

Important Schemes launched by Government for RBI Grade B Exam July 2023

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

1. Industrial Park Rating System

Recent News:

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently organized the National Workshop on Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) in New Delhi.

The workshop emphasized on the importance of Industrial parks in attracting investments and to enhance the share of the manufacturing sector in overall GDP.

About:

- Launched as a pilot project in **2018** with the support of **the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- Aimed to rate the country's industrial parks and special economic zones.
- Focuses on **4 pillars**: internal infrastructure and utilities, external infrastructure and connectivity, business support services, and environment and safety management.
- These pillars were assessed across **34 parameters** finalized in discussion with DPIIT and various stakeholders
- Out of the 202 nominated parks under the pilot phase, **177 parks across 21 states** were evaluated based on the above pillars and parameters.

Industrial Park Rating System Report 2.0

- Launched on **5th October, 2021**
- Received nominations from 31 participating states and union territories, along with 50 additional Special Economic Zones (SEZs) nominated by the Department of Commerce (DoC).
- **45 parameters** were developed for the assessment of industrial parks and **40 parameters separately for SEZs** under the four pillars for IPRS 2.0.
- Feedbacks from developers as well as tenants was included in this phase
- **"IPRS 2.0 Gap Assessment Report"** also prepared by ADB in consultation with Invest India under the guidance of DPIIT for each participating State/ UT (31)

2. One District One Product (ODOP)

Recent News:

One District One Product (ODOP) programme under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry collaborated with an e-commerce player, Groyyo to onboard aggregators selling ODOP-identified products on its platform consisting of several categories such as home textiles, home décor etc

About:

- The scheme was launched by the state of **Uttar Pradesh**
- It aims to make product-specific traditional industrial hubs in as many as **75 districts of Uttar Pradesh**.
- The idea of ODOP is to select, brand, and promote one product from each district of the country.
- This scheme provides financial assistance of **up to 90 per cent** of the project cost in the form of subsidy to set up the project.
- Under the scheme, unskilled artisans are provided with **training of 10 days** and an advanced toolkit free of cost.
- The ODOP Initiative has identified a total of **1102 products from 761 districts** across the country.

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Benefits:

- Helps in the preservation and development of **local crafts/ skills** and promoting art.
- Aids in the **increase in the incomes and local employment** which results in the decline in migration in search of employment.
- Improvement in **product quality and skill development**
- Help in **transforming the products in an artistically** (it can be either through packaging or branding)
- Helps to connect the **production with tourism**.
- Artisans can be trained and can be taken to the **national and international level** after successful implementation of their projects at the state level.

Why in Uttar Pradesh?

- Many of the GI tagged products are found in UP only.
- Many of these products need to be revived through modernization and publicization

-Why tagging on Groyyo's?

- The tagging on this **one-stop online platform** will strengthen each district's identity, while giving a greater visibility to ODOP products.
- It will provide an opportunity for the sellers to learn more about product requirements from the buyers and make their products marketable at the global level.

3. Advance Authorisation Scheme

Recent News:

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) implements the Advance Authorisation Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy, which allows duty-free import of inputs for export purposes

About:

- It is a **duty exemption scheme** for exporters provided by DGFT.
- It incentivizes the import of raw materials which will be processed further to be exported.
- The goal is to **promote exports** and boost the Indian economy
- It is valid for **12 months** from the date of issue of such authorisation
- In addition to any inputs, packaging material, fuel, oil, catalyst which is consumed / utilized in the process of production of export products, is also allowed.
- They are not allowed to sell the products in the **domestic market**.

Eligibility:

- This scheme is available to **either a manufacturer exporter directly or a merchant exporter** tied with a supporting manufacturer.
- It includes physical exports, intermediate supply, supplies made to specified categories of deemed exports.

Exemptions:

Under the Advance Authorisation Scheme, the following duties are exempt:

- Basic customs duty
- Education cess
- Social welfare cess
- Anti-dumping duty

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- Countervailing duty
- Safeguard duty
- IGST and compensation cess

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

4. Bharat 6G Alliance

Recent News:

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology announced the Formation of the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA), a collaborative platform consisting of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and Standards development organizations.

The website for Bharat6G Alliance was also launched, the link for the same is <https://bharat6galliance.com>

About:

- It is a collaborative platform comprising **public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations.**
- It aims to bring together Indian startups, companies, and the manufacturing ecosystem to establish the design, development and deployment of 6G technologies in India.
- It also aimed to **facilitate market access for Indian telecom technology products and services**, enabling the country to emerge as a global leader in 6G technology.
- Grant of **240.51 crores** under the **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)** has been set aside for the funding of 6G technology projects.

About 6G technology

- It is the **successor to 5G cellular technology.**
- 6G networks will operate by using signals at the **higher end of the radio spectrum.**
- It provides substantially higher capacity and much **lower latency** than 5G networks.
- It aims to support **one microsecond** latency communications.
- It is expected to facilitate large improvements in the areas of imaging, presence technology and location awareness.

About Telecom Technology Development Fund

- Launched in **October 2022.**
- Under this **5%** of annual collections from **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** will be available for TTDF Scheme for funding research & development of technologies, products, and services.
- The scheme aims to bridge the digital divide by developing and manufacturing state-of-the-art technologies.
- It also aims to form synergies among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry to build and develop the telecom ecosystem for research, design, prototyping, use cases, pilots, and proof of concept testing, among others.

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS

5. Mission Karamyogi

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Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh talked about Mission Karmayogi while addressing the inaugural session of 49th Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA) at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)

About:

- Launched in **September 2020**.
- The scheme is estimated to cost **Rs. 500 crores** and will benefit around 50 lakh public servants.
- It will cover **all civil servants** (including contractual employees) across different ministries, departments, organizations and agencies of the Union Government.
- It will focus on **role based management** and will allocate roles and jobs based on competencies of the officers.
- Under the scheme, each public servant will **undergo a three-stage training program** spanning over their entire career.
- The first stage will focus on induction level training, the second stage will focus on job-specific training and the third stage will focus on leadership development.
- The program includes a National Program for Civil Services Capacity Building which will cover **1 million officials** over the next five years.
- The scheme will also have an e-learning platform (**i-GOT Karmayogi**) and a National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- A special purpose vehicle (SPV) (non-profit company) is set up under the Companies Act 2013 to run this mission.

Pillars:

- Policy Framework
- Institutional Framework
- Competency Framework
- Digital Learning Framework iGOT-Karmayogi (Integrated Government Online Training Karmayogi Platform)
- The electronic Human Resource Management (eHRMS)
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Objectives:

- To complement **Physical Capacity Building** with an Online Training framework
- Focus on '**On-Site learning**' to complement 'Off-Site learning'
- To create an ecosystem of shared training infrastructure including teaching material and personnel.
- To calibrate all civil service tasks to a Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies including skills (hereinafter referred to as FRACs)
- To partner with all content creators including in-house sources, as well as the private sector to build a content marketplace on iGOT-Karmayogi.
- To make available to all civil servants, an opportunity to access training content in Hindi, English and other Indian languages.
- To enable the individual learners to follow self-decided as well as mandated learning paths.
- To make **Mid-Career Training Programme (MCTP) mandatory** for all services including horizontal and combined programs amongst services.

About iGOT-Karmayogi

- The mission has also created an online platform called iGOT-Karmayogi which stands for **Integrated Government Online Training**.

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- It will provide content to learn from global best practices rooted in “Indian ethos”.
- Civil servants will also have to undertake courses on this platform on which the officers’ performance will be evaluated.
- A **Special Purpose Vehicle** will monitor the platform.

6. National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) portal

Recent News:

Recently, the 3rd edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) portal was launched by the Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

About:

- NeSDA portal is a **web-based platform** that enables the online submission and analysis of data from various sources, such as States, UTs and Central Ministries.
- The framework is adapted from the **UN eGovernment Survey's Online Service Index (OSI)**.
- It aims to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the **National e-Governance Division's initiatives and projects**.
- The study is conducted **every two years** by DARPG to measure the performance of States, UTs and selected Central Ministries in delivering e-Governance services to the citizens
- In NeSDA 2023, a total of **59 mandatory services** are proposed to be assessed for every State & UT and 37 services to be assessed covering 21 Central Ministries/Departments.
- The Department has successfully released 2 editions of NeSDA study, viz., **NeSDA 2019 and NeSDA 2021**.

Dimensions of NeSDA 2023:

- All Government Portals assessed during NeSDA are classified into two categories viz., **(i) State, UT, Central Ministry Portal and (ii) State, UT, Central Ministry Services Portals**.
- The NeSDA framework **covers G2C and G2B services across seven sectors**, viz Finance, Labour Employment, Education, Local Governance Utility Services, Social Welfare (including Health, Agriculture, Home Security), Environment (including Fire) and Tourism sectors.
- The framework for NeSDA 2023 added 2 new sectors namely, addition of **Transport and Public Grievance**.
- The NeSDA framework measures the performance of government portals and services based on various criteria, such as usability, content, security, service delivery, feedback mechanism, etc.
- From 2023 **three new parameters** are introduced to reflect the latest trends in digital government, namely **Open Government Data (OGD), E-Participation, and Leveraging Emerging Technologies**.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

7. eSARAS

Recent News:

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) launched eSARAS mobile App which will add to eCommerce initiatives for products made by the Self-help Groups (SHGs).

About:

- Aims to enhance the **livelihood of the rural people**.
- The online platform showcases the products made by **self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated**

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institutions.

- The artisans get **remunerated fairly** with no middlemen to manipulate prices.
- Through this online portal, customers get access to 100% authentic handcrafted products straight from the place of origin.
- The app will handle the logistics required to bring an online order to a customer's doorstep.

Categories:

The major categories include

- Home and living
- Women - apparels and accessories
- Men - apparels and accessories
- Personal care
- Food items

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

8. Social Trailblazer Program

Recent News:

Shri Pradhan launched the second edition of the Social Trailblazer Program by Incubator for Social Enterprises and Entrepreneurs Development, IRMA.

About:

- The program is launched by **Incubator for Social Enterprises and Entrepreneurs Development, IRMA** in partnership with **LIC Housing Finance Limited**.
- It aims to support social enterprises working to solve the social problems of the country on the themes of Liveability and Livelihood
- The program provides **mentoring and networking, collaborative research, entrepreneurship training, capacity building, and supporting innovations**.
- **20 Start-ups** would be selected for the first round and would be invited for the bootcamp and **10 Start-ups will receive the funding support**, technical and financial support for the financial year.

Incentives:

- A financial award of **Upto INR 15, 00,000 in the form of Equity Funding and INR 7, 50,000 in the form of Grant Funding** will be offered to the top 10 selected startups.
- This program also offers **1-year of personalized incubation and acceleration support** at the IRMA ISEED Foundation.
- Top-up Incentives of **Upto INR 50,00,000** follow-on investment from Villgro to eligible startups.
- **Upto 100,000 USD** worth of AWS credits and technology support to top 10 incubatee.

Key areas:

- Agriculture
- Green Technology
- Finance Technology
- Education

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- Renewable Energy
- Healthcare & Life sciences
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Social Impact
- Waste Management

Eligibility:

- The startup should be demonstrating **the existence of a legal structure**: the challenge is open to startups registered in India.
- The startup should **address one of the areas mentioned above**.
- The startup demonstrating the existence of a sustainable and autonomous economic model with a **Minimum Viable Product or service ready stage** and onwards are eligible for the program
- **Social impact & Innovation** are the heart of the solution.
- For-profit startups with **more than 3 months of operations** can also apply.

9. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

Recent News:

The Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a Skill India's Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), with nearly 2,200 candidates from across six districts of the state, receiving training in the dying art form.

About:

- Launched in **2015**, it is the flagship scheme for skill training of youth
- The third phase of the scheme was launched in **January 2021** with a budget of **INR 948.90 crores**
- PMKVY 3.0 targeted the youth under the **age group of 15-45 years**.
- The aim of the scheme is to enable Indian youth to take up industry relevant skill training
- Under this Scheme, **Training and Assessment fees** are completely paid by the Government.
- Skill training would be done based on the **National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards**.

Eligible Beneficiaries

The scheme is applicable to any candidate of **Indian nationality** who:

- an unemployed youth, college / school dropout
- Has a verifiable identity proof - Aadhaar / Voter id and a bank account.

Key components

- Short Term Training
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Special Project
- Kaushal and Rozgar Mela
- Placement Guidelines
- Monitoring Guidelines

Implementation

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- The scheme would be implemented through **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- In addition, Central / State Government affiliated training providers would also be used for training under the scheme.
- All training providers will have to register on the **SMART portal** before being eligible for participating under this scheme.
- Training would include **soft skills, personal grooming, behavioral change for cleanliness, good work ethics**.
- **Sector Skill Councils and the State Governments** would closely monitor skill training that will happen under PMKVY.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

10. Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States

Recent News:

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has launched a “Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States” from the earmarked allocation of Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for strengthening fire services in the States.

About:

- The scheme is derived from the recommendation of the **fifteenth finance commission** which allows an **allocation of 12.5 % of each of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** for the Funding Window of Preparedness and Capacity Building.
- Total outlay of the scheme is **Rs. 5,000 crore**, kept for incentivizing the States on the basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms.
- The scheme aims to enhance and update **fire services at the state level**, guaranteeing strong measures for preparedness and capacity building.
- Under the scheme, State governments are required to contribute **25% of the total project cost from their own budgetary resources** (10% in case of north eastern states).

About NDRF

- National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) is a **centrally-funded contingency fund** that is used to meet the immediate response requirements of a disaster.
- It was established in **2006** under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is a statutory body responsible for coordinating disaster management activities in India.
- Similarly, the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted in each State under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The fund is the **primary fund** available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

11. National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

Recent News:

Ms. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying highlighted the implementation of

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the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for control of two major prevailing zoonotic disease i.e. Foot & Mouth Disease and Brucellosis during an awareness Programme on zoonotic disease through the Common Service Centres network.

About:

- It is a flagship scheme launched in **2019**.
- The total outlay of the scheme is **Rs.13, 343.00 crore** for five years (2019-20 to 2023-24).
- The project will be fully funded by the Central Government.
- It aims to control **Foot & Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by vaccinating 100% cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig population for FMD and 100% bovine female calves of 4-8 months of age for brucellosis by 2025 and its eventual eradication by 2030.**

About Foot & Mouth Disease and Brucellosis

- The disease is common among **cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig**.
- Both diseases have a direct negative impact on their **milk production and other livestock products**.
- If a cow or buffalo is infected by Foot & Mouth Disease, the **milk loss is up to 100% and could last for 4-6 months**.
- **In case of Brucellosis, the milk output reduces by 30% during the entire cycle of the animal and also causes infertility among animals.** It could also be transmitted to farm workers and livestock owners.

12. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Livestock

Recent News:

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing the Credit Guarantee Scheme under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to strengthen credit delivery system and facilitate smooth flow of credit to the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) engaged in Livestock sector without hassles of collateral security.

About:

- The scheme facilitates access to finance for the **un-served and under-served livestock** sector
- Credit Guarantee fund Trust of **Rs. 750.00 crores** has been established to provide credit **guarantee coverage up to 25% of the credit facilities** extended to the MSMEs by the eligible lending institutions under the scheme.
- The establishment of credit guarantee fund trust was approved under the Prime Minister's AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package of **Rs.15000 crores**
- Government will provide **Interest Subvention of 3% and loan up to 90% of the total project cost** from any Scheduled Bank, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Eligibility:

- Individual entrepreneurs,
- Private companies,
- MSMEs,
- Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies

Objectives:

- To establish dairy processing and value addition infrastructure,

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- Meat processing and value addition infrastructure
- Animal Feed Plant
- Breed Improvement technology and Breed Multiplication Farm
- Animal Waste to Wealth Management (Agri Waste Management)
- Setting up of Veterinary Vaccine and Drugs Manufacturing facilities.

NITI AAYOG

13. Atal Innovation Mission

Recent News:

Recently the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with Bayer launched a unique industry visit initiative under Atal Tinkering labs at Bayer's manufacturing facility in Vapi, Gujarat.

About:

- It is a flagship initiative set up by the **NITI Aayog in 2016**
- It aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- The total budgeted expenditure of **Rs.2000+ crore** shall be incurred in the process of the establishment and supporting the beneficiaries
- **Dr. Chintan Vaishnav** is the Managing Director of Atal Innovation Mission.

Implementation Framework:

1. Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)

- At the **school level**, Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) have been set up across all districts of the country.
- These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces where do-it-yourself (DIY) kits on latest technologies like 3D Printers, Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), Miniaturized electronics are installed for students of Grade VI to Grade XII.
- A grant of **Rs 20 Lakhs** has been provided by the government.

2. Atal Incubators (AICs)

- At the **university, NGO, SME and Corporate industry levels**, Atal Incubators (AICs) have been set up in every sector /state of the country,
- It addresses both commercial and social entrepreneurship opportunities in India and applicable globally.
- A grant of **up to Rs 10 crores** to successful applicants for setting up greenfield incubators or scaling up existing ones is provided.

3. Atal Community Innovation Centres

- For the **unserved/underserved regions** of India including Tier 2, Tier 3 cities, aspirational districts, tribal, hilly and coastal areas, Atal Community Innovation Centres have been set up.
- A grant **up to Rs 2.5 crores** to an ACIC subject to a partner proving equal or greater matching funding is provided.

4. Atal New India Challenges / Atal Grand Challenges

- It is launched for the areas of national importance - such as Renewable Energies, Energy Storage, Climate-smart precision agriculture, Universal drinking water, Swachh Bharat, Transportation, Education, Healthcare using Robotic, IOT technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Block-chain, Augmented and Virtual reality, Battery Technologies etc.

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- A grant of up to Rs 1 crore for Atal New India Challenges and larger grants of **up to Rs 30 crores** for Atal Grand Challenges are provided under it.

5. Mentor India

AIM has set up one of the largest Mentoring networks in India called Mentor India from the professional and industry community who can help mentor students at Atal Tinkering Labs and AIC Incubators / startups.

6. **Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE)** has also been set up to stimulate innovation and research in the MSME industry.

Objective:

- The intended targets that will be achieved by AIM are:
- Establishing **10000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)**,
- Establishing **101 Atal Incubation Centers (AICs)**,
- Establishing **50 Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs)** and
- Supporting **200 startups via the Atal New India Challenges**.

About ATL Industry visit

- It is a collaboration between **Atal Innovation Mission and Bayer**.
- It aims to introduce **students to the latest manufacturing techniques and technologies used in industry**.
- Bayer has opened its manufacturing and production plants and research centers at **Vapi, Shamirpet, Chandippa and Bangalore** for ATL students to familiarize them with the latest manufacturing techniques and technologies used in industries.
- **Over 20,000 students from classes 6 to 12** have been trained through experiential and innovative technologies to design and build innovative solutions for real-world challenge

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

14. Discounted fare scheme

Recent News:

With a view to optimize utilization of accommodation in trains, Ministry of Railways has decided to delegate powers to Zonal Railways to introduce discounted fare scheme in trains with AC sitting accommodation

About:

- Under the scheme, the **fares of AC chair cars and executive classes of all trains will be reduced** depending on occupancy
- The fares will also depend on those of **competitive modes of transport**.
- The scheme shall be applicable in AC chair car and executive classes of all trains having AC seating accommodation, including Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches
- The element of discount shall be up to a **maximum 25 per cent on the basic fare**.
- Other charges like reservation charge, super fast surcharge, GST, etc, as applicable, shall be levied separately.
- The fares will also depend on those of competitive modes of transport.
- The trains having occupancy **less than 50 per cent during the last 30 days** shall be taken into consideration.
- This scheme **will not be applicable on special trains introduced as holiday or festival specials**.
- The provision of this scheme shall be applicable **upto a period of 1 year**.

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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

15. Chandrayaan-3

Recent News:

Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh stated that Chandrayaan-3, scheduled to be launched from Sriharikota, will make India the fourth country to land its Spacecraft on the surface of the Moon.

About:

- It is India's **third lunar mission** followed by the 2019 lunar mission - Chandrayaan-2.
- It will demonstrate India's end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- The success of the mission will make Chandrayaan-3, **the world's first mission to soft-land near the lunar South Pole and India, fourth country** to soft-land on the moon.
- The mission will be launched by **LVM3 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.

Objective:

The mission's main objectives are:

- To demonstrate safe and soft landing on the lunar surface.
- To demonstrate rover roving on the moon.
- To conduct in-situ (on-site) scientific experiments.
- To develop and demonstrate new technologies required for interplanetary missions.

Modules:

Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft is a composite of three modules.

- A Propulsion module (PM): Life - 3-6 months
- An indigenous Lander module (LM) - Vikram
- A Rover - Pragyan

Time Period:

- India's Chandrayaan missions take **a month to reach the moon**.
- It will **circle the Earth 5-6 times**, then sling off to the Moon.
- This reduces the need to carry enormous amounts of fuel thereby reducing the heaviness of the rocket.
- The rover will explore the **lunar terrain for 14 Earth days** (1 lunar day) and will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface.

16. National Biopharma Mission

Recent News:

Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh talked about the National Biopharma Mission, which is supporting 101 pan-India projects in Biopharma sector which has provided increased employment opportunities

About:

- The mission was launched in **2017** at a total cost of **Rs 1500 crore** and is **50% co-funded by World Bank loan**.
- It is being implemented by the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**
- It is a joint mission between the **government and industry to accelerate the development of biopharmaceuticals in India**.

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- It is managed through a dedicated **Program Management Unit (PMU) at BIRAC**.
- The program promotes entrepreneurship by supporting small and medium enterprises for indigenous product development
- Under this Mission, the Government has launched **Innovate in India (i3) programme** to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

Objectives:

- Development of product leads for Vaccines , Biosimilars and Medical Devices that are relevant to the public health need
- Upgradation of shared infrastructure facilities and establishing them as centers of product discovery/discovery validations and manufacturing.
- Developing human capital by providing specific training.
- Developing technology transfer offices to help enhance industry academia inter-linkages

MINISTRY OF TEXTILE

17. SAMARTH

Recent News:

The Ministry of Textiles has partnered with 157 Textile Industries / Industry Associations, 16 Central / State Government Agencies and 3 Sectoral Organizations of the Ministry for undertaking training programmes under Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH).

About:

- Approved in **2017**, the implementation period of the scheme is **up to March, 2024**.
- The scheme is a part of the **Broad Skilling Policy Framework** adopted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- It aims to skill the youth sustainable employment in the textile sector for the entire value chain of textile **except Spinning and Weaving in the organized sector**.
- It also aims to increase the productivity of the present workers in the textile sectors such as handicraft, jute, silk, and handloom.
- Funding is granted to the **Training agencies to cover the complete training and certification cost of the trainees**, as per the scheme norms.
- **184 courses** have been prepared to improve the skills of the present workers. These courses are aligned with the National Skill Qualification Framework.
- Employment linkage is mandated in the courses under organized textile sector with mandatory placement **70% in entry level & 90% for Upskilling programmes**.
- Interested users can contact the training agencies empanelled under the scheme for admissions.

Objectives

- To make skillful youths in the textile industry.
- To create employment in the country.
- Skillful workers help in developing the textile and related sectors.
- If not working in the industry, youths can also become self-employed.

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Implementing Agencies:

- Textile Industry
- Institutions/Organization of the Ministry of Textile/State Governments having training infrastructure and placement tie-ups with textile industry.
- Reputed training institutions/ NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Organizations/ Companies /Start Ups / Entrepreneurs active in textile sector having placement tie-ups with textile industry.

Eligibility:

- Should be a citizen of India possessing an Aadhaar Card
- Should be **above 14 years of age**.
- Preference given to **marginalized social groups** (ie. women, SC/ST and handicapped persons, minorities and persons from BPL cat.)

MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

18. Scheme for critical care and support for accessing justice to rape gang rape survivors and minor girls who get pregnant

Recent News:

Under Nirbhaya Fund, a scheme of Ministry of Women & Child Development namely Scheme for critical care and support for accessing justice to rape gang rape survivors and minor girls who get pregnant was appraised at the total cost of Rs.74.10 cr.

About:

- The scheme seeks to assist minor girls who have been **abandoned by their families due to forced pregnancies resulting from rape or gang rape**.
- It acknowledges the **physical and emotional trauma experienced** by minor victims of rape and aggravated assault, especially in cases where they become pregnant.
- It aims to provide **medical, financial, and infrastructural support to such victims under the Nirbhaya Fund**.
- It facilitates immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including access to **education, police assistance, medical, psychological and mental counseling legal support**.
- **Insurance cover** for the girl child victim and her new-born will also be provided.
- The Ministry has additionally leveraged the administrative structure of **Mission Vatsalya** in collaboration with state governments and child care institutions (CCIs) to actualise this support to minor victims on the ground.

Coverage:

- Victims **below the age of 18**,
- The child (victim) should either be an orphan, abandoned by the family or does not wish to live with the family.
- It is **not mandatory for the girl child victim to have a copy of the FIR** for availing the benefits under the scheme

About Nirbhaya Scheme:

- The Government of India established the **Nirbhaya Fund in response to the Nirbhaya Case in 2013**.
- It is aimed specifically at projects for improving women's safety and security and is managed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).

About Mission Vatsalya:

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- Mission Vatsalya is a scheme that focuses on aligning development and child protection priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Its primary objectives include promoting child rights, advocating for awareness, and strengthening the juvenile justice care and protection system, all aimed at ensuring that every child is supported and not left behind.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

19. Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

Recent News:

Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Additional Secretary (INM), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare reviewed the progress of Phase-III of the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

About:

- Launched during **2015-16**, it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- It aims to develop **end to end organic value chains in North Eastern States**.
- The scheme is being implemented in **all eight states** of the North East India
- The main aim of the mission is **to develop certified organic production in a value chain model to link cultivators with consumers**.
- The scheme provides support to the complete value chain through **inputs, seeds, organic certification, creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative**

Objectives:

- Install dedicated **institutional systems at both center and state** for production and development of organic farming
- Create **one or two replicable end to end organic value chain models** with the integration of concerned parties like growers, handlers, processors and market facilitation agencies.
- **Empower 30,000 to 50,000 NE farmers** by grouping them into 100 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and give them ownership of the entire value chain.
- **Replace subsistence farming with commercial organic farming** equipped with end to end facilities
- Make NE states as **major suppliers of organic commodities** in both national and international markets.
- Improve organic production system to derive better profitability and higher productivity.
- Enable NE states to evolve their **own brand**.

Subsidies:

- Functional infrastructure for collection, aggregation, grading units and North-Eastern (NE) organic bazaar @ **Rs. 15 lakh (75% subsidy)**.
- Integrated Processing Units with Total Financial Outlay of **Rs. 600 lakh or more limited to 75% to Farmer Producer Companies and 50% to private entrepreneurs** as credit linked back ended subsidy.
- Integrated pack house with **75% subsidy to Farmer Producer Companies on Total Financial Outlay of 50 lakh or more and 50% to private entrepreneurs or maximum of 37.50 lakh whichever is less** as credit linked back ended subsidy.
- Transportation/ 4-wheeler up to **total Financial Outlay of 12 lakh (50%)**.
- Refrigerated transport vehicle/ Pre-cooling/ cold stores/ ripening chambers up to **total Financial Outlay of 25**

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lakh (75% subsidy to FPC and 50% to private).

20. Agri Infra Fund

Recent News:

Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare today launched a new campaign for banks under Agri Infra Fund titled BHARAT (Banks Heralding Accelerated Rural & Agriculture Transformation).

About:

- It is a **pan India Central Sector Scheme launched in the year 2020.**
- It aims to **provide a medium - long term debt financing facility** for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.
- Duration of the fund is **extended to 13 years (FY2020 to FY2032).**
- **Rs.1 Lakh Crore** will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to eligible beneficiaries.
- All loans under this financing facility will have an interest subvention of **3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crores.**

Intended Beneficiaries:

- Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS),
- Marketing Cooperative Societies,
- Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs),
- Self Help Group (SHG),
- Farmers, Multipurpose Cooperative Societies,
- Agri-entrepreneurs,
- Startups,
- Aggregation Infrastructure Providers
- Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored PPP Project.

Benefits:

- This interest subvention will be available for a **maximum period of seven years.**
- Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan **up to Rs. 2 crores.**
- The fee for this coverage will be paid by the Government.
- In the case of FPOs, the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility created under the FPO promotion scheme of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DACFW).
- The moratorium for repayment under this financing facility may vary subject to a **minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 2 years**

MINISTRY OF COAL

21. National Coal Gasification Mission

Recent News:

The Ministry of Coal is considering a comprehensive scheme- National Coal Gasification Mission, to promote Coal/Lignite gasification projects for both Government Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the Private Sector with

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an outlay of Rs 6,000 crores.

About:

- The scheme aims to **capitalize on natural resources and demonstrate coal gasification's financial and technical feasibility**.
- It seeks to attract both **government-owned Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the private sector** to invest in and innovate in the coal gasification sector.
- The mission aims to achieve the target of **100 MT coal gasification by 2030**
- The government will provide a **20% concession on the revenue share of coal** used for gasification to incentivize the use of cleaner fuel sources.
- A Steering Committee, chaired by **Dr. V.K. Saraswat**, has been formed to oversee the implementation of the National Mission.

Selection Process:

- Entities for the coal/lignite gasification scheme will be selected through a **competitive and transparent bidding process**.
- Eligible government PSUs and private sector entities will **receive budgetary support from the government** to undertake coal gasification projects.

Benefits:

- **Reduced pollution** caused by burning coal directly.
- **Utilization of Chemical Properties** of coal in various applications.
- **Cleaner Option** compared to traditional coal burning.
- Can be converted into chemical energy and used in the production of iron, methanol, urea, and other chemicals.
- Enables the **separation and capture of carbon dioxide**, allowing for potential carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies.

What is coal gasification?

- Coal gasification involves partially oxidizing coal with air, oxygen, steam, or carbon dioxide to produce a fuel gas.
- This gas, known as syngas, can be used as an alternative to piped natural gas or methane for energy production.
- Syngas consists primarily of methane, carbon monoxide, hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and water vapor.
- It has various applications, including the production of fertilizers, fuels, solvents, and synthetic materials
- There is also a technique called Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), where coal is converted into gas while it is still in the seam and then extracted through wells.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

22. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware

Recent News:

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware was notified on May 29, 2023 with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 17,000 crore. The application window for receiving applications under PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware has been extended till July 31, 2023

About:

- First notified in **March 2021**

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- The scheme will have a **tenure of 6 years**
- The scheme offer companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in India
- It provides **5% incentives** for incremental investment in domestic manufacturing for eligible firms
- The scheme has been announced for **14 key sectors** namely, mobile, medical devices, automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals, drugs, specialty steel, telecom & networking products, electronic products, white goods (ACs and LEDs), food products, textile products, solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery, and drones and drone components.
- The scheme also **invites foreign companies** to set up units in India.

Objectives:

- To make domestic manufacturing globally competitive
- To boost domestic manufacturing in sunrise and strategic sectors
- To curb cheaper imports and reduce import bills, and enhance domestic capacity and exports.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

23. Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme

Recent News:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organized a mangrove plantation program in Tamil Nadu as part of the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme, where more than 100 people participated including students.

About:

- Announced in the Budget **2023-24**.
- The scheme is planned to be implemented for a period of five years from **2023-2024 to 2027-2028**
- The scheme is being implemented by converging **CAMPA Fund, MGNREGS, and other sources**.
- The scheme aims to **increase the mangrove cover along the coastline and on salt pan lands in India**.
- Under the MISHTI scheme, the government provides **financial assistance to local communities to undertake mangrove plantation activities**.
- It also involves awareness campaigns to educate people about the importance of mangroves and their role in protecting the environment.
- The scheme will contribute to the efforts of '**Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)**' – an **intergovernmental alliance** for promotion of Mangrove, of which India became its active member during the (COP27)
- Currently, there is approximately **5000 sq kms** of area under mangroves and through the MISHTI program an additional area of 540 sq km is proposed to be covered across 9 States and 4 Union Territories.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE

24. Special Marketing Assistance Scheme of the National SC-ST Hub

Recent News:

Recently, the government shared the success story of Mr. Siam Laingek, a resident of Churachandpur, Manipur who runs his enterprise of manufacturing essential oils and has benefitted from the Special Marketing Assistance Scheme of the National SC-ST Hub by participating in more than 20 domestic exhibitions.

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- The scheme has been set up to provide professional support to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Entrepreneurs to adopt applicable business practices and leverage the Stand-Up India initiative
- The total estimated budget of the scheme was **Rs.490.00 crore**
- It is being implemented by **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)**.
- The scheme is applicable for **existing and aspiring SC/ST Entrepreneurs**

Functional areas:

The key action areas of NSSH include:

- Vendor development,
- Participation in public procurement,
- Building reliable database,
- Mentoring and handholding support,
- Policy advocacy with states,
- Credit facilitation,
- Capacity building,
- Private affirmative action,
- Technology upgradation,
- Marketing support,
- Special subsidies under various schemes.

Benefits:

- To achieve **4% Public Procurement** target from SC-ST entrepreneurs
- Facilitating SC/ST Entrepreneurs to be part of vendor development programs and mentoring support
- Collection, collation and dissemination of information regarding SC/ST enterprises and entrepreneurs
- Distribution of trade specific tool kits to trained candidates

25.Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy scheme of NSSH

Recent News:

Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy scheme of NSSH provides subsidy for procurement of Plant & Machinery / equipment to the SC-ST MSEs of manufacturing and service sector.

About:

- Launched in **2000**
- Under this scheme, eligible enterprises can enjoy a **capital subsidy of 15%** on loan availed from a financial institution in the **specified 51 sub-sectors/products approved. (25% in case of SC/ST)**
- The primary objectives of the scheme is to **upgrade the plant and machinery of enterprises with state-of-art technology**
- The subsidy is available to both **existing and new enterprises in rural and urban areas**
- It aims at promoting entrepreneurship and opportunities for MSMEs in the **North-Eastern Region**.

Benefits:

- The subsidy expended on the purchase of applicable machinery and equipment comes in handy for decreasing the total loan burden of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to a considerable extent.
- Proves useful in upgrading the standard of technology used in the manufacturing procedure

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- It serves as a potent means to increase the growth and details of industries located in semi-urban and rural areas.
- Allows enterprises to produce the best quantity and best quality of products.

MINISTRY OF NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

26. Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme (RE-RTD)

Recent News:

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has identified some thrust areas under “Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme (RE-RTD) in which some research projects have been received for recycling and recovery of critical materials.

About:

- The programme aims at scaling up the Research and development effort during the period FY **2021-22 to FY 2025-26**.
- It aims to promote indigenous technology development for new and renewable energy in an efficient and cost-effective manner across the country.
- This scheme covers **research and development in the area of solar module manufacturing**.
- Under the scheme, **upto 100% financial support to Government / non-profit research organizations and upto 50-70% to Industry, Start-ups, Private Institutes, Entrepreneurs and Manufacturing units**, is provided.

Eligibility:

- Academic Institutions including Engineering Colleges (both Public & Private duly accredited by Government bodies)
- Public/Private Industries
- Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860
- Trusts registered under the Indian Trusts Act 1882
- NGOs
- Startups duly recognized by Department for Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- Organizations engaged in Research & Development for the promotion of new & renewable energy

Coverage:

- Re-cycling of PV modules
- Development of Hybrid inverters
- Development of solar cooking system with storage
- Development of low cost and efficient PV based thermal solar system for refrigerators, air conditioners etc
- Waste water recovery through solar technologies
- Development of Universal solar pump controller
- Sustainable cleaning of PV modules
- Innovative Agro PV based solar plants, etc.

27. Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Projects

Recent News:

The Government is implementing a Scheme for “Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Power Projects” in the

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country. Under this scheme, the Government have sanctioned 50 Solar Parks with aggregate capacity of 37,990 MW in 12 States across the country, so far.

About:

- The scheme was rolled out in **2014**
- Under this scheme, the government has approved **57 solar parks** with an aggregate capacity of around 39,285 MW in 13 states.
- The scheme is **extended till 2026**.
- The capacity of the Scheme was enhanced from **20,000 MW to 40,000 MW**.
- The implementing agency of the scheme is termed as **Solar Power Park Developer (SPPD)**
- The solar parks are developed in collaboration with the State Governments and their agencies, Central Public Sector Undertakings, and private entrepreneurs.
- Under the scheme, the ministry provides central **financial assistance of up to ₹25 lakh per solar park for preparation of detailed project report (DPR)**.
- Central financial assistance of **up to ₹20 lakh per MW or 30% of the project cost**, including grid-connectivity cost, whichever is lower, is also provided on achieving the milestones prescribed in the scheme

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

28. Seva Bhoj Scheme

Recent News:

The government provided details of the amount of GST collection reimbursed under the SevaBhoj Scheme during the last 3 years.

About:

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**
- The scheme is being implemented from 01.08.2018 with a total outlay of **Rs. 325.00 Crores for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20**.
- The scheme aims to lessen the financial burden of **Charitable Religious who provide food, prasada, langar (Community Kitchen), Bhandara free of cost without any discrimination to public and devotees by reimbursing Central Government share of CGST and IGST**
- It aims to provide **financial assistance on purchase of specific food items** by Charitable Religious Institutions (CRIs) for free distribution among people.
- CRIs such as Temples, Gurudwara, Mosque, Church, Dharmik Ashram, Dargah, Matth, Monasteries etc. have existed **for at least five years and serve free food to at least 5000 people in a month** are covered

Eligibility:

- All eligible institutions must registered with **Darpan portal of Ministry of Culture**.
- The applications will be examined by committee constituted for purpose.
- On basis of the recommendation of committee, competent authority in Ministry of Culture will register CRIs for reimbursing claim of CGST and Central Government share of IGST paid on mentioned specific items.

Quantum of assistance:

Financial Assistance in the form of reimbursement shall be provided where the institution has already paid GST on all or any of the raw food items listed below :

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- Ghee
- Edible oil
- Sugar / Burra / Jaggery
- Rice
- Atta / Maida / Rava / Flour
- Pulses

The total amount of CGST and Central Government's share of IGST that would be reimbursed on purchases was capped at a maximum of 10% of that financial year

29. Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme (CTSSS)

Recent News:

Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North-Eastern Region Shri G Kishan Reddy in a reply to Rajya Sabha talked about the Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme (CTSSS)

About:

- Implemented since **1982 at National level.**
- The Scheme is aimed at **providing facilities to outstanding talented children studying either in specialized schools or belonging to families practicing traditional performing arts**
- Cultural fields such as traditional forms of **music, dance, drama as well as painting, sculpture, crafts and literary activities** are included under the scheme.
- The scholarship is **initially awarded for two years and is renewable up to the age of 20 years**, subject to the awardees maintaining good progress.
- **650 new scholarships** are awarded **every year.**
- The value of scholarship is **Rs.3600/- per year for the scholarship holder**, in addition to reimbursement of the actual tuition fee paid to the Guru/Teacher, up to a ceiling of **Rs.9000/- per year.**
- The government has recently approved the enhancement of Scholarship amount and Tuition Fees reimbursed from **Rs. 300/- to Rs.500/- and Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1000/- respectively**
- The number of scholarships awarded in the last 05 years under CTSS Scheme are around **2788.**

Eligibility:

- Candidates must be between the **ages of 10 and 14.**
- Candidates must be studying in a **recognized board or institution.**
- Candidates must belong to the **economically weaker section of society.**
- Candidates' parents must have been **practicing an art form as their profession.**
- Candidates' annual family income **must not exceed INR 8 Lakh.**
- Candidate must not be availing of any other scholarship benefits.
- Also, those students who are pursuing Diploma courses are not eligible for this merit-cum-means scholarship.