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Interview Date & Location will be announced after 20th September 2023

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May 2023

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

1. Swachhata Pakhwada

Recent News:

- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs celebrated Swachhata Pakhwada from **16th to 30th April 2023**.

About:

- Started in **April 2016**
- Aimed at bringing a **fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata** by engaging Ministries/Departments in their jurisdictions.
- An **annual calendar is pre-circulated** among the Ministries to help them plan for the Pakhwada activities.
- The Ministries observing Swachhata Pakhwada are **monitored closely using the online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha** where action plans, images, and videos related to Swachhata activities are uploaded and shared.
- Some of these activities included a **cleanliness drive, reviewing and weeding out of old physical files, identifying old obsolete items for auction, cleaning of electrical switchboards/fans/AC, and whitewashing in all rooms** of the Ministry.
- After observing Swachhata Pakhwada, Ministries/ Departments announce their achievements through a press conference and other communication tools.
- For the Pakhwada fortnight, observing ministries are considered **Swachhata Ministries** and are expected to bring qualitative Swachhata improvements in their jurisdictions.
- Swachhata Pakhwada **2023** concluded with **prize distribution to the top three sections of the Ministry** that stood best on Swachhata Parameters during Pakhwada.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

2. Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme

Recent News:

- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has launched the scheme, **“Vivad se Vishwas I – Relief to MSMEs”** to provide relief to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during COVID-19.
- The scheme was announced in the **Union Budget 2023-24** by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

About:

- The scheme **aims to provide relief to MSMEs** affected by the pandemic.
- It helps **taxpayers end their tax disputes with the Department** by paying disputed tax, getting a waiver from payment of interest and penalty, and getting immunity from prosecution.
- The scheme is **applicable for all tax disputes pending as on 31st March 2023**, irrespective of the stage of litigation.
- Under the scheme, Ministries **refund performance security, bid security, and liquidated damages forfeited/ deducted** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- Certain relief has also been provided to MSMEs debarred for default in the execution of contracts during the COVID-19 period.
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has developed a dedicated web page for the implementation of this scheme.
- Eligible claims shall be processed only through **GeM**.
- Relief will be provided in **all contracts** for procurement of Goods and Services, entered into by any Ministry/Department with MSME.

Eligibility:

- **Registered as a Medium, Small, or Micro Enterprise** as per the relevant scheme of the Ministry of MSME on the date of the claim by supplier/ contractor. MSME could be registered for any category of Goods and Services.
- The original delivery period/ completion period stipulated in the contract was between **19.02.2020 and 31.03.2022 (both dates are inclusive)**.

Amount of Relief:

- 95% of the **performance security** forfeited shall be refunded.
- 95% of the **Bid security** shall be refunded.
- 95% of the **Liquidated Damages (LD)** deducted shall be refunded.
- 95% of the **Risk Purchase amount** realized shall be refunded.
- In case any firm has been debarred only due to default in execution of such contracts, such **debarment shall also be revoked**, by issuing an appropriate order by the procuring entity.
- **No interest** shall be paid on such refunded amount.

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS

3. Mission Karmayogi

Recent News:

- Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh provided details about "**Mission Karmayogi**" while addressing the iGOT Karmashala 2023 – a consultative workshop.

About:

- Launched in **September 2020**.
- It is a **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCP)**.
- The program aims at **building a future-ready civil service** with the right attitude, skills, and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India.
- The Mission **envisages a comprehensive reform** of the capacity-building apparatus at the individual, institutional, and process levels for efficient public service delivery.
- The training of Civil Servants at various Academies will be restructured to include the optimum use of the digital learning platform of **iGOT**.

Components:

Mission Karmayogi will have the following six pillars:-

- Policy Framework

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- Institutional Framework
- Competency Framework
- Digital Learning Framework (Integrated Government Online Training Karmayogi Platform (iGOT-Karmayogi)
- Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Implementation

- **New National Architecture** for Civil Services Capacity Building
- Comprehensive reform of the capacity-building apparatus at **individual, institutional, and process levels** for efficient public service delivery
- **PM led HR Council** to approve and monitor Civil Service Capacity Building Plans
- **Capacity Building Commission** to harmonize training standards, create shared faculty and resources, and have a supervisory role over all Central Training Institutions
- **Wholly owned SPV** to own and operate the online learning platform and facilitate world-class learning content market-place

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

4. AHDF KCC Campaign

Recent News:

- Union Cabinet Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala will officially launch the **Nationwide AHDF KCC Campaign for 2023-24** through virtual mode

About:

- Organized from **1st May 2023 to 31st March 2024**.
- The campaign is aimed to expand the benefit of the **Kisan Credit Card to all eligible animal husbandry, dairy, and fishery farmers**.
- The campaign will focus on providing credit facilities to small landless farmers involved in animal husbandry and fisheries activities.
- District Level KCC Camps will be organized weekly during the current campaign.
- These camps will be coordinated by the **KCC Coordination Committee** led by the Lead District Manager (LDM).

About KCC scheme

- Introduced in **August 1998** by Indian banks.
- Prepared by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** on the recommendations of the R. V. Gupta committee to provide term loans for agricultural needs.
- Aims to meet the comprehensive **credit requirements** of the agriculture sector and by 2019 for fisheries and animal husbandry by giving financial support to farmers.
- Participating institutions include all **commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks, and state cooperative banks**.

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- KCC covers **post-harvest expenses, produce marketing loans, consumption requirements of farmer households, working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture, and investment credit requirement** for agriculture and allied activities.
- The scheme comes with an **ATM-enabled RuPay debit card** with facilities for one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, and any number of withdrawals within the limit.
- The scheme has **short-term credit limits** for crops and term loans.
- Individuals involved in farming and agricultural activities can apply for the KCC.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

5. Food Street Project

Recent News:

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed the **'Food Street Project'** to develop **100 healthy and hygienic food streets** across the country with senior officers of the Health Ministry and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

About:

- The fundamental goal of this project is to **encourage healthy and safe healthy food practices** among community members and food businesses
- The project aims to create **100 food streets across the country**, where vendors will sell nutritious and delicious food items that meet the guidelines of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The project will be implemented through the **National Health Mission (NHM)** in convergence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and with technical support from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Financial assistance of **₹1 crore per food street/district** will be given to States and Union Territories.
- Assistance will be provided under the NHM in the ratio of **60:40 or 90:10**.
- Financial assistance would be provided for activities such as the **provision of safe drinking water, hand washing, toilet facilities, tiled flooring of common areas, appropriate liquid & solid waste disposal**, etc.
- The technical assistance will include assistance in **designing food streets, preparation of an SOP, and providing training under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) protocol**.
- These initiatives also include training of **food handlers, independent third-party audits, and certification** under the Clean Street Food Hub initiative of the Eat Right India movement.

Features:

- The Food Street Project works with **local communities, authorities, and stakeholders to identify, develop and manage food streets** in different cities across India.
- The project provides **training, mentoring, and support to food vendors**, who are mostly women and youth from marginalized backgrounds.
- The project also helps them improve their **hygiene, quality, and sustainability standards**, as well as their marketing and branding skills.
- It organizes **events, festivals, and workshops** to showcase the food streets and attract more customers and tourists.

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6. Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana Phase- III

Recent News:

Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare launched the third phase of the Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY) of the Health Ministry which is being supported by Coal India Limited as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to commemorate World Thalassemia Day.

About:

- **Coal India Ltd** launched Phase-III of its Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY) on World Thalassemia Day 2023, with a project outlay of **Rs 30 crores**.
- As many as **300 children** suffering from Thalassemia are expected to receive Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) assistance during this phase.
- It also launched a dedicated **patient-friendly web portal** in Phase – III to make the online application to avail benefits of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY), a flagship CSR scheme of Coal India.
- The company extends financial assistance of **up to Rs. 10 lakhs to each patient** affected with Thalassemia, Aplastic Anemia, and MUD (Matched Unrelated Donor) subject to their eligibility to avail of benefits of the scheme.
- The first phase of the scheme was launched in **March 2017** and the second phase was launched in **October 2020**.
- **Phases I and II** of 'Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana' had benefited **356 BMTs** at a total project outlay of **Rs 40 crores**.
- The initiative funds BMTs in **10 hospitals** nationwide.
- Coal India Ltd is the **first Central Public Sector Enterprise** to use its CSR fund for curative treatment of children with Thalassemia and Aplastic Anemia with a total project outlay of **Rs 70 crores**.

7. iDrone Initiative

Recent News:

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Union Health Ministry conducted a trial run of blood bag delivery by drones under its **iDrone initiative**.

About:

- **Launched by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**
- **First used in the COVID-19 pandemic to distribute vaccines to inaccessible regions.**
- **This initiative aims to transport essential medical resources to remote areas within the country.**
- It is now being used to deliver blood and blood-related products which are supposed to be kept at a low temperature.
- The inaugural trial flight carried **10 units of whole blood samples** from the **Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida, and Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), New Delhi** in visual line of sight
- The protocol development, study designing, implementation, and coordination of the project are being undertaken by scientists from **ICMR headquarters**.

8. SAKSHAM

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- Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary launched the **SAKSHAM (Stimulating Advanced Knowledge for Sustainable Health Management)**, a Learning Management Information System (LMIS) of the Ministry of Housing & Family Welfare.

About:

- The initiative aims to provide all **health-related training programs** to healthcare professionals of the country in digital mode.
- The digital learning platform has been developed by the **National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)**, New Delhi.
- The portal will host theme-based customized courses developed in collaboration with global healthcare agencies like **WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, and reputed national/international institutes**.
- Currently, SAKSHAM is hosting more than **200 public health and 100 clinical courses** through online mode.
- The Courses offered include **Medical courses** offered by Medical Courses by National Medical College Network (NMCN) and Public Health Related Courses.

Features:

- A common portal for quality-driven, up-to-date, globally relevant courses in the health sector.
- A central repository for training and teaching materials.
- An enabler for case-based learning in the sector.
- A central database of trained healthcare professionals in the country.

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

9. Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)

Recent News:

- Recently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) on May 8th, 2023, in **200+ districts** across the country.

About:

- It will be organized **every month** from now onwards.
- The objective is to provide relevant apprenticeship training opportunities to local youth.
- Through a single platform, participating organizations can connect with potential apprentices and choose from their qualifications on the spot.
- The **selected individuals will also receive a monthly stipend by government criteria** for gaining new skills.
- The candidates who are **Class 5 to Class 12 pass-outs** or have skill training certificates or are **ITI certificate holders or Diploma holders or graduates** can apply in this apprenticeship mela.
- The candidates will be given a **choice of 500+ trades**, including welders, electricians, housekeepers, beauticians, mechanics, and others.
- The program will also provide **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)**-recognized certifications to the candidates.
- It aims to raise apprenticeship opportunities in India to **15 lakhs per annum** and 60 lakhs by 2026.

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

10. National Action Plan for skill development of Persons with Disabilities

Recent News:

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organized a National-Level Stakeholder Consultation under National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities on 4th May 2023 at the National Institute of Social Defence, Dwarka, New Delhi.

About:

- Implemented in **2016**.
- The Key objective is to create a **robust and vibrant ecosystem for quality education and skill development** for Persons with Disability in the country
- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is the implementing agency for the National Action Plan.
- The plan is implemented through a network of **training providers, vocational training centers, and employers**.
- The plan envisages the use of **Information Technology** for content, training delivery, and employer connect
- Financial assistance is provided by way of **Grant-in-Aid** for organizing training programs for the training institutions.
- The candidate should not be **less than 15 years** and **not more than 59 years** of age

Components:

- Training needs assessment unit
- Content Generation unit
- Training Monitoring and Certification unit
- Employer Connect unit
- IT Unit to provide support for the creation of E-learning modules, monitoring of training, E-certification, and training centers.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

11. Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi

Recent News:

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is launching “**Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi**, a groundbreaking Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program to ensure that India has the world’s largest, universal, high-quality preschool network, as suggested by the National Education Policy.

About:

- It is an **Early Childhood Care and Education program** under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
- The program will ensure the **holistic development** of all children **under the age of 6 years**
- It will provide **two hours of daily preschool instruction** in the mother tongue to children at Anganwadis, using various teaching-learning materials and methods.
- The key target areas under the program are **physical/motor, cognitive, socio-emotional-ethical, cultural/artistic, and the development of communication and early language, literacy, and numeracy**
- It will train **Anganwadi workers** to implement ECCE with the help of the **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**.

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- It will involve communities and civil society organizations in creating awareness and mobilizing support for ECCE.

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS

12. Harit Sagar

Recent News:

- To meet the larger vision of achieving the Zero Carbon Emission Goal, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways has launched 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines

About:

- The primary objective of the 'Harit Sagar Guidelines is to **minimize waste** and attain zero waste discharge from port operations.
- It provides a framework for major ports to develop an **action plan for reducing carbon emissions** within defined timelines.
- The 'Harit Sagar Guidelines align with **global sustainability standards** by providing provisions for adopting the Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard.
- The guidelines focus on the use of cleaner fuels such as **green hydrogen, green ammonia, and green methanol/ethanol**, and the development of port capabilities for storage, handling, and bunkering of these fuels.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

13. SVASTIK Initiative

Recent News:

- CSIR-NIScPR has launched the nationwide initiative with the brand name/tagline "SVASTIK" - Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge.

About:

- Launched by **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR)**
- Various **research organizations, higher education institutions, experts, and NGOs** have joined hands with SVASTIK to document and disseminate content on scientifically validated Indian traditional knowledge.
- The campaign using **attractive infographics, short audio-visuals, virtual lectures, webinars**, etc., has been launched on all popular social media platforms
- The dissemination has been done in **English and 16 Indian languages**.
- The campaign has reached approximately **3 lakh** people through its social media handles, and with the partnership with MyGov, it has reached more than 22 million people.
- **Objectives:**
 - To inculcate a scientific temper of verifying tradition in a scientific manner
 - To instill confidence in citizens regarding the scientific value of our traditional knowledge/practices.
 - To conserve the practice of the right tradition

MINISTRY OF ROADS, TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

14. Kaziranga Elevated Road Project

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Recent News:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari reviewed the progress of the **Kaziranga Elevated Road project**.

About:

- The project entails the construction of approximately **34 kilometers of elevated roads** at sites identified by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), where animal crossings occur.
- The elevated highway will run alongside the present **NH 715**.
- Additionally, it involves widening the intervening at-grade road to a **4-lane highway**, totaling approximately 50 kilometers in length, and **building tunnels** for approximately **3 kilometers**.
- The Total project cost of the project will be **Rs 6,000 crore**

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE

15. Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme

Recent News:

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India organized the first meeting of the National MSME Council at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 10th May 2023. The Council advised and monitored the progress of the reforms mandated in the MSME sector including the **RAMP program**.

About:

- It is a **World Bank-assisted Central Sector Scheme**
- The total outlay for the scheme is **Rs.6,062.45 crore** out of which **Rs. 3750 crore** would be a loan from the World Bank
- The program aims to **enhance access to market and credit** by strengthening institutions and center-state partnerships
- It will bolster the inadequately addressed blocks of capacity building, handholding, skill development, quality enrichment, technological upgradation, digitization, outreach, and marketing promotion, amongst other things.
- The scheme includes the preparation of **Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs)**, to which all states and union territories will be invited.
- The overall monitoring and policy overview of RAMP would be done by an apex National MSME Council, headed by **Minister for MSME**,

Components:

- Strengthening Institutions and Governance of the MSME Program, and
- Support to Market Access, Firm Capabilities, and Access to Finance.
- Implementing the National MSME Reform Agenda
- Accelerating MSME Sector Centre-State Collaboration
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS)
- Strengthening Receivable Financing Market for MSMEs
- Enhancing Effectiveness of Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and “Greening and Gender” Delivery
- Reducing the incidence of delayed payments

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Interview Date & Location will be announced after 20th September 2023

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MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

16. One Station One Product' (OSOP) scheme

Recent News:

- Ministry of Railways has launched the '**One Station One Product' (OSOP) scheme** over Indian Railways with objectives to promote a market for local/indigenous products and create additional income opportunities for the marginalized sections of society.

About:

- The pilot project of the scheme was launched in **March 2022**
- It aims to make each railway station a **promotional hub** and showcase destination for a local product giving a major boost to local industry.
- Stalls under the scheme are designed through **National Design Institute** for uniformity
- As of 01.05.2023, **728 stations** are covered with **785 OSOP outlets** in 21 States and 3 Union Territories across the country.
- The **Vishakapatnam station** is the first station in the East Coast Railway to implement the "One Station One Product" concept.

Type of Products:

Product categories, under this scheme, include the following:

- Handicrafts/ Artefacts
- Textiles and Handlooms
- Traditional Garments
- Local agricultural produce (including millet)/ Processed/semi-processed foods.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

17. Sanchar Saathi portal

Recent News:

- Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Communications, Railways, and Electronics & IT, launched the Sanchar Saathi portal to protect users from various frauds.

About:

- Sanchar Saathi portal is a **citizen-centric initiative** of the Department of Telecommunications
- It is designed to empower **mobile subscribers, enhance their security, and raise awareness** about government initiatives that benefit citizens.
- The portal consists of several modules, including CEIR and TAF COP.
- The **Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) module** enables the tracing of lost or stolen mobile devices and facilitates their blocking across all telecom networks in India
- The **Telecom Authority's Facility for Checking Own Connections (TAF COP) module** allows mobile subscribers to review the number of mobile connections registered under their name
- The portal includes a "**Keep Yourself Aware**" feature, which provides up-to-date information and materials on various topics related to end-user security, telecommunications, and information security.
- The portal also features an **Artificial Intelligence** and **Facial Recognition** solution to identify fraudulent subscribers.

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- Over **40 Lakh** fraudulent connections have been detected and more than 36 Lakh connections have been disconnected through the portal.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

18. Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware

Recent News:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware** with a budgetary outlay of Rs. **17,000 crores**.

About:

- It encourages the **localization of components** and allows for a **longer duration of development of the supply chain** within the country.
- The scheme provides increased **flexibility and options for applicants** and is tied to incremental sales and investment thresholds to further incentivize growth
- Semiconductor design, IC manufacturing, and packaging** are also included as incentivized components of the PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware.
- The Scheme shall extend an average incentive of **around 5% on net incremental sales** (over the base year) of goods manufactured in India
- The scheme will have a tenure of **6 years**
- The Target Segment under PLI shall include (i) **Laptops** (ii) **Tablets** (iii) **All-in-One PCs** (iv) **Servers and Ultra Small Form Factor (USFF)**.

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

19. PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks (MITRA) Park

Recent News:

- The proposal to set up **PM MITRA Park** in village Bhensola, Badnawar Tehsil, **Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh** received formal approval from the Government of India in March 2023.

About:

- The parks will be set up by **2026-27**.
- The total outlay for the project is **Rs 4,445 crore**, though the initial allocation in the 2023-24 Budget is only **Rs 200 crore**.
- The **seven** Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks will be established at Greenfield or Brownfield sites located in different states.
- These parks will be located at sites that have inherent strengths for the textile industry to flourish and have the necessary linkages to succeed.
- It aims to reduce logistics costs and enhance the competitiveness of the textiles industry by achieving economies of scale.
- It will be developed by a **Special Purpose Vehicle** which will be owned by the Central and State Governments and in a Public-Private Mode.

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Components of the project:

- The parks will have **50%** area for manufacturing activity, **20%** for utilities, and **10%** area for commercial development.
- The textile parks will include an incubation center **and plug-and-play facility, developed factory sites, roads, power, water, and waste-water system, a common processing house and CETP, and other related facilities like a design center, and testing center**, among others.
- The parks will also have **workers' hostels and housing, a logistics park, warehousing, medical, training, and skill development facilities**.

Capital Support:

- For a **Greenfield PM MITRA park**, the Government of India development capital support will be **30 percent** of the project cost, with a cap of **Rs 500 crore**.
- For **Brownfield sites**, after assessment, development capital support at **30 percent** of the project cost of balance infrastructure and other support facilities is to be developed and restricted to a limit of **Rs 200 crore**.
- The Centre will also provide a fund of **₹300 crores for each PM MITRA Park** to incentivize the establishment of manufacturing units.
- This will be known as competitiveness incentive support (CIS) and will be paid up to 3 percent of the turnover of a newly established unit in the parks.

Benefits:

- Offers an integrated textiles value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing, and printing to garment manufacturing at 1 location.
- Reduces logistics costs of the industry.
- Generates employment
- Attracts cutting-edge technology and boosts Foreign Direct Investment and local investment in the sector.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

19. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

Recent News:

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal recently attended the **National Workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**

About:

- Approved in **2020**.
- It is a **Mission Mode Project (MMP)** under Digital India Programme.
- **The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)** is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all 31 States/ UTs with Legislatures.
- The total project cost of the project is over 738 crores and funding of NeVA is on the pattern of a **Central Sponsored Scheme i.e. 60:40; or 90:10**
- Technical support is provided by **the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- It enables automation of the **entire law-making process**, tracking of decisions and documents, and sharing of information.
- **Himachal Pradesh Assembly** was the first to become the digital legislature of the country.

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Users of NeVA

The following stakeholders can use the application for different purposes:-

- The Members of the Houses across the country
- The Ministers of the concerned Government Ministries/Departments
- The Assembly/House Secretariat Staff
- The Government department staff
- The reporters/media
- The citizens/public at large for accessing information, etc.

Services available through NeVA

The following services are provided through the NeVA platform to cater to the requirements of the various users:-

- List of Business
- Papers to be Laid
- Bills: for Introduction, Consideration & Passing
- Committee Reports
- Questions and Answers
- Bulletins Part: I & II
- Synopsis of Proceedings
- Digital Library
- Notices
- Members Directory

Features:

- Facilitates Paperless Assembly
- Enables automation of the entire law-making process
- Hosted on National Cloud -**Meghraj** with maintenance, security, and disaster recovery for all legislatures
- Provides all relevant information like Notices, Bulletins which would be issued by legislatures from time to time

MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

20. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary

Recent News:

Minister of Law & Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal tweeted about the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ([CSS](#)) of the Department of Justice (Ministry of Law & Justice for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary and its progress towards transforming judicial infrastructure at District and Subordinate Courts since its inception,

About:

- Implemented in **1993-94**
- Approved for further five years from **01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026** at a total cost of **Rs.9000 crore**.
- It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary

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- As per the revised guidelines of 2021, the Scheme now also covers the **construction of Lawyers' Halls, Digital Computer Rooms, and Toilet Complexes** in the District and Subordinate Courts
- For monitoring the status of the projects under the scheme, **three broad monitoring mechanisms** have been provided viz. **High Court Level Monitoring Committee at the State level, and Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice** are required to meet **every six months**.
- For online monitoring of construction projects, a web portal and mobile app named "**Nyaya Vikas**" was launched in 2018.
- Geotagging of projects using the Nyaya Vikas mobile application helps in better monitoring of the judicial infrastructure projects.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

21. REWARD Program

Recent News:

The Secretary, Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Government of India (GoI) Shri Ajay Tirkey reviewed the Implementation Support Mission of the World Bank Assisted Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) program.

About

- Implemented from **2021 to 2026**
- This project is a joint initiative of the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development in association with the World Bank.
- The state governments of **Karnataka and Odisha** are also main partners in launching the REWARD Project
- World Bank will provide financial support of **USD 115 million** to this project for a period of **15 years**
- Aimed to **Strengthen capacities of National and State institutions** to adopt improved watershed management for increasing farmers' resilience and support value chains in selected watersheds of participating States.
- The project will also help other states in India to learn effective watershed management.
- At the **central level**, the scope of the REWARD program covers management, **monitoring, communication, and knowledge-sharing functions**.
- At the State level, the REWARD program will support the implementation of key science-based activities and demonstrations.

Objectives:

- To improve water and land conservation as well as preventing soil run-off, harvesting rainwater, regenerating natural vegetation, and replenishing the groundwater table.
- The project also aims to improve the capacities of the state and the central institutions so that they can develop and deliver better watershed management and development programs.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

22. Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)

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Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Centres and Eco-clubs are spreading messages on LiFE as an integral part of a mass mobilization drive undertaken in the run-up to the World Environment Day celebrations

About:

- Implemented in 1983 as Environmental Information System (ENVIS)
- Renamed as EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building, and Livelihood Programme).
- It is one of the Central Sector sub-scheme being implemented in alignment with Mission Life
- It serves as a single-stop web-enabled repository of comprehensive environmental information with collection, collation, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of the same through a nationwide network of ENVIS Hubs and ENVIS Resource Partners (RPs).

Objectives:

- To provide information on wildlife sciences.
- To support and facilitate the diverse group of clientele from policymakers to researchers and Industries and the common man at the national and international level
- To provide a comprehensive environmental information database under the identified subject areas, local conditions, and issues about the environment of the country.
- To make an efficient tool to protect and conserve our ecosystems and biodiversity
- To develop green skilled youths having technical knowledge and commitment to sustainable development,
- To conserve and restore the health and resilience of Wildlife Protected Areas/ Zoos with the support of green skilled youth.
- To ensure ecologically sustainable use of biodiversity and benefits the current and future generations of India.

23. Modified Semicon India Program

Recent News:

The government has decided to invite new applications for setting up Semiconductor Fabs and Display Fabs in India from June 01, 2023, under the Modified Semicon India Programme.

About:

- Approved in **2022** with an outlay of ₹ **76,000 crore**
- The program aims to provide attractive incentive support to companies that are engaged in **Silicon Semiconductor Fabs, Display Fabs, Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors (including MEMS) Fabs / Discrete Semiconductor Fabs, Semiconductor Packaging (ATMP / OSAT), and Semiconductor Design.**
- The program will give an impetus to semiconductor and display manufacturing by facilitating capital support and technological collaborations.

Components:

- **Semiconductor Fabs and Display Fabs:** The scheme extends fiscal support of **50% of the project cost** to execute such highly capital-intensive and resource-incentive projects.
- **Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL):** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will take the requisite steps for the modernization and commercialization of the Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL).

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- **Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors (including MEMS) Fabs and Semiconductor ATMP / OSAT Units:** Fiscal support of 50% of the Capital Expenditure for setting up of these facilities in India.
- **Semiconductor Design Companies:** The scheme provides a “Product Design Linked Incentive” of up to 50% of the eligible expenditure subject to a ceiling of **Rs.15 Crore per application** and a “Deployment Linked Incentive” of 6% to 4% of net sales turnover over 5 years subject to a ceiling of Rs.30 Crore per application.
- **Chips to start-ups’ program:** The “chips to start-ups” program would develop **85,000** well-trained engineers. Semiconductor designers would be allowed to launch start-ups.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

24. City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)

Recent News:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)

About:

- The project aims to **transform urban areas** in India into sustainable and resilient cities.
- It is a part of the **Smart Cities Mission** and aims to promote integrated waste management and climate-oriented reform actions.
- The project will be implemented in 18 cities selected through a competitive process.
- The project will span over a period of four years, from 2023 to 2027.
- The project is implemented in partnership with the **French Development Agency (AFD)**, **Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW)**, the **European Union (EU)**, and the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**.

Objectives:

- CITIIS 2.0 supports competitively selected projects focusing on circular economy and integrated waste management at the city level.
- It also emphasizes climate-oriented reform actions at the State level and aims to strengthen institutions and disseminate knowledge at the national level.

Components:

- Financial and technical support for developing climate-resilient projects in up to 18 smart cities.
- Interventions at the center, state, and city levels to enhance climate governance.
- Promotion of climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

MINISTRY OF POWER

25. National Electricity Plan

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Recent News:

- The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has notified the National Electricity Plan (NEP) (Vol-I Generation) for the period of 2022-32.

About:

- It is developed by the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** every 5 years.
- The first NEP was announced in **2007**, the second in December 2013, and the third in 2018, which includes the detailed plan for **2017–22** and the prospective plan for 2022–27.
- The CEA develops both **short-term (5-year)** and **prospective (15-year)** plans to assess the need for additional planning capacity and to coordinate the efforts of various planning agencies to make the best use of available resources.

Projections:

- In addition to the 25 GW of coal-based capacity that is currently under construction, it acknowledges the requirement for additional coal-based capacity, ranging from **17 GW to nearly 28 GW**, until 2031-32.
- Additionally, the draft Plan emphasizes the need for significant battery storage investments, with an estimated requirement of **51 GW to 84 GW** by 2031-32.
- It extends an expansion in the Plant Burden Element (PLF) of coal-terminated power plants from **55% up to 2026-27 to 62 % in 2031-32**.
- In addition, it emphasizes the difficulties brought on by the growing reliance on renewable energy, which will necessitate careful management and strategic planning in the coming years.

June 2023

MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

1. Mission Vatsalya

Recent News:

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

About:

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

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- The establishment of **open shelters by the state government** will also be encouraged to provide care for children who are homeless, missing, being trafficked, working, living on the streets, beggars, substance abusers, etc.

Components:

Components under Mission Vatsalya include

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

2. Mission Shakti

Recent News:

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

About:

- Implemented for a period of **2021-22 to 2025-26**
- The total financial cost of the scheme is **Rs 20989 Crore**.
- The mission consists of two sub-schemes -**Sambal and Samarthya**.
- The scheme seeks to make **women economically empowered**, exercising free choice over their minds and bodies in an atmosphere free from violence and threat.
- It also seeks to **reduce the care burden on women and increase female labor force** participation by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, access to microcredit, etc.

About Sambal:

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

About Samarthya:

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

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3. Mission Poshan 2.0

Recent News:

The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) organized an Online Training on 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi and Management of SAM & MAM' [under Mission Poshan2.0](#) at the Regional Centre, Mohali.

About:

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

Objectives:

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

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

4. National Mission for Mentoring (NMM)

Recent News:

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

About:

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

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MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

5. Nyaya Vikas

Recent News:

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

About:

- Initiated in **1993-94**.
- Aims for the **Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary**
- Under the Scheme, central assistance is provided to the State Government / UT Administrations for the construction of **court halls and residential units** for Judicial Officers / Judges of District and Subordinate Courts.
- Some new features like **Lawyers Hall, Toilet complexes, and Digital computer rooms** have been added to the scheme for the convenience of lawyers and litigants, court halls and residential units are also included in 2021.
- The funds sharing pattern under the Scheme for Center and State is **60:40 & 90:10** for North Eastern and Himalayan States, and 100% in respect of Union Territories.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

6. Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP)

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Features:

- Freedom to carve out areas of choice
- Revenue-sharing model
- Complete marketing and pricing freedom

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- Lower regulatory burdens
- Submission of the applications throughout the year.
- More flexibility to the industry
- Single License for conventional and non-conventional hydrocarbons.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMER'S WELFARE

6. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Disciplines covered:

The disciplines covered are

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

Recent Amendments:

- Introduction of a new subject namely **Agriculture & Allied Sectors**
- Expansion of scope of **“Architecture”** to **“Architecture and Planning”** to include institutions imparting courses in Urban and Town Planning.

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- Integration of the “Innovation” ranking previously executed by the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) into the India Rankings to reduce the burden on institutions of providing similar data to two different agencies.

MINISTRY OF COAL

7. Exploration of Coal & Lignite Scheme

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Benefits:

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

MINISTRY OF POWER

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

Recent News:

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

About:

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

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Objectives:

The key objectives of the Mission are as follows:

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

Areas of Research

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

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

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

9. Har Ghar Jal

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Objectives:

- To provide **Functional Tap Connection (FHTC)** to every rural household.
- To prioritize the provision of FHTCs in quality-affected areas, villages in drought-prone and desert areas, **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)** villages, etc.
- To provide functional tap connection to **Schools, Anganwadi centers, GP buildings, Health centers, wellness centers, and community buildings**

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- To monitor the functionality of tap connections.
- To promote and **ensure voluntary ownership** among the local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labor, and voluntary labor
- To assist in **ensuring the sustainability of the water supply system**, i.e., water source, water supply infrastructure.

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS

10. Waste to Wealth Mission

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Objectives:

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

About the 'SAGAR SAMRIDDHI' Portal

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

Features:

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

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

- Established under the **Sagarmala Programme** with a total investment of ₹ 77 Crores at IIT Madras on **24th April 2023**.

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- The center aims to **enable research & development for the marine sector**, enabling solutions towards achieving the ultimate goal of building a robust marine industry in the country.
- This state-of-the-art center has world-class capabilities for undertaking **2D & 3D investigations** of research and consultancy nature for the Port, Coastal, and Waterways sector across all disciplines.
- The laboratories created are among the best in comparison with other International Labs in the specific domain.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

11. Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Features:

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

12. India Infrastructure Project Development Funding Scheme (PDF)

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Recent News:

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

About:

- It is a **Central Sector scheme**, set up in **2007**.
- The scheme was launched by the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**.
- The total outlay of **Rs 150 crore** for a period of three years from **2022-23 to 2024-25**.
- It is aimed to provide financial support for **quality project development activities**.
- It provides funding for **project sponsoring authorities** (both in the central and state governments) involved in the development of **PPP projects**.
- The **IIPDF** will contribute up to **75%** of the project development expenses to the Sponsoring Authority as an **interest-free loan**. The balance of **25%** will be co-funded by the **Sponsoring Authority**.
- On successful completion of the bidding process, the project development expenditure would be recovered from the **successful bidder**.
- The new scheme is an addition to the currently operational Scheme for **Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (VGF Scheme)**, which was notified in **December 2020**.

Benefits:

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

About PPPININDIA

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

About the VGF scheme:

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

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

Recent News:

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

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

Components:

The scheme has various parts:

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

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

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

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

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

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

14. Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)

Recent News:

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

About:

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

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Recent Amendments:

- Credit card payments would be brought under the LRS.
- **There will be no change in the rate of TCS for all purposes under LRS and for overseas travel tour packages, regardless of the mode of payment, for amounts up to Rs. 7 lakhs per individual per annum.**
- Beyond this Rs 7 Lakh threshold, TCS shall be
 - a) 0.5% (if remittance for education is financed by an education loan);
 - b) 5% (in case of remittance for education/medical treatment);
 - c) 20% for others.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

15. Chandrayaan 3

Recent News:

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

About:

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

About Chandrayaan 1

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

About Chandrayaan-2 mission

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

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- Its lander **Vikram crashed** into the lunar surface apparently because of an issue with its braking rockets.

Significance:

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

16. VAIBHAV Fellowship Program

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Eligibility (for Scientists):

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

Eligibility (for Institutions):

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

Grants:

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

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

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

17. National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023

Recent News:

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

About:

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

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Rtd.Asst.Gen.Manager SBI
(35 Yrs Experience)
IBPS PANEL MEMBER

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NITI AAYOG

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

Recent News:

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

About:

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

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY 7 DAIRYING

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

Recent News:

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

About:

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

Components:

- Genetic improvement programs and Nucleus Breeding Centers (NBCs)
- Innovations and Innovative projects/activities, Technology demonstration including startups, incubators, and pilot projects.
- Training, Awareness, Exposure, and Capacity Building
- Modernization of fishing harbors of central government and its entities

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- Support to the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Fisheries Institutions, and Regulatory Authorities of the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, and need-based assistance to State Fisheries Development Boards.
- Support for survey and training vessels for Fisheries Institutes
- Disease Monitoring and Surveillance Network
- Fish data collection, fishers' survey, and strengthening of fisheries database
- Support to security agencies to ensure the safety and security of marine fishermen at sea
- Certification, accreditation, traceability, and labeling
- Administrative Expenses for implementation of PMMSY (to meet expenses of both for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes components)
- Setting up 500 Fish Farmers' Producer Organizations/Companies (FFPOs/Cs)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

20. State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

Recent News:

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

About:

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

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.

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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.

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

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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
- 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

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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 Karmyogi

Recent News:

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh talked about Mission Karmyogi 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.

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- 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**.
- 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.

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- 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 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

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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
- 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.

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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

- 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.

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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 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**

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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,
- 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.

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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.
- 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.

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- 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.

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.

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- 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.**
- 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

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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.

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.

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- 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:

- 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

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- 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 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**.

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- 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 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.

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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**
- 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.

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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.

About:

- 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**

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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
- 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

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- 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 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.

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- 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 :

- 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.

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. Vivad se Vishwas 2

Recent News:

The Ministry of Finance has introduced the "Vivad se Vishwas 2" program as a key step toward making it easier to resolve contractual issues between the government and its undertakings. This program seeks to speed up settlement while streamlining the procedure and promoting ease of doing business.

About:

- It is a voluntary settlement scheme to resolve long-standing contractual disputes involving government agencies.
- The scheme was announced in the **Union Budget 2023-24** by the Union Finance Minister.
- The scheme aims to resolve the government's contractual disputes with private parties, clear the backlog of litigation, and improve the ease of doing business.
- The deadline for submitting claims under the scheme is **31 October 2023**.
- The scheme will apply to all domestic contractual disputes where one of the parties is either the Government of India or an organisation working under its control.
- Under the scheme, for Court Awards passed on or before 30.04.2023 the settlement amount offered to the Contractor will be up to 85% of the net amount awarded/ upheld by the court.
- For Arbitral Awards passed on or before 31.01.2023, the settlement amount offered is up to 65% of the net amount awarded.

2. Viability Gap Funding

Recent News:

The Scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF), designed to promote the development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), has received approval from the Union Cabinet. By 2030–2021, this ambitious program hopes to produce 4,000 MWh of BESS plants, supported by up to 40% capital cost assistance in the form of VGF. It marks a significant advancement in the government's environmental programs and is anticipated to lower the cost of battery storage systems, improving their viability.

About:

- The government will provide financial support of up to **40% of the capital cost** as budgetary support through Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to substantially reduce the cost of battery storage systems, making them more economically viable.
- The scheme is strategically designed to harness the potential of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to provide clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to citizens.
- To ensure the benefits of the scheme reach consumers, a **minimum of 85% of the BESS project capacity** will be made available to Distribution Companies (Discoms).
- This strategic move not only strengthens the integration of renewable energy into the electricity grid but also minimizes waste and optimizes the utilization of transmission networks. Consequently, it reduces the need for

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costly infrastructure upgrades.

Eligibility:

- The PPP projects may be posed by the **Central Ministries, State Government or Statutory Authorities (like Municipal Authorities and Councils)**, which own the underlying assets
- To be eligible for financing under the scheme, the PPP projects should be implemented, i.e. developed, financed, constructed, maintained and operated for the Projects term by a Private Sector Company to be selected by the Government or a statutory entity through a transparent and open competitive bidding process.
- The criterion for bidding should be the amount of Viability Gap Funding required by the Private Sector Company for implementing the project where all other parameters are comparable.
- The project should provide a service against payment of pre-determined tariff or user charge.
- This Scheme will apply only if the **contract/concession is awarded in favour of a private sector company**.
- The approval to projects is given prior to invitation of bids and actual disbursement takes place once the private entity has expended his portion of the equity.

Ministry of MSME

3. PM Vishwakarma Yojana

Recent News:

In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Vishwakarma Yojana, a program with an initial budget of between **Rs 13,000 and Rs 15,000 crore** that is intended to help traditional laborers and craftsmen. This project primarily targets members of the OBC class who work as masons, washermen, hairdressers, goldsmiths, and ironsmiths.

About:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Announced the PM Vishwakarma Yojana Kaushal Samman on August 15, 2023.
- This initiative supports **small businesses, focusing on traditional artists and craftspeople**.
- It provides **small workers and craftsmen** with financial help, training, improved methods, and skill mentoring.
- This impacts many individuals who might advance civilization if given the opportunity.
- Recognizing all Indian artists and craftspeople as Vishwakarma and providing commercial and other advantages
- Modernization of all manufacturing equipment and improvement of efficiency, productivity, and product quality
- Giving Vishwakarma Yojana recipients easy, collateral-free, low-interest loans and interest rate rebates
- Digital empowerment of Vishwakarma Yojana beneficiaries via education and digital transactions

Eligibility:

- Any self-employed artisan or craftsman working with hands and tools in one of the foregoing family-based traditional trades in an unorganized sector is qualified.
- The recipient must be 18 to register.
- The recipient must be in the relevant trade and not have received any other government loans.
- One family member—husband, wife, and unmarried children—will get benefits.

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Ministry of Law and Justice

4. e-Courts Phase 3 scheme

Recent News:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the eCourts Project Phase III as a Central Sector Scheme spanning four years (2023 onwards) with financial outlay of Rs.7210 crores.

About:

- The overarching objective is to establish a unified technology platform for **seamless, paperless interactions between courts, litigants, and stakeholders, fostering transparency and efficiency.**
- Aligned with the vision of “**Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas,**” this mission aims to enhance access to justice through technology. It seeks to create digital, paperless courts and provide efficient services.
- Phase III will focus on digitizing court records, introducing universal e-filing and e-payment systems, and implementing intelligent systems to aid judges and registries in decision-making.
- The scheme is implemented through a joint partnership between the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, and the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in collaboration with the respective High Courts.

Ministry of Jal Shakti

5. Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan

Recent News:

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a consolidated registration system for GOBARdhan, which is a crucial step towards improving the usage of biodegradable and organic waste. This program aims to make it easier for biogas plants and compressed bio-gas (CBG) facilities across the nation to register.

About:

- The scheme aims to augment income of farmers by converting biodegradable waste into **compressed biogas (CBG).**
- The initiative aims at attracting entrepreneurs for establishing community-based CBG plants in rural areas.
- The scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.
- The scheme also aims at creating new rural livelihood opportunities and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.
- The scheme is being implemented as part of the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).**
- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) comprises two main components for creating clean villages –
Creating open defecation free (ODF) villages and
Managing solid and liquid waste in villages.

Eligibility:

- For Individual Household Model: Individual Households identified by the Gram Panchayats.

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- For Cluster Model: Cluster of Households identified by the Gram Panchayats, in association with Cooperatives, Milk Unions, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), SHGs, CBOs developed under DAY-NRLM, Private entrepreneurs, etc. These households should have a minimum of 3 to 4 cattle.
- For Community Model: Households identified by the Gram Panchayats.
- For Commercial Model: Entrepreneurs/Cooperatives/Gaushalas/Dairies, etc. are eligible to setup large biogas/Compressed Bio-gas (CBG) plants
- Villages with a high population of cattle should be taken on priority.

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