” which aims to facilitate indigenous research, development, and demonstration of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.

#### About:

- Planned for a period of five years from **2023-24 to 2027-28.**
- The Mission will be funded by pooling financial resources of the **Ministry of Power, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and the Central Public Sector Enterprises**
- The Mission will have a two-tier structure - a **Technical Scoping Committee** and an **Apex Committee.**
- Led by the **Chairperson of the Central Electricity Authority**, the Technical Scoping Committee identifies existing and emerging research domains on a global scale.
- The Apex Committee, chaired by the **Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy**, approves research proposals and considers international collaborations.
- The mission encourages collaborations with premier institutions such as **IITs, IIMs, NITs, IISERs, and universities.**

#### Objectives:

The key objectives of the Mission are as follows:

- To **identify emerging technologies** and areas of future relevance for the Global Power Sector and take up indigenous end-to-end development of relevant technologies
- To provide a **common platform** for Power Sector Stakeholders
- To **support pilot projects of indigenous technologies** and facilitate their commercialization
- To **leverage foreign alliances and partnerships** to accelerate research & development of advanced technologies
- To seed, nurture and scale up **scientific and industrial R&D** and to create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in the Power Sector of the country

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### Areas of Research

To begin with, the following eight areas are identified for research:

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

## MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

### 9. Har Ghar Jal

#### Recent News:

Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog at the launch of the groundbreaking report of WHO highlighted the substantial benefits of the 'Har Ghar Jal' program in India.

#### About:

- Initiated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under **Jal Jeevan Mission** in 2019
- Aims to provide **tap water** to every rural household by **2024**.
- The estimated outlay of the mission is **Rs. 3.60 lakh Crore**, out of which the Central share is Rs. 2.08 lakh Crore.
- The government has also published a **website-based dashboard** to track the progress details of the mission.
- In August 2022, **Goa and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu** became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State and UT respectively with 100% tap-water access.
- As of January 2023, other states and UTs **Gujarat, Puducherry, and Telangana** have also achieved 100% tap-water access.

#### Objectives:

- To provide **Functional Tap Connection (FHTC)** to every rural household.
- To prioritize the provision of FHTCs in quality-affected areas, villages in drought-prone and desert areas, **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)** villages, etc.
- To provide functional tap connection to **Schools, Anganwadi centers, GP buildings, Health centers, wellness centers, and community buildings**
- To monitor the functionality of tap connections.
- To promote and **ensure voluntary ownership** among the local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labor, and voluntary labor
- To assist in **ensuring the sustainability of the water supply system**, i.e., water source, water supply infrastructure.

## MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS

### 10. Waste to Wealth Mission

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Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' - the online dredging monitoring system - to accelerate the 'Waste to Wealth' initiative of the Ministry.

### About:

- It is one of the nine scientific missions of the **Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC)**.
- The mission aims to **identify, develop, and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate energy, recycle materials, and extract resources of value**.
- The mission will **assist the Swachh Bharat and Smart Cities projects to create circular economic models** that are financially viable for waste management to streamline waste handling in the country.

### Objectives:

- To support the development of new technologies that can help create a cleaner and greener environment.
- To boost and augment the Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart Cities Project by leveraging science, technology, and innovation.
- To create circular economic models that are financially viable for waste management.
- To streamline waste handling in India.

### About the 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' Portal

- Developed by **National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways, and Coasts (NTCPWC)**.
- The system is designed to minimize human error.
- It is an improved version of the **Draft & Loading Monitor (DLM) system**.

### Features:

- Generate daily reports of dredging
- Pre and Post dredging survey
- Daily and monthly progress visualities
- Dredging performance
- Downtime monitoring
- Location track data with snapshots of loading, unloading, and idle time.

### About National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways, and Coasts (NTCPWC):

- Established under the **Sagarmala Programme** with a total investment of **₹ 77 Crores** at IIT Madras on **24th April 2023**.
- The center aims to **enable research & development for the marine sector**, enabling solutions towards achieving the ultimate goal of building a robust marine industry in the country.
- This state-of-the-art center has world-class capabilities for undertaking **2D & 3D investigations** of research and consultancy nature for the Port, Coastal, and Waterways sector across all disciplines.
- The laboratories created are among the best in comparison with other International Labs in the specific domain.

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

### 11. Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

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### Recent News:

- The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to issue **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)** in tranches for **2023-24**.

### About:

- Launched in **November 2015**, under Gold Monetisation Scheme.
- Under the scheme, the issues are made **open for subscription in tranches by RBI** in consultation with GOI.
- **RBI Notifies the terms and conditions** of the scheme from time to time.
- The rate of **SGB will be declared by RBI before every new tranche** by issuing a Press Release.
- **The PAN number** of the applicant is mandatory.

### Features:

- To be issued by **Reserve Bank India** on behalf of the Government of India.
- The Bonds will be restricted for **sale to resident Indian entities** including individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities, and Charitable Institutions.
- **Know-your-customer (KYC) norms** will be the same as that for the purchase of physical gold
- The Bonds will be denominated in **multiples of gram(s)** of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
- The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of **8 years** with an exit option in the 5th, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7th year, to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- The minimum permissible investment will be **1 gram of gold**.
- The maximum limit of subscribed shall be **4 KG for individuals, 4 Kg for HUF, and 20 Kg for trusts**.
- The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of **2.50 percent per annum** payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
- **Rs.50/- per gram discount than the nominal value** to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.
- Payment for the Bonds will be through **cash payment** (up to a maximum of Rs. 20,000/-) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.
- The interest on Gold Bonds shall be **taxable** as per the provision of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961).
- The Bonds are eligible for conversion into **Demat form**.
- The redemption price will be in **Indian Rupees**.
- All the branches of the **State Bank of India** are authorized to accept the subscription.
- Bonds can be used as **collateral for loans**.
- Bonds will be **tradable on stock exchanges**

## 12. India Infrastructure Project Development Funding Scheme (PDF)

### Recent News:

- To promote the Digital India initiative of the Government of India, the **Infrastructure Finance Secretariat (IFS)** has **revamped its website** [www.pppinindia.gov.in](http://www.pppinindia.gov.in) for its enhanced value to the stakeholders involved in PPP projects.

### About:

- It is a **Central Sector scheme**, set up in **2007**.
- The scheme was launched by the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**.
- The total outlay of **Rs 150 crore** for a period of three years from **2022-23 to 2024-25**.
- It is aimed to provide financial support for **quality project development activities**.

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- It provides funding for **project sponsoring authorities** (both in the central and state governments) involved in the development of **PPP projects**.
- The **IIPDF** will contribute up to **75%** of the project development expenses to the Sponsoring Authority as an **interest-free loan**. The balance of **25%** will be co-funded by the **Sponsoring Authority**.
- On successful completion of the bidding process, the project development expenditure would be recovered from the **successful bidder**.
- The new scheme is an addition to the currently operational Scheme for **Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (VGF Scheme)**, which was notified in **December 2020**.

### Benefits:

- It will improve the quality and pace of infrastructure development in the country by encouraging private sector participation in the infrastructure sector.
- It aims at achieving the vision of modern infrastructure for the country.

### About PPPININDIA

- It is a website dedicated to **promoting and facilitating Public Private Partnerships** in India and helps in bridging the gap between the public and private sectors.
- The website serves as a digital platform that brings together **government entities, private companies, investors, and entrepreneurs fostering** collaboration and innovation for sustainable growth.
- It allows the Sponsoring Authority to **apply online under the IIPDF scheme** which will significantly reduce the processing time, involve less paperwork, and help the PSAs to obtain speedy and time-bound approvals for the submitted projects.

### About the VGF scheme:

- Launched in **2006**.
- It provides financial Support to **Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) infrastructure projects** that are economically justified but not commercially viable because of large capital requirements.
- The Viable Gap Funding (VGF) of **40 percent of the Total Project Cost (TPC)** is provided by the Indian Government and the sponsoring authority in the form of a capital grant at the construction stage of the project.

## 13. Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24 Scheme

### Recent News:

The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has approved capital investment proposals of Rs. 56,415 crores in 16 States in the current financial year. Approval has been given under the scheme entitled 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24'

### About:

- Announced in the Union Budget **2023-24**.
- Under the scheme, special assistance is being provided to the State Governments in the form of a **50-year interest-free loan** up to an overall sum of **Rs. 1.3 lakh crore** during the financial year 2023-24.
- The objective is to **empower states and support their initiatives for infrastructure development** and sectoral advancements.
- Several sectors have been identified for capital investment projects under the scheme. These sectors include **health, education, irrigation, water supply, power, roads, bridges, and railways**.

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### Components:

The scheme has various parts:

**Part-I:** An allocation of **Rs. 1 lakh crore** has been done amongst States in proportion to their share of central taxes & duties as per the award of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission

**Part-II:** An amount of **Rs. 3,000 crores** have been set aside for providing incentives to States for scrapping State Government vehicles and ambulances, waiver of liabilities on old vehicles, providing tax concessions to individuals for scrapping of old vehicles, and setting up of automated vehicle testing facilities.

**Part-III & IV:** An amount of **Rs. 15,000 crores** is earmarked for Urban Planning Reforms.

**Part -V:** An amount of **Rs. 2,000 crores** is earmarked to increase the housing stock for the police personnel and their families within the police stations in urban areas.

**Part-VI:** An amount of **Rs. 5,000 crores** has been set aside to promote national integration, carry forward the concept of “Make in India” and promote the concept of “One District, One Product (ODOP)” through the construction of Unity Mall in each State.

**Part VII:** An allocation of **Rs. 5,000 crores** for providing financial assistance to States for setting up libraries with digital infrastructure at Panchayat and Ward level for children and adolescents.

### 14. Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)

#### Recent News:

Certain changes were announced to the system of Tax Collection at Source (TCS) on payments under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and on overseas tour program packages in the Union Budget 2023-24. These were to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

#### About:

- Introduced in 2004.
- Liberalized Remittance Scheme to facilitate **hassle-free foreign exchange**.
- Under the scheme, **all resident individuals**, including minors, are allowed to freely **remit up to USD 2,50,000 per financial year** (April – March) for any **permissible current or capital account transaction** or a combination of both.
- The Scheme is **not available to corporations, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts, etc.**
- There are no restrictions on the frequency of remittances under LRS, however, once a remittance is made for an amount **up to USD 2,50,000** during the financial year, a resident individual would not be eligible to make any further remittances under this scheme.
- These funds can be used for any permissible **current or capital account transaction** or a combination of both.

#### Recent Amendments:

- Credit card payments would be brought under the LRS.
- **There will be no change in the rate of TCS for all purposes under LRS and for overseas travel tour packages, regardless of the mode of payment, for amounts up to Rs. 7 lakhs per individual per annum.**
- Beyond this Rs 7 Lakh threshold, TCS shall be

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- a) 0.5% (if remittance for education is financed by an education loan);
- b) 5% (in case of remittance for education/medical treatment);
- c) 20% for others.

### MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### 15. Chandrayaan 3

##### Recent News:

- India's coveted Moon Mission Chandrayaan 3 is scheduled to be launched in July, most likely in the second half of the month.

##### About:

- It is India's **third moon mission** which aimed to land a rover on the lunar South Pole.
- The mission is scheduled to be launched by **Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3)** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota**.
- It is expected to cost around **Rs 615 crore**
- The unique exploration of Chandrayaan-3 aims at studying not just one area of the Moon but all the **areas combining the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface in a single mission**.

##### About Chandrayaan 1

- It was launched in **October 2008** and it orbited the Moon and performed several scientific experiments and observations.
- It was India's first lunar mission and the first to **discover water on the Moon**
- Involved **an orbiter and an impactor**, both built by Isro
- It was launched by the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle** and made more than 3,400 orbits around the Moon.
- It carried **11 scientific instruments** on board, five of which were Indian while the others were from the European Space Agency (ESA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- It was operational for **312 days till August 29, 2009**.

##### About Chandrayaan-2 mission

- It was launched in **July 2019**
- It involved **an orbiter, a lander (Vikram), and a rover (Pragyaan)**, all built by ISRO.
- It was India's first to attempt a soft landing near the south pole of the Moon.
- It was launched from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh** by the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III**.
- It aimed to land the Vikram lander on the lunar surface and deploy the Pragyaan rover.
- It carried **eight scientific payloads** for mapping the lunar surface and studying the exosphere (outer atmosphere) of the Moon.
- Its lander **Vikram crashed** into the lunar surface apparently because of an issue with its braking rockets.

##### Significance:

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- Chandrayaan is India's lunar exploration program consisting of a **series of robotic missions** that aims to **explore the Moon** and its resources.
- It puts India on the map as a major player in space exploration, being only the **4th country in the world after the United States, Russia, and China** to have successfully landed on the moon.
- The mission has helped India gain valuable **knowledge and experience in space exploration**, which can be applied to other fields, such as satellite technology and space tourism.

### 16. VAIBHAV Fellowship Program

#### Recent News:

- The Government has launched a new fellowship program named '**Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) fellowships program**' to connect the Indian STEMM diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions.

#### About:

- Implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Aims at improving **the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational and Scientific Institutions**
- It would be awarded to outstanding **scientists of Indian origin (NRI/OCI/PIO)** who are engaged in research activities in their respective countries.
- **75 selected fellows** would be invited to work in 18 identified knowledge verticals including **quantum technology, health, pharma, electronics, agriculture, energy, computer sciences, and material sciences** amongst others.
- The fellowship is for **1-2 months each year** for a period of 3 years.
- Applications for the first call are being invited through a call for proposals from **15 June 2023 till 31 July 2023**.

#### Eligibility (for Scientists):

- The applicant should be a **Non-Resident Indian (NRI), a person of Indian Origin (PIO), and an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)**, currently living abroad.
- The applicant must have obtained a **Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree** from a recognized University.
- Applicant must be a researcher working in the **top 500 QS World University Ranking**.
- Plan to pursue research work for a minimum of **1 month to a maximum of 2 months a year** in a research institution in India, spread **over 3 years**.
- Applicants can submit their proposals only once in a calendar year.

#### Eligibility (for Institutions):

- Higher Educational Institutions / Universities ranked in the **top 200 in NIRF overall rankings** and have NAAC 'A' grades (3.0 and above) and scientific institutes.

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### Grants:

The fellows will be entitled to receive the grants as given below:

- Fellowship grant of **Rs 4,00,000 per month**
- International Travel from place of their institute to place of work in India in business class
- Accommodation in **3 or 4-star hotel**
- Contingency **Rs 1,00,000 per year**
- Domestic Travel for academic purposes up to two stations in a year

The host institute will get **Rs 10 lakh per year** for hosting the scientist and providing office/lab accommodation and facilitation for various infrastructure support.

### 17. National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023

#### Recent News:

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in the Parliament to pave the way to establish NRF that will seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

#### About:

- The bill, after approval in the Parliament, will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), at a total estimated cost of **Rs. 50,000 crores** during five years (2023-28).
- **The Department of Science and Technology (DST)** will be the administrative Department of NRF
- The **Prime Minister** will be the **ex-officio President of the Board** and the **Union Minister of Science & Technology and Union Minister of Education** will be the **ex-officio Vice-Presidents**.
- Its functioning will be governed by an Executive Council chaired by the **Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India**.
- **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** was established by an act of Parliament in 2008 and will be subsumed under it

## NITI AAYOG

### 18. Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (GOI-UNSDCF)

#### Recent News:

NITI Aayog and the United Nations in India signed the Government of India - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 recently.

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- The framework will act as the principal planning and implementation instrument for the UN Development System at the country level.
- It is built on four strategic pillars derived from the **2030 Agenda – People, Prosperity, Planet, and Participation**
- The formulation was led by **NITI Aayog**, on behalf of the Government of India.
- The implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the framework will be co-led by the Government of India and the United Nations, India through a **Joint Steering Committee**.
- It encompasses **six key outcome areas** including health and well-being, quality education, economic growth, environment and climate, and empowerment of individuals and communities.

### MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY 7 DAIRYING

#### 19. National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)

##### Recent News:

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala recently launched the Report Fish Disease(RFD) App under National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD), funded under Pradhan Mantri MatsyaSampadaYojana by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.

##### About:

- Implemented by the Department of Fisheries **since 2013**.
- Its emphasis is on strengthening a farmer-based disease surveillance system, so that disease cases are reported at once, investigated and scientific support is provided to the farmers.
- It aims to connect directly with the district fisheries officers and scientists for technical assistance regarding fish diseases and get a solution to the problem.
- NSPAAD was implemented with **the ICAR National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow** as a lead institute

##### Components:

- Genetic improvement programs and Nucleus Breeding Centers (NBCs)
- Innovations and Innovative projects/activities, Technology demonstration including startups, incubators, and pilot projects.
- Training, Awareness, Exposure, and Capacity Building
- Modernization of fishing harbors of central government and its entities
- Support to the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Fisheries Institutions, and Regulatory Authorities of the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, and need-based assistance to State Fisheries Development Boards.
- Support for survey and training vessels for Fisheries Institutes
- Disease Monitoring and Surveillance Network
- Fish data collection, fishers" survey, and strengthening of fisheries database
- Support to security agencies to ensure the safety and security of marine fishermen at sea
- Certification, accreditation, traceability, and labeling

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- Administrative Expenses for implementation of PMMSY (to meet expenses of both for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes components)
- Setting up 500 Fish Farmers' Producer Organizations/Companies (FFPOs/Cs)

### MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

#### 20. State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

##### Recent News:

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, today approved the release of **Rs.6,194.40** crore to 19 State Governments under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

##### About:

- SDRF has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- It is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditures for providing immediate relief.
- It is audited by the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** every year.
- **75% of SDRF allocation is contributed by the Central Government**, and for special category States and UTs, 90% is contributed by the Central Government.
- SDRF shall only be used to meet the costs of providing immediate relief to the victims by releasing the annual Central Contribution in two equal installments as recommended by the Finance Commission.
- Cyclones, drought, earthquakes, fire, floods, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches, cloudbursts, pest assaults, frosts, and cold waves are all covered by the SDRF.
- State Government may use **up to 10% of the funds** available under SDRF **for providing immediate relief to the victims** of the natural disaster