

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

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

1. National Mission on Edible Oil – Oil Palm

Recent News:

A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) has been launched by Government of India to promote oil palm cultivation for making the country AatmaNirbhar in edible oils with special focus on North-Eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

About:

- Announced in **2021**
- The proposed scheme will subsume the current **National Food Security Mission-Oil Palm program**.
- The total outlay of the scheme is Rs. **11,000 crore** for a period of five years.
- Under the scheme, **oil palm farmers will be provided financial assistance** and will get remuneration under a price and viability formula.
- The special emphasis of the scheme will be in **India's north-eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands** due to the conducive weather conditions in the regions.
- The scheme will cover an additional area of **6.5 lakh hectare (ha.)** for oil palm till the year 2025-26.
- The scheme also has a sunset clause which is **November 1, 2037**.

Objectives

- To **harness domestic edible oil prices** that are dictated by expensive palm oil imports.
- To **raise the domestic production of palm oil** by three times to 11 lakh MT by 2025-26.
- This will involve **raising the area under oil palm cultivation** to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30.

Components:

There are two major focus areas of the Scheme.

1. Price assurance

- This will be known as the Viability Price (VP).
- This will protect the farmers from the fluctuations of the international Crude Palm Oil (CPO) prices and protect him from the volatility.
- This VP shall be the annual average CPO price of the last 5 years adjusted with the wholesale price index to be multiplied by 14.3 %.
- This will be fixed yearly for the oil palm year from 1st November to 31st October
- A Formula price (FP) will also be fixed which will be 14.3% of CPO and will be fixed on a monthly basis.
- The viability gap funding will be the VP-FP and if the need arises, it would be paid directly to the farmers accounts in the form of DBT.
- To give impetus to the North-East and Andaman, the Government will additionally bear a cost of 2% of the CPO price to ensure that the farmers are paid at par with the rest of India.
- The states who adopt the mechanism proposed by the Government of India will have to enter into MoUs with the Central Government.

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2. Assistance for inputs/interventions

- The second major focus of the scheme is to substantially increase the assistance of inputs/interventions.
- A substantial increase from Rs 12,000 per ha to Rs. 29000 per ha has been made for planting material for oil palm.
- A special assistance @ Rs 250 per plant is being given to replant old gardens for rejuvenation of old gardens.
- Seed gardens will be provided assistance up to Rs. 80 lacs for 15 ha. (Rs.100 lacs for 15 ha in North-East and Andaman regions)
- Further, assistance for seed gardens @ Rs. 40 lacs. (Rs. 50 lacs for North-East & Andaman regions)
- Further Special assistance will be provided for the North-East and the Andaman regions in which special provisions is being made for half moon terrace cultivation, bio fencing and land clearance along with integrated farming.
- For capital assistance to the industry, for the North East states and Andaman, a provision of Rs 5 core of 5 mt/hr unit with pro rata increase for higher capacity.

About palm oil:

Palm oil is *an edible vegetable oil derived from the mesocarp (reddish pulp) of the fruit of the oil palms*. The oil is used in food manufacturing, in beauty products, and as biofuel.

India is the biggest consumer of edible oils in the world. Edible oils form India's third-biggest import, after crude oil and gold.

Palm oil is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. Sunflower oil is chiefly imported from Ukraine and Russia, and soybean oil from Brazil and Argentina.

2. National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)

Recent News:

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in a written reply in Lok Sabha briefed about the importance of beekeeping, a new Central Sector Scheme entitled National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) was launched in 2020.

About:

- It is a **centrally funded scheme** launched in 2020.
- Total financial outlay of the scheme is **Rs. 500 crore for three years** (2020-21 to 2022-23).
- The scheme is implemented through the **National Bee Board**.

Beneficiaries:

- Individual beneficiaries, Societies, Firms, Companies
- Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)/ Farmers/ Beekeepers Interested Groups (FIGs)/ Co-operatives/ FPOs/ FPCs/ Member Beekeepers' Federations (MBFs) of NBB/ MBFs registered with NBB
- National/ State level Governmental Organizations, including NBB, ICAR, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/ Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs), etc

Objectives:

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- To promote holistic growth of beekeeping industry for income & employment generation for farm and non-farm households
- To enhance agriculture/ horticulture production, developing infrastructural facilities, including setting up of Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre , honey testing labs, bee disease diagnostic labs, custom hiring centers, nucleus stock, bee breeders, etc.
- To empowerment of women through beekeeping.
- To create awareness about scientific bee keeping
- To make farmers aware about the distribution of specialized Beekeeping equipments for production of high value products, viz. Royal Jelly, Bee Venom, Comb Honey, etc

Sub Missions under the Mission

The NBHM has three sub-missions or sub-schemes, namely, Mini Mission – I, II and III.

Mini Mission I

- Here, the focus is on the production and productivity enhancement of different crops through pollination aided by adopting scientific beekeeping.
- It aims to create awareness about scientific beekeeping.
- States will be assisted in the setting up of state bee boards/state beekeeping and honey missions.

Mini Mission II

- Here, the focus is on post-harvest management of beekeeping, beehive products, including collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition, etc.

Mini Mission III

- Here, the focus is on the generation of research and technology for different states/regions and agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions.

3. New Soil Health Card Scheme

Recent News:

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in a written reply in Rajya Sabha provided insights of the New Soil Health Card scheme and implementation in the country.

About:

- Introduced in the year **2014-15**
- The scheme aims to provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.
- The soil Health Card (SHC) is provided to all farmers in the country at an **interval of 3 years to enable the farmers to apply recommended doses of nutrients** based on soil test containing nutrient status of soil with **respect to 12 nutrients**.
- Farmers can take a printout of the card from the SHC portal, which has a **database of all harvesting seasons** and is available in 21 languages.
- Soil Samples are collected generally two times in a year, after harvesting of Rabi and Kharif Crops respectively or when there is no standing crop in the field.
- Soil samples are drawn in a **grid of 2.5 ha in irrigated areas and 10 ha in rain-fed areas** with the help of the Global Positioning System (GPS) tools and revenue maps.

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Objectives:

- To improve soil quality and profitability of farmers.
- Employment generation for rural youth.
- To update information on soil analysis.
- To provide soil testing facilities to farmers at their doorstep.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

4. PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM –YASASVI)

Recent News:

Minister of State for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Sushri Pratima Bhoumik in a written reply in Lok Sabha provided details of expenditure incurred in the last three years under each component of PM YASASVI for OBC and Others.

About:

- It is an umbrella Scheme formulated by clubbing the existing Scholarship Schemes and Hostel Scheme.
- The scheme awards scholarships to eligible candidates belonging to **Other Backward Class (OBC), Economically Backward Class (EBC), and De-Notified, Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes(DNT/SNT)** categories.
- Scholarships ranges from **Rs 75,000 to Rs 1,25,000**.
- Selection of candidates for the award of scholarships under the scheme is through a written test called **YASASVI ENTRANCE TEST**.
- **National Testing Agency** conducts the YASASVI ENTRANCE TEST.

Sub-schemes under the scheme

There are five sub-Schemes under the Scheme.

- Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students
- Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students.
- Top Class School Education for OBC, EBC and DNT Students
- Top Class College Education for OBC, EBC and DNT Students
- Construction of Hostel for OBC Boys and Girls.

Eligibility:

- The annual income of parents/guardians from all sources should **not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakhs**.
- Students studying in **Class IX and Class XI identified Schools** across India.
- The award of scholarships is at two levels:
 1. For students who are studying in Class IX
 2. For students who are studying in Class XI

5. National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

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The Minister of State for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri A. Narayanaswamy in a written reply in Lok Sabha provided the number of de-addiction centers supported by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment in the country under the scheme National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).

About:

- Implemented for the time frame **2018 – 25**.
- The action plan aims at reducing the adverse effects of drug abuse in the country.

Objectives:

- To create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of drug abuse on the individual, family, workplace and society.
- To develop human resources and build capacity to curb drug addiction.
- To facilitate research, training, innovation and collection of relevant information.
- To provide a whole range of community-based services for identification, motivation, counselling, and de-addiction.
- To formulate and implement comprehensive guidelines, schemes, and programmes using a multiagency approach for drug demand reduction.
- To initiate drug demand reduction efforts to address all forms of drug abuse.

Components:

The following components are admissible for financial assistance under the NAPDDR:

- Preventive Education and Awareness Generation
- Capacity Building
- Treatment and Rehabilitation
- Setting quality standard
- Focussed Intervention in vulnerable areas
- Skill development, vocational training and livelihood support of ex-drug addicts
- Survey, Studies, Evaluation, Research and Innovation on the subjects covered under the Scheme.
- Program for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs

6. National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem' (NAMASTE)

Recent News:

To tackle hazardous cleaning the Government has formulated a new scheme called 'National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem' (NAMASTE) to be implemented from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026

About:

- The total outlay of the scheme is **Rs. 360 crore** for four years from **2022-23 to 2025-26**.
- The Scheme replaced the self-employment **Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)** which was launched in 2007.
- It aims at providing **sustainable livelihood and occupational safety** to sanitation workers through capacity building and improved access to safety gear and machines.
- The scheme will be implemented in **500 cities** that have been notified under the AMRUT Scheme.

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Objectives:

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work.
- All sanitation work should be done by skilled workers.
- No direct contact with human faecal matter.
- Sanitation workers are collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises.
- All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods.
- Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at national, state and ULB levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe sanitation work.
- Increased awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered and skilled sanitation workers.

Financial Assistance:

- Capital subsidies of up to **₹2.5 lakh** and **25% of the remaining project cost above Rs. 5 lakh** on sanitation machinery costing above 5 lakh and upto **₹15 lakh**.
- Interest subsidies between **4-6% on loans** will also be provided.
- Stipend of up to **₹3,000 per month** during the time of training the workers in the use of these machines.

MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

7. Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Program

Recent News:

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

About:

- Introduced in **2017**.
- The program has been developed to connect the **registered lawyers** with the registered beneficiaries.
- This scheme gives **voluntary legal advice** to individuals and organizations that are unable to afford legal advice and/or cannot access legal aid.
- Under the program, practising advocates interested to volunteer their time and services are linked with eligible marginalised beneficiaries via mobile technology.
- **Nyaya Bandhu Mobile application (Android/iOS)** was also developed in collaboration with technical partner CSC e-Governance Pvt. Ltd.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

8. Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) scheme

Recent News:

The Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti in a written reply in Lok Sabha provided details of candidates trained & settled under the scheme.

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- It is implemented as a sub-scheme of **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**
- The program aims to identify, **orient, train and assist rural youth to take up self-employment** as an alternative career and a source of livelihood
- The program is a **three-way partnership** between the Ministry of Rural development; Union Government, State Governments and Sponsor Banks.
- The Banks are mandated to open **at least one RSETI in their lead district**
- The program runs with an approach of **short-term training and long-term handholding of entrepreneurs.**
- Under the scheme, **10 training courses** out of the total 64 are **exclusively for women candidates.**
- Rural poor youth between the age group of **18-45 years** are eligible to join the training.
- Each RSETI offers about **30 to 40 Skill Development Program** in a financial year in various avenues.
- All programs are of short duration ranging preferably from **1 to 6 weeks.**

Objectives:

- Rural BPL youth will be identified and trained for self-employment.
- The trainings offered will be demand driven.
- Area in which training will be provided to the trainee will be decided after assessment the candidate's aptitude.
- Hand holding support will be provided for assured credit linkage with banks.
- Escort services will be provided for at least for two years soon to ensure sustainability of micro enterprise trainees.
- The trainees will be provided intensive short-term residential self-employment training program with free food and accommodation.

Types of Programs:

- **Agricultural Program** - Agriculture and allied activities like Dairy, Poultry, Apiculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Mushroom cultivation, floriculture, fisheries, etc.
- **Product Program** - Dress designing for men and women, Rexine utility Articles, Agarbathi manufacturing, Foot ball making, Bags, Bakery Products, Leaf Cup making, recycled paper manufacturing, etc.
- **Process Program** - Two Wheeler repairs, Radio / TV repairs, Motor rewinding, electrical transformer repairs, irrigation pump-set repairs, tractor and power tiller repairs, cell phone repairs, Beautician Course, Photography & Videography, Screen Printing, Photo Lamination, Domestic Electrical appliances repair, Computer Hardware and DTP.
- **General Program** - Skill development program for women etc.
- **Other Program** - related to sectors like leather, construction, hospitality and any other sector depending on local requirements.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

9. National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI)

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The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prof. SP Singh Baghel, updated about the National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) and the funds approved in State Program Implementation Plan (SPIP) under NPCBVI for states of Telangana from FY 2015 -16 to 2022-23.

About:

- Launched in the year **1976**
- It was renamed as National Program for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) in 2017 from the **National Program for Control of Blindness**.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** (now 60:40 in all states and 90:10 in NE States) with the goal of reducing the prevalence of blindness to **0.3% by 2020**.
- The program also aims to establish an infrastructure and efficiency levels in the program to be able to cater new cases of blindness each year to prevent future backlog.
- Under the National Health Policy (NHP), the target is to reduce the prevalence of blindness to **0.25% by 2025**

Components:

1. Primary eye care services

- Preventive and promotive eye care services: under comprehensive primary health care Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) are providing preventive and promotive eye care services.
- IEC activities for promotion and preventive eye care and eye donation.

2. Secondary eye care services

- Cataract surgeries.
- Screening for Refractive errors and Distribution of free Spectacles
- Distribution of free spectacles to old persons suffering from presbyopia
- Management of Visual impairment
- Use of Mobile Ophthalmic Units and Tele- ophthalmology network to expand coverage and reach of the program in disadvantaged and hard to reach areas.
- Eye banking Services and collection of donated eyes.

3. Tertiary Eye care Services:

Under the tertiary care component of NPCB&VI

- Grant in Aid for strengthening of Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Medical Colleges to provide super-speciality eye care services
- Hands on Training of Govt. Eye Surgeons for upgradation of their clinical and surgical skills.
- IEC campaigns
- Research and surveys

4. Infrastructure Development and Capacity building

- Grant in Aid for strengthening of eye care units at primary and secondary level.
- Training of Paramedical Ophthalmic Assistant and Eye donation counsellors.

10. Mission Indradhanush

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The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S.P. Baghel stated this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha about the progress of mission Indradhanush.

About:

- Launched in **2014**
- It is a special catch-up campaign under the **Universal Immunization Program (UIP)**.
- It aims to cover all those children who are either unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases
- The mission is being technically supported by **WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International and other donor partners**.

Areas under focus

1. High risk areas identified by the polio eradication program. These include populations living in areas such as:
 - Urban slums with migration
 - Nomads
 - Brick kilns
 - Construction sites
 - Other migrants (fisherman villages, riverine areas with shifting populations etc.) and
 - Underserved and hard to reach populations (forested and tribal populations etc.)
2. Areas with low routine immunization (RI) coverage (pockets with Measles/vaccine preventable disease (VPD) outbreaks).
3. Areas with vacant sub-centers for more than three months.
4. Areas with missed Routine Immunization (RI) sessions due to ANMs on long leave and similar reasons
5. Small villages, hamlets, dhanis or purbas clubbed with another village for RI sessions and not having independent RI sessions

About Intensified Mission Indradhanush:

- Launched to reach **each and every child under two years of age** and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunization program.
- It focuses on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full **immunization to more than 90% by December 2018**.
- This Intensified Mission is driven based on the information received from gap assessment, supervision through government, concurrent monitoring by partners, and end-line surveys.
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 was launched in Febraury 2022** and was conducted in 416 districts across 33 States/UTs in the country.

MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES

11. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II

Recent News:

Under phase-II of FAME India Scheme, 8,47,578 no. of electric vehicles amounting to Rs. 4157.00 Cr. (approx..) have been sold by the electric vehicle manufactures to consumers as on 28.07.2023 as per the details given by the Minister of State for Heavy Industries Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, in a written reply in Lok Sabha .

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- Implemented on **April 1, 2019** with a total outlay of **Rs 10000 crore** for a period of **3 years**.
- It was further extended for a period of two years **up to March 31, 2024**.
- The second phase of Fame India Scheme stresses on electrification of public transportation and shared transportation.
- The scheme aims to **provide incentives to buyers (end users or consumers) of electric vehicles** to enable wider adoption, which may be encouraged as a purchase price.
- It is implemented and monitored by **National Automotive Board under D/o Heavy Industry**
- The Government aims to cover highways as well and establish charging stations on both sides of the road with a **gap of 25 km between two consecutive stations under the scheme**.

Objectives:

- This scheme encourages electric vehicle manufacturers and related providers to manufacture a higher number of electric vehicles in the country.
- Its goal is to reduce vehicular emissions and air pollution levels within the country.
- This scheme also aims to establish an electric charging infrastructure.
- In addition, Fame India Scheme targets to convert **30% of total transportation** into electric vehicles by the year **2030**.

Incentives provided under the scheme:

- **Electric Two-wheelers:** 10 lakh registered electric two-wheelers will get an incentive of ₹ 20,000 each.
- **Electric Four-wheelers:** **35,000 electric 4-wheelers** with ex-factory price of ₹ **15 lakh** will get an incentive of ₹ **1.5 lakh** each.
- **Hybrid Four-wheelers:** Through this scheme, the Government will provide ₹ **13,000 - ₹ 20,000** as an incentive to hybrid 4-wheelers with ex-factory price of ₹ 15 lakh.
- **e-rickshaws:** **5 lakh e-rickshaws (each)** can avail ₹ 50,000 as incentives.
- **e-buses:** Nearly **8000 e-buses** with a maximum **ex-factory price of ₹ 2 crores** will receive an incentive of ₹ **50 lakh** each.

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

12. PEHCHAN Scheme

Recent News:

The Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha provided details of financial benefits /assistance provided to registered handicraft artisan under the schemes.

About:

- Launched in **2016**
- It aims to provide new universal identity to handicrafts artisans so that the benefits of various schemes of Government of India
- **Aadhar linked Pehchan Cards** are issued after due verification by field functionaries of Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).

Components:

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- Skill & Training upgradation, design development workshops, tool kit distributions, marketing platforms, infrastructural support.
- Individual benefits to artisans like **Mudra loan, Interest Subvention and Margin Money on Mudra loan.**
- **Shilp Guru and National Awards** to master artisans.
- Monthly pension of **Rs. 8,000** to awardee artisans under indigent circumstances.

13. Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)

Recent News:

The Government is implementing Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) to provide the industry with state of the art infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units.

About:

- Launched in **2005**
- The scheme was launched by merging two schemes namely the **Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES)** and the **Textiles Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme(TCIDS).**
- The total project cost shall be funded through a mix of Equity from the Ministry of Textiles, State Government, State Industrial Development Corporation, Industry and Loan from Banks or Financial Institutions.
- The Government of India's(GOI) support under the Scheme by way of Grant or Equity will be limited to **40% of the project cost (90% in case of north-eastern states) subject to a ceiling of Rs.40 crore.**
- The scheme aims to create **new parks of international standards** as potential growth centres.
- The scheme is a **demand driven scheme** in which the prospective entrepreneurs can send their proposals to the Government.
- It targets **industrial locations with high growth potential** which require world-class infrastructure support.
- Till now, **31 parks** have been completed under the scheme while **23** more are under different stages of completion.
- The scheme has so far attracted an investment of **Rs. 14,243.69 crore** and generated direct/indirect employment of **1,05,709 persons.**

14. National Handloom Development Program

Recent News:

The Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, provided details about the various schemes implemented to promote the handloom and handicraft sector and welfare of weavers/artisans across the country including State of Tamil Nadu:

1. National Handloom Development Program
2. Raw Material Supply Scheme
3. National Handicraft Development Program
4. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

About:

- Formulated for implementation during financial year **2021-22 to 2025-26.**

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- It aims to facilitate the **sustainable development of handloom weavers** located in and outside identified handloom clusters including Self Help Groups, NGOs.
- The scheme follows **need based approach** for integrated and holistic development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers.
- The financial assistance provided under the scheme is set as **₹2 Crore per project**.

Components:

- Block Level Cluster Projects
- Handloom Marketing Assistance
- Concessional Credit
- Handloom Census
- Handloom Park
- National Centre for Textile Design
- R&D Projects
- J&K Wool Development Project
- Special Projects for Special Category States
- National Institutes of Open Schooling(NIOS)
- Cluster Cell at Headquarters
- Innovative Ideas
- Publicity, Advertisement, Monitoring, Training & Evaluation of Scheme

Objectives:

- Improving the economic as well as the social standards of the **handloom weavers**.
- Increasing the employment opportunities for the **handloom weavers**.
- Systematic & Proper management of the handloom industries.
- Introducing new technologies in the handloom industries
- Enhancing the relationship between the national and international markets for handloom products.

15. Raw Material Supply Scheme

Recent News:

The Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, provided details about the various schemes implemented to promote the handloom and handicraft sector and welfare of weavers/artisans across the country including State of Tamil Nadu:

1. National Handloom Development Program
2. Raw Material Supply Scheme
3. National Handicraft Development Program
4. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

About:

- Approved for implementation during period from **2021-22 to 2025-26**

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- **The Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)** was renamed as **Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS)**
- This scheme is being **implemented throughout the country** to make available Yarn to Handloom weavers.
- Under the Scheme, **reimbursement and price subsidies** are provided for the raw material in the Textile sector.

Objectives:

- To make available quality yarn & their blends to the eligible Handloom weavers at subsidized rates.
- To set the benchmark price and quality of yarn in the open market
- To overcome the poor dyeing facilities in the sector, supply of dyed yarn by Implementing Agency(IA), helping weaver in product diversification, and hence marketability of produce.
- To facilitate handloom weavers' engagement in the sector, help competing with Mill Sector, as handloom productivity is less compared to power loom.

Components:

- **Transport Subsidy Component:-** Freight reimbursement for transportation of yarn (All types)
- **Price Subsidy Component:- 15% Price Subsidy on Yarn** (through DBT to linked bank account) with quantitative restrictions. 15% price subsidy will be available on cotton hank yarn, domestic silk, woollen and linen yarn and blended yarn of natural fibres with quantity restrictions.

16. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

Recent News:

The Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, provided details about the various schemes implemented to promote the handloom and handicraft sector and welfare of weavers/artisans across the country including State of Tamil Nadu:

1. National Handloom Development Program
2. Raw Material Supply Scheme
3. National Handicraft Development Program
4. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

About:

- Approved in **2021** with a total outlay of **Rs 160 crore**.
- The scheme will continue **up to March 2026**.
- Under the scheme, **infrastructural support, design & technology upgradation, market access etc** will be provided to handicrafts artisans.
- The scheme aims to create **world-class infrastructure** which will cater to the business needs of local artisans & SMEs in order to boost production and export.
- The focus will be on integration of **scattered artisans**, linking them to SMEs in the handicrafts sector to ensure economies of scale.

Components:

- Soft interventions like Baseline Survey and Activity Mapping, Skill Training, Improved Tool Kits, Marketing events, Seminars, Publicity, Design workshops, Capacity Building, etc will be provided.
- Hard interventions like Common Facility Centers, Emporiums, Raw Material Banks, Trade Facilitation Centers, Common Production Centers, Design and Resource Centers will also be granted.

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

- The integrated projects will be taken up for development through Central or State Handicrafts Corporations, Autonomous Body-Council-Institute, Registered Cooperatives, Producer companies of artisans.
- The artisans will be provided with margin money of **Rs. 4000** to complete one cycle of production-cum-marketing within three months.

Objectives:

- To raise the living standards of millions of poor artisans located in far flung areas of the country as well as employment generation.
- To provide requisite support in terms of infrastructure, technology, product diversification, design development, marketing and promotion, social security and other components that are necessary for the sustainability of craftsmen/artisans engaged in the Handicrafts sector.
- To create more livelihood opportunities for people through interventions in the industry and to increase the income of professionals / professionals involved in the field.

17. National Handicraft Development Program

Recent News:

The Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, provided details about the various schemes implemented to promote the handloom and handicraft sector and welfare of weavers/artisans across the country including State of Tamil Nadu:

1. National Handloom Development Program
2. Raw Material Supply Scheme
3. National Handicraft Development Program
4. Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme

About:

- Launched in **2021**.
- The scheme is introduced to generate **feedback on the economic, social, aesthetic, and promotional aspects** of various crafts and artisans in the handicraft sector.
- Under this scheme, **the surveys and studies** are conducted to generate suitable inputs for planning purposes.
- **Workshops, seminars, conferences, radio programs**, etc. are organized in online as well as offline mode to sensitize the artisans on the latest development in the Handicrafts sector.

Eligible entities:

- Institutions or Organizations setup as Autonomous Organisations, under a specific statute or as a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or Indian Trusts Act, 1882.
- Producer Companies and Section-8 Companies (Company Act, 2013).
- Non-Government Organizations.
- Educational and Other Institutions.
Urban and Rural Local Self-government Institutions.
- Export Promotion Councils.
- Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIC).

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- National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy, New Delhi.
- State/Central Government agencies

Financial Incentives:

1. The financial assistance shall be extended to eligible organizations as 100% grants in aid.
2. The payments to all beneficiaries/concerned must be made through PFMS only.
3. The disbursement of the assistance will be in two installments:
 - a) 1st Installment: **75% of the sanctioned amount** will be released as an advance.
 - b) 2nd Installment: **25% of the sanctioned amount** will be in the form of reimbursement.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

18. Public Distribution Scheme

Recent News:

The Government has planned to increase distribution of Millets under public distribution scheme.

About:

- Established in **1960** in response to a lack of food and rising costs.
- Re-launched as **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)** in **June 1997**.
- The program is controlled by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**, Government of India.
- It is jointly operated by **Central and State Governments**.
- The program is carried out by a network of **fair-pricing shops (FPS)**, which provide food and other necessities to the underprivileged and destitute.
- Among the many products, the PDS covers are **rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, and cooking oil**.
- Food grains are purchased from farmers at a set minimum support price by the government, which then provides them to the underprivileged at discounted prices.

Objectives:

- To provide food grains and other essential items to vulnerable sections of the society at reasonable prices
- To have a moderating influence on the open market prices of cereals, the distribution of which constitutes a fairly big share of the total marketable surplus
- To attempt socialization in the matter of distribution of essential commodities.

Beneficiaries:

Under the operations of TPDS, the beneficiaries were divided into two categories:

1. Households Below the poverty line (BPL)
2. Households Above the poverty line (APL)

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EAST REGION

19. Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)-State Scheme

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

Union Minister for Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Shri G. Kishan Reddy in a written reply in Rajya Sabha provided details about the 1635 projects sanctioned under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)-State Scheme; of which, 1307 projects worth Rs. 11,128.00 crore have already been completed.

About:

- **Launched in 2021.**
- **It is a Centrally sponsored scheme.**
- It has been restructured as **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)** in 2017.
- It aims to ensure speedy development **of infrastructure in the North Eastern Region** by increasing the flow of budgetary financing for specific viable infrastructure projects/schemes in the region.
- Central and State Government allocate the funds on **90:10 basis.**
- Funds from the **Central Pool can be released for State sector as well as Central sector projects/schemes.**
- Both Physical and social infrastructure sectors are considered under the scheme Physical and social infrastructure sectors are considered

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

20. Nagar Van Yojana

Recent News:

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha talked about the Nagar Van Yojana and 385 projects sanctioned under the scheme.

About:

- Implemented in **2021.**
- The Ministry provides one time grant to the concerned State government/ City Local Authority/ land owning agency based on the work requirement subject to the maximum Grant of **Rs. 2.00 crores per City Forest.**
- The assistance is shared with concerned State in the ratio of **80:20.**
- The scheme **aims to develop 200 Urban Forests across the country** in the next five years.
- **Warje Urban Forest in Pune** (Maharashtra) will be **considered as a role model** for the Scheme.
- The scheme will be **financed by the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016) funds.**

Objectives:

- To create 200 City Forests in the Country. A City Forest will be developed in each City with Municipal Council.
- Creating green space and an aesthetic environment in an urban set-up
- To create awareness on plants and biodiversity.
- Conservation education on important flora and fauna of the region including threat perception.
- Ecological rejuvenation of the cities-Forests the green lungs will contribute to Environmental improvement of cities by pollution mitigation, cleaner air, noise reduction, water harvesting and reduction of heat islands effect.
- In-situ Biodiversity conservation.
- Health benefits to citizens.
- Making cities climate resilient.

Components:

- Fencing as appropriate.
- Wooded blocks with emphasis on locally appropriate species.

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- Plants to include shrubs, climbers, medicinal plants, seasonal flowering plants etc. to represent floral biodiversity.
- Irrigation/ rain water harvesting facility.
- Open Air Conservation education displays, signages, brochures etc.
- Public convenience, drinking water facilities, benches etc.
- Walkways/ footpath, Jogging and cycle track.

About CAMPA Funds

- **Created in 2002.**
- In simple terms, it can be called as the compensation in monetary values that has to be deposited along with the net value of the land under the **CAMPA law** by the authorities who are diverting the forest lands for non-forest purposes so as to raise the forest.
- CAMPA law seeks **to mitigate the impact of diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes** by making sure through a well-defined institutional mechanism, that the funds are released and utilized quickly, efficiently and transparently.
- The CAMPA law is applicable to **States, Union Territories, and the Centre** as well.

21. School Nursery Yojana

Recent News:

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha talked about the School Nursery Yojana.

About:

- The Scheme is initiated for a period of **five years on Pilot Basis.**
- It will involve students of **Class 6-9.**
- The scheme aims at involving school students in raising plant nurseries to bring them closer to natural environment, help them understand the natural processes of germination.
- A provision of **Rs. 2.50 Crores** in the first year will be provided from **CAMPA** for the purpose of School Nursery Yojana.
- Later on budgetary requirement will be assessed based on actual requirement of maintenance funds.
- **State Forest Departments** will guide the schools and provide all technical support to schools selected under this scheme.
- In the first year **1,000 Schools** will be selected and will be provided a grant of **Rs. 25,000/-** for development of Nursery
- Different Schools will be selected every year for Grants under the Scheme.

Eligibility:

- All students from **class 6-9.**
- Schools should have around **100 sq. meter of open green space** for developing nursery and carry out green activities.
- The schools with functioning **Eco Clubs** will be given preference.
- School Principals must agree for maintaining the **nursery for at least 5 years.**
- The Schools should have provision/ create **facilities of rainwater harvesting** and use recycled/ treated waste water for irrigation.

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- The Scheme will gradually try to cover **one school in each district**, which will later act as Lead Schools and guide other schools in such activities.

Objectives:

- To create an everlasting bond between the young school students and plants, trees
- To provide an opportunity to the students to learn about nature
- To develop an organic linkage and positive emotions for the environment among the school students
- To keep the schools and the neighbor green

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

22. Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana

Recent News:

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Rameswar Teli, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha provided details about the yojana .

About:

- Launched in **2019**.
- The aim of the scheme is to **provide financial assistance to farmers and other stakeholders** for setting up commercial projects for the production of biofuels.
- The beneficiaries of the scheme will have to **mandatorily supply the ethanol generated from their projects to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)**.
- Bioethanol produced from these projects blended with petrol can help earn carbon credits..
- **Centre for High Technology (CHT)**, a technical body will be the implementation Agency for the scheme.
- Under the scheme funds have been allocated for supporting **12 Commercial projects, 10 Demonstration Projects**
- Total funding for this project is **Rs. 1969.50 crores**.
- The scheme is to be executed throughout **2018-19 to 2023-24 in two phases**.

Benefits:

- The PM JI-VAN Yojana will help in **reducing import dependency** by substituting fossil fuels with biofuels.
- It will help in achieving targets of **reducing GHG emissions** through progressive blending or substitution of fossil fuels.
- This scheme addresses environmental issues caused due to burning of crop residues, etc.
- It will create employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas in these Ethanol projects.
- It will also **increase farmer income** by providing them remunerative income for their otherwise waste agricultural residues.
- PM JI-VAN scheme is a step towards the **Swachh Bharat Mission** by supporting biofuel usage and ethanol projects.
- This will indigenize second-generation biomass to **ethanol technologies**.

23. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

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The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Rameswar Teli, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha provided details about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

About:

- PMUY launched on **May 01, 2016**.
- Ujjwala 2.0 was launched on **August 10, 2021**.
- It aims to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with clean cooking fuel.
- Under the scheme deposit-free LPG connection is given to the eligible household with financial assistance of **Rs 1,600 per connection**.
- Free of cost first LPG refill and gas stove is provided for the first time by public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- The scheme will cover BPL families under all forms of distributorship and for various sizes of cylinders (like 14.2 kg, 5 kg, etc.) depending on the field situation.

Target Beneficiaries:

Under the scheme, an adult woman belonging to any of the following categories, is an eligible beneficiary under the scheme.

- SC Households
- ST Households
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)
- Most Backward Classes
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)
- Tea and Ex- Tea Garden tribes
- Forest Dwellers
- People residing in Islands and River Islands
- SECC Households (AHL TIN)
- Poor Household as per 14-point declaration
- Applicant must have attained 18 years of age.
- There should not be any other LPG connections in the same household.

Benefits:

- Cash assistance for PMUY connections is provided by Government of India - Rs. 1600 (for a connection 14.2kg cylinder/ Rs. 1150 for a 5 kg cylinder).
- The cash assistance covers:
 - Security Deposit of Cylinder – Rs. 1250 for 14.2 kg cylinder/ Rs. 800 for 5 kg cylinder
 - Pressure Regulator – Rs. 150
 - LPG Hose – Rs. 100
 - Domestic Gas Consumer Card – Rs. 25
 - Inspection/ Installation/ Demonstration charges – Rs. 75

For the year 2023-24, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a subsidy of Rs. 200 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year to be provided to the beneficiaries.

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

24. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

Recent News:

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Rameswar Teli, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha provided the details the number of Bio-CNG (CBG) plants set up under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative in the State of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh as on 30th June 2023.

About:

- Launched in **October 2018** in association with **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.**
- It aims at set up of Compressed Bio-Gas production plants and make available in the market by inviting Expression of Interest from potential entrepreneurs.
- It is planned to roll out **5,000 plants by 2025.**
- CBG produced at these plants will be transported through **cascades of cylinders** to the fuel station networks of OMCs for marketing as a green transport fuel alternative
- To be retailed through OMCs, CBG price is fixed for **three years from 1.10.2018.**
- The price will be reviewed at the end of 3 years.

Benefits:

- Responsible waste management, reduction in carbon emissions and pollution
- Additional revenue source for farmers
- Boost to entrepreneurship, rural economy and employment
- Support to national commitments in achieving climate change goals
- Reduction in import of natural gas and crude oil
- Buffer against crude oil/gas price fluctuations

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

25. National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing innovations

Recent News:

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that NIDHI program has various components to support innovations, startups and startup incubation ecosystem in the country.

About:

- Introduced in **2016** with a budget allocation of **Rs. 500 crores** for implementing various components of the program.
- It is an umbrella program is pioneered by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, for nurturing ideas and innovations into successful startups.
- The key stakeholders of NIDHI includes various **departments and ministries of the central government, state governments, academic and R & D institutions, mentors, financial institutions, angel investors, venture capitalists, industry champions and private sectors.**

Objectives:

- To take forward student innovations in IEDC / NewGen IEDC programme to commercialization stage.
- To promote student startups.

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- To accelerate the journey of idea to prototype by providing initial funding assistance

Components:

There are eight components of the National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI). These include:

- **NIDHI-PRAYAS:** Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring Innovators and Startups. This component provides grants of up to Rs. 10 lakhs and access to fabrication labs (Fab Labs) for innovators to develop prototypes of their ideas.
- **NIDHI-EIR:** Entrepreneur-in-Residence. This component provides fellowships of up to Rs. 30,000 per month for a period of one year to aspiring entrepreneurs who want to pursue their startup ideas full-time.
- **NIDHI-TBI:** Technology Business Incubator. This component supports the establishment and operation of technology business incubators (TBIs) that provide physical infrastructure, mentoring, networking, training and other services to startups.
- **NIDHI-SSS:** Seed Support System. This component provides seed funding of up to Rs. 1 crore to startups incubated in TBIs for product development, validation, marketing and scaling up.
- **NIDHI-Accelerator:** Accelerator Program. This component supports the design and delivery of accelerator programs that provide intensive mentoring, coaching, exposure and access to potential investors and customers of startups.
- **NIDHI-CoE:** Centre of Excellence. This component supports the creation and strengthening of centres of excellence (CoEs) that act as hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship in various domains and sectors.
- **NIDHI-GCC:** Grand Challenges and Competitions for scouting innovations. This component organizes grand challenges and competitions to identify and reward innovative solutions to social and economic problems.
- **NIDHI-SPICE:** Sustainable Progress through Innovation and Commercialization by Entrepreneurs. This component facilitates the creation and sustenance of a conducive policy environment for innovation and entrepreneurship at the national, state and local levels.

Programs under NIDHI

Following programs have been launched under NIDHI:

- Setting up of Incubators
- Setting up of Accelerators
- Building Seed Fund
- Proof of Concept grant for entrepreneurs

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS

26. River Devika Rejuvenation Project

Recent News:

Union Minister of State, Dr Jitendra Singh sheds light on the progress of North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika.

About:

- Started in **March 2019** under the **National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)**.

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- The initiative is inspired by the **Namami Ganga campaign**, aims to safeguard the **sacred Devika River's purity and health**.
- The project receives **investments exceeding Rs 190 crores**.
- Allocation is shared between **Central and Union Territory (UT) at a 90:10 ratio**.
- The project also includes the **construction of three sewage treatment plants**, sewerage network of 129.27 km, development of two cremation ghats, protection fencing and landscaping, small hydropower plants and three solar power plants.
- On completion of the project, the **rivers will see reduction in pollution and improvement in water quality**.

About River Devika

- Devika river originates from the **hilly Suddha Mahadev temple** in the **Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir** and flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it merges with the Ravi river.
- The river holds religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the **sister of river Ganga**.
- In 2020, **Devika Bridge** was inaugurated in Udhampur.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

27. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons' (PDUNWFS)

Recent News:

The minister of Youth affairs and sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur in a reply to Lok Sabha stated about the state-wise and sports-wise number of sportspersons supported from this fund during last five years.

About:

- The fund was set up in **March, 1982**.
- The scheme was **revised in May, 2016** to provide for lump sum ex-gratia assistance to outstanding Sportspersons of yesteryears.
- Provision of pension has been done away due an existing scheme of Pension for Meritorious Sportspersons.

Objectives:

- To provide suitable assistance to outstanding sportspersons now living in indigent sportspersons.
- To provide suitable assistance to outstanding sportspersons injured during the period of their training for competitions and also during the competitions, depending on the nature of the injury.
- To provide suitable assistance to outstanding sportspersons who bring glory to the country in international field and who are disabled as an after effect of their strenuous training or otherwise and to provide them assistance for medical treatment.
- To administrator and apply the funds of the Fund to promote the welfare of the sportspersons generally in order to alleviate distress among them and their dependents in indigent circumstances
- To administer and apply the funds of the Fund for active sportspersons individually or collectively as a group.
- To do all other things which are incidental to the above objectives

Financial assistance:

- Assistance to an outstanding sportsperson now living in indigent circumstances, subject to a maximum of **Rs. 5 lakh**

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- Assistance subject to a maximum of **Rs. 10 lakh**, to an outstanding sportsperson **for injuries** sustained during training for and participation in sports competitions.
- Assistance, not exceeding **Rs. 5.00 lakh** in each case, to the families of **deceased outstanding sportspersons** living in indigent circumstances.
- Financial assistance not exceeding **Rs. 10 lakh for medical treatment** of an outstanding sportsperson or of any of his/her family members living in indigent circumstances.
- Financial assistance, not exceeding **Rs. 2 lakh to coaches and support personnel, umpires, referees, and match officials** who have been attached with national coaching camps for senior category players and national teams (senior category).

Eligibility:

- To be eligible for the scheme, the applicant **must be a serving or retired sportsperson** who has represented India at a national or international level sports competition.
- The annual income of the applicant's self/family **must be less than Rs. 4 LPA**.
- The applicant must also qualify as one of the follow:
 1. Injured during the period of their training for competitions and also during the competitions
 2. Disabled as an after-effect of their strenuous training or otherwise
 3. Living in indigent circumstances or dependents of a deceased sportsperson.

MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

28. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Recent News:

The Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil in a written reply in Lok Sabha details of the total funds released under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

About:

- Launched on **24th April 2018** as an umbrella scheme.
- It aims to develop and strengthen the Panchayati Raj System across India in the rural areas.
- The scheme has been extended for a period of **four years from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026** with the aim of developing the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) governance capabilities.
- The Revamped RGSA extends to all States and Union Territories (UTs) of the country.
- **Rs 5,911 crore** is the total financial outlay for this scheme.
- The sharing ratio for the **State components** will be in the ratio of **60:40** except NE and Hilly States, where the Central and State Ratio will be **90:10**.
- For all UTs, the **Central share will be 100%**.

Objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity building of the elected members of the Panchayati Raj System.
- To create opportunities for knowledge creation under the Panchayat System.
- For effective Gram Sabhas functions like people participation, transparency, and accountability under the Panchayat System.
- To promote the powers and responsibilities of the Panchayats for the rural development of India.

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAY

29. Bharat New Car Assessment Program (BNCAP)

Recent News:

The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP), which will test and rate car safety standards in India.

About:

- This comprehensive program is set to come into effect from **October 1, 2023**.
- The program aims to provide consumers with a tool for comparing the crash safety of different motor vehicles available in the market.
- The program is applicable to passenger vehicles with **not more than eight seats** in addition to the driver's seat with gross vehicle weight not exceeding **3,500 kgs**.
- The test procedure involves **Frontal Offset Test, Side Impact Test and Pole-Side Impact Test**.
- Car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their vehicles under the BNCAP norms and get them tested
- Based on the test results, vehicles will be assigned star ratings for both **Adult Occupants (AOP) and Child Occupants (COP) safety**.

MINISTRY OF NEW & RENEWABLE RESOURCES

30. National Bio-Energy Program

Recent News:

The Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power has informed that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy notified the National Bioenergy Programme (NBP) in November, 2022 for the period 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026.

About:

- The program will be implemented for a period of 1.04.2021 to 31.03.2026 with the outlay of Rs. 858 Crore under Phase-I.
- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** will be the implementing agency for the program.
- It aims to produce biogas and bio CNG, and electricity from urban, industrial and agricultural waste and residues.
- The government will offer **financial assistance to project developers and pay service charges to** implementing agencies, including inspection firms for commissioning the waste-to-energy plants.
- Standard central financial assistance (CFA) for the biogas projects will be ₹25 lakh for 12,000 cubic meter a day and maximum pegged at ₹5 crore.
- Financial assistance of ₹75 lakh per MW for new biogas plants and ₹50 lakh per MW for existing units will be given.

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Sub-Schemes under the Program:

The National Bio- Energy Program will comprise the following sub-schemes:

- **Waste to Energy Program:** It is Program on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues to support the setting up of large Biogas, Bio CNG and Power plants. **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** will be the implementing agency for the program.
- **Biomass Program:** It is a Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries to support setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse based power generation projects.
- **Biogas Program:** To support setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

31. Graphene-Aurora program

Recent News:

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launched the 'Graphene-Aurora program' at a function in Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.

About:

- The program is funded jointly by the Government of India, the Government of Kerala, and industry partners, including Carborundum Pvt Limited.
- With a budget of Rs 94.85 Crore, the program aims to foster innovation and commercialization of graphene technologies
- The program's focus on emerging graphene technology is expected to position India as a leader in the global new materials market.
- **India Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre (I-GEIC)**, a not-for-profit company, will act as a bridge between research and commercialization, providing a comprehensive facility for startups and industries to develop and scale graphene technologies.

What is Graphene?

- Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice, forming a two-dimensional structure.
- It is known for its remarkable properties including exceptional strength, electrical conductivity and thermal conductivity.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE

32. Vishwakarma Yojana

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

In the recent **Independence Day address**, the Prime Minister unveiled two significant initiatives aimed at empowering **artisans, namely Vishwakarma Yojana**.

About:

- This scheme, named **after the divine architect and craftsman Vishwakarma**.
- The scheme has been allocated a budget ranging from **₹13,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore** for five financial years from 2023-2024 to 2027-2028.
- The scheme is designed to **uplift individuals skilled in traditional craftsmanship**, particularly from the Other Backward Class (OBC).
- Artisans and craftspeople enrolled in the scheme will receive a **PM Vishwakarma certificate and an identity card**.
- They will also be **eligible for collateral-free credit support of up to ₹1 lakh (first tranche)** and ₹2 lakh (second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- The scheme offers a stipend of **₹500 for skill training** and ₹1,500 for the purchase of modern tools.
- The scheme encompasses **18 traditional trades across both rural and urban areas**.
- Registration for the Vishwakarma Yojana can be completed at **common services centers in villages**.

33. Lakhpati Didi Scheme

Recent News:

In the recent **Independence Day address**, the Prime Minister unveiled two significant initiatives aimed at empowering **women's self-help groups (SHGs), namely Vishwakarma Yojana**.

About:

- The scheme to create **two crore "lakhpati didis" (prosperous sisters) in villages**.
- This scheme aligns with the broader mission of poverty alleviation and economic empowerment.
- Under this scheme, **women will be provided skill training so that they can earn over Rs 1 lakh per year**.
- This initiative aims to leverage technology to transform the agricultural landscape while empowering women in **rural communities**.
- Drones will be **provided to women SHGs for agricultural activities**.
- Around **15,000 women's SHGs will be given training in operating and repairing drones**.
- Under the scheme, women will be trained in skills like **LED bulb making, plumbing, among others**.

34. Digital India Program:

Recent News:

The Union Cabinet recently approved the expansion of the Digital India program with the total outlay is ₹14,903 crores.

About:

- Originally launched on **July 1, 2015**.
- It aims to facilitate the **delivery of government services through digital means** and promote digital literacy and technology adoption across India.

Focus Areas:

The vision is centred on **three key areas**:

- Digital infrastructure as Utility to Every Citizen

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- Governance and services on demand
- Digital empowerment of citizens

Scope of the program

The overall scope of this program is:

- To prepare India for a knowledge future.
- On being transformative that is to realize IT (Indian Talent) + IT (Information Technology) = IT (India Tomorrow).
- Making technology central to enabling change.
- On being an Umbrella Program – covering many departments.
- The Digital India Program will pull together many existing schemes which would be restructured and re-focused and implemented in a synchronized manner.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

35. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY)

Recent News:

The Central Government's innovative employment incentive scheme, the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY), has exceeded its initial employment generation goals.

About:

- The scheme is to be operational for the period **2020-2023**.
- The outlay approved by the Government for the total period of scheme implementation is **Rs. 22810 Crore**.
- It is being implemented through the **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**.
- It aims to boost employment generation and minimise the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Under the scheme, the Government of India is bearing both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers' share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments **with up to 1000 employees**.
- For establishments with **over 1000 employees, only the employee's EPF contributions** (12% of wages) were covered in respect of new employees.
- The scheme had set a target to benefit approximately 7.18 million employees across India.

Beneficiaries:

- **Every establishment registered** with EPFO and their **new employees (earning wage less than Rs. 15,000/- per month)** if the establishments take new employees on or after 1.10.2020 and upto 30th June, 2021 or those who lost jobs between 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020.
- The beneficiaries registered upto 31st March, 2022 will continue to receive the benefits for **2 years from the date of registration** under the scheme.