Insights PT 2017
Exclusive
Government Schemes and Programmes
June 2016 – March 2017
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Government Schemes / Programmes

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

1. **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**
   - “Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana”, a ‘Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category’ will be soon launched by the Union Government.
   - It is the first-of-its-kind Central Sector Scheme (CCS) in India, to be fully funded by the Central Government. It is expected to benefit 5,20,000 Senior Citizens.
   - The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency, ‘Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)’, (a PSU under M/o SJ&E), which will undertake one year free maintenance of the aids & assisted living devices.
   - Beneficiaries will be identified by the State Governments/UTs through a Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector.
   - The devices will help the Senior Citizens to overcome their age related physical impairment and to lead a dignified and productive life.
   - As far as possible, 30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.

2. **Sugamaya Pustakalaya**
   - It is an online library that makes accessible content available to print-disabled people.
   - The library houses publications across diverse subjects and languages and multiple accessible formats.
   - It has been created by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with member organizations of Daisy Forum of India and powered by TCS Access.
   - Books are available in Accessible formats for people with visual impairment and other print disabilities.

3. **National Workshop on Autism Tools INCLEN and ISAA**
   - A meeting of Master Trainers from all parts of the country was recently held at the ‘National Training Workshop on Autism using International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN) and Indian Scale of Assessment of Autism (ISAA) Tools’.
   - It was organized by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
   - The aim of the workshop was to train and empower health care professionals like paediatricians, psychologists & psychiatrists to be trained as Master Trainers.
   - These Master Trainer will further train required number of professionals in their respective States.
   - In order to maintain uniformity and standard in assessment of autism, two types of assessment tools were recommended:
One is **INCLEN Tool** and the other tool is **ISAA**.

**Background:**
- **Autism is a neuro-developmental disorder** spanning entire life. There is **no definitive cure**.
- The effect of autism can be minimized by **early diagnosis** and with the right interventions. Hence, it is of paramount importance that children with Autism are identified early and started on intervention.
- Though the **Government had notified Autism as a disability in 2001**, it had not been issuing certificates.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under MoSJ&E has notified guidelines on 26th April 2016 to pave the way for constitution of boards and issuing of disability certificates for Autism.

### 4. Vayoshreshtha Samman-2016

- They are **National Awards for Senior Citizens and Institutions** in recognition of their **service towards the cause of elderly persons**, especially indigent senior citizens.
- Vayoshreshtha Samman is instituted by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** (D/o Social Justice & Empowerment) initially in 2005 and was upgraded to the **status of National Awards in 2013**.
- Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Health and Rural Development are running such useful schemes for the welfare of elderly persons.
- The awards are presented on **1st of October** every year pursuant to the adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly to observe the year 1999 as the **International Year of Older Persons**.

### Ministry of Power

#### 1. Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)

- **Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)** is the financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies of India (DISCOMs).
- **State governments** taking over up to **75%** of their respective discoms’ debt and **issuing sovereign bonds** to pay back the lenders.
- **Discoms** are expected to **issue bonds for the remaining 25 percent** of their debt.
- **UDAY** envisages a **permanent resolution** of past as well as potential future issues of the sector.
- **Highlights:**
  - **Reducing the interest burden on the discoms** by allowing the states to take over the bulk of their debt.
  - **Reducing the cost of power,** and **increasing the operational efficiencies** of the discoms by providing capital and infrastructure like coal linkages.
  - **Reduction in aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) and transmission losses.**
  - **Demand side interventions** in UDAY such as usage of energy-efficient
LED bulbs, agricultural pumps, fans, air-conditioners and efficient industrial equipment.

- **The scheme is optional for the states to join.** Andhra Pradesh was the first state to join.
- Mizoram has become the 27th state to join UDAY scheme.

2. **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all (UJALA) scheme**
   - Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) was launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 May 2015, replacing the "Bachat Lamp Yojana".
   - The main objective of the scheme is to **promote efficient lighting**, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.
   - The scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Union Ministry of Power.
   - The scheme will not only help reduce consumers their electricity bills but also contribute to the energy security of India.
   - The scheme is being monitored in a transparent manner through a national dashboard (delp.in).
   - The distribution of LED bulbs will happen through DISCOM offices, DISCOM bill collection centres, designated EESL kiosks, Weekly haat markets, etc.

3. **GARV-II App**
   - The government has launched GARV-II app to track Rural Household Electrification.
   - This is the next step in Government of India’s aim to provide access to electricity to all households in the country.
   - GARV-II mobile app has incorporated village-wise; habitation-wise base line data on household electrification for all states.
   - It also has mapped village-wise works sanctioned under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) to monitor progress of works in each village.
   - GARV-II allows peoples participation for rural electrification work.
   - It opens rural electrification work to public scrutiny and input about rural electrification programme.
   - It also has a citizen engagement window ‘SAMVAD’ to enhance participation.

4. **Coal Mitra**
   - Coal Mitra is a web portal for allowing flexibility in utilization of domestic Coal.
   - It has been designed for transferring the coal reserves to more cost efficient State/Centre owned or Private sector generating stations, leading to lower generation costs and ultimately lesser cost of electricity for the consumers.
5. **24x7 Power for All**
   - ‘Power for All’ is a joint initiative of the Centre in collaboration with State governments for supply of quality and reliable 24 x 7 power to agricultural, industrial and domestic consumers.
   - The scheme is aimed at addressing all the key aspects and activities to be undertaken across generation, transmission and distribution, including achieving 100% household electrification.
   - The plan aims to provide each household access to electricity, 24×7 reliable power supply and adequate supply to agricultural consumers as per state policy by 2019.
   - The plans for each State/UT envisions reduction of AT&C losses by increasing the collection efficiency and effective metering so as to achieve financially viable 24×7 Power Supply.
   - It also emphasizes on the development of transmission and sub transmission network which plays vital role in providing round the clock power supply.

6. **Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DUGJY)**
   - The project aims to provide 24×7 uninterrupted electricity supply to each rural household across the country by 2022.
   - Major components of the scheme:
     - Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network,
     - Feeder separation,
     - Metering at all levels including at input points, feeders and distribution transformers.
   - It also seeks to strengthen Micro grid and off grid distribution network of rural electrification.
   - This scheme replaces Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

7. **UJALA Scheme (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All)**
   - UJALA scheme is LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) that aims to promote efficient lighting, reducing energy consumption and energy savings.
   - The UJALA scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Union Ministry of Power.
   - Under this scheme, LED bulbs at 40% of the market price will be distributed to every grid connected consumer.

**Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**

1. **National Skill Development Mission**
   - The National Skill Development Mission aims to provide a strong institutional framework at the Centre and States for implementation of skillling activities in the country.
   - The Mission will have a three-tiered, high powered decision making structure. At its apex, the Mission’s Governing Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, will provide overall guidance and policy direction.
• The Steering Committee, chaired by Minister in Charge of Skill Development, will review the Mission’s activities in line with the direction set by the Governing Council.

• The Mission Directorate, with Secretary, Skill Development, will ensure implementation, coordination and convergence of skilling activities across Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

• The Mission will also run select sub-missions in high priority areas.

• The National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the Directorate of Training will function under the overall guidance of the Mission.

• The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) provides a natural home for the Mission, organically linking all three decisions making levels.

• According to government estimates, more than 1.04 Crore youth have been trained under the Skill India Mission in the year 2015-16 which is 36.8% higher than the previous year’s recorded data.

2. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

• Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship outcome-based skill training scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

• The objective of this skill certification and reward scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of Indian youth to take up skill training and become employable and earn their livelihood.

• Monetary reward would be provided to trainees who are successfully trained, assessed and certified in skill courses run by affiliated training providers.

• Includes a mechanism to revive the traditional Guru-Shishya approach to train youth with the help of local craftsmen and trade practitioners.

• Members of Parliament will also be roped in to mobilise youth for training, monitor the scheme in their constituencies and post-training placement of trainees.

• For youths from the Kashmir Valley, the Leh region, the north-eastern States and Left-wing extremism-affected districts, residential programmes will be promoted.

• Training partners under the scheme will be required to ensure valid Aadhaar numbers of trainees at the time of enrolment and subsequently track attendance through students’ biometrics.

• Under PMKVY, the entire training and assessment fees are paid by the Government.

• Under this scheme, skill training would be done based on industry led standards aligned to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

• Besides catering to domestic skill needs, the scheme will also focus on skill training aligned to international standards for overseas employment in European and Gulf countries etc.
3. **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme**
   - The main objective of the scheme is to promote *apprenticeship training* and to increase the engagement of apprentices from present 2.3 lakh to **50 lakh cumulatively by 2020**.
   - NAPS is implemented by Director General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
   - Under the scheme, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will share 25% of the total stipend** payable to an apprentice with employers.
   - The **government will also fund 50% of the total expenditure incurred by the employer in providing basis training** to apprentices.
   - All transactions including registration by employers, apprentices, registration of contract and payment to employers will be made in online mode.
   - This scheme will cover all categories of apprentices except the Graduate, Technician and Technician (Vocational) apprentices which are covered by the scheme administered by Ministry of Human Resource Development.
   - The **National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015** focuses on apprenticeship as one of the key components for creating skilled manpower in India.

4. **Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana**
   - The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has launched **Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana** to scale up an ecosystem of entrepreneurship for youngsters.
   - **Highlights of the scheme:**
     - The scheme spans over five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) with a project cost of Rs 499.94 crore.
     - It will provide *entrepreneurship education and training* to over 7 lakh students in 5 years through 3,050 institutes.
     - It will also include easy access to *information and mentor network*, credit, incubator and accelerator and advocacy to create a pathway for the youth.
     - The institutes under the PM’s Yuva Yojana include 2,200 institutes of higher learning (colleges, universities, and premier institutes), 300 schools, 500 ITIs and 50 entrepreneurship development centres through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

5. **Indian Institute of Skills**
   - **Aimed at making India the Skill Capital of the World**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of the **country’s first Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Kanpur**.
   - The IIS was conceptualised by Modi during his visit to **Singapore’s Institute of Technical Education**.
   - The institute is being opened by the **Skill Development Ministry in partnership with the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore**.
   - The Ministry has decided to have six such institutes.
6. **Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**
   - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the sidelines of the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, has announced a scheme to **skill Indian youth seeking jobs abroad** - Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
   - The programme is also aimed at **boosting the confidence of the Indian youth** so that they don’t feel like strangers when they land in a country of their choice for vocation.
   - PKVY will **train and certify Indians**, who are keen on overseas employment in select sectors, in line with **international standards**.
   - It will be implemented by the **National Skill Development Corporation** through its training partners and in consultation with the **Ministry of External Affairs and the Skill Development Ministry**.

7. **UDAAN**
   - The programme aims to provide **skills training and enhance the employability of unemployed youth of J&K**.
   - The key stakeholders are Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), State Government (Jammu & Kashmir), Corporates and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

**Ministry of Finance**

1. **Atal Pension Yojna (APY)**
   - The **Finance Minister** had announced a new initiative called Atal Pension Yojna (APY) in his Budget Speech for 2015-16.
   - The APY will be **focused on all citizens in the unorganised sector**, who join the National Pension System (NPS) and who are not members of any statutory social security scheme.
   - Under the APY, the subscribers would receive the **fixed pension of Rs. 1000, Rs. 2000, Rs. 3000, Rs. 4000, Rs. 5000 per month**, at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions.
   - The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years.
   - The Central Government would also **co-contribute 50% of the subscriber’s contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum**, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber account, for a period of 5 years, i.e., from 2015-16 to 2019-20.
   - The existing subscribers of Swavalamban Scheme would be automatically migrated to APY, unless they opt out.

2. **Income Declaration Scheme**
   - The Income Declaration Scheme was announced by the **Finance Minister in the 2016-17 Budget speech**.
   - The Income Declaration Scheme offers **people with undisclosed income** to declare it by paying a **penal tax rate of 45%** on such income.
   - An amendment in this regard was also moved in the **Finance Bill, 2016**.
   - The Finance Bill has imported **Section 138 of the Income Tax Act** into the declaration scheme’s ambit. It brings in objectivity on **confidentiality of**
income tax information and the limitations thereof.

3. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016 (PMGKY)
   - ‘Taxation and Investment Regime for Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016’ (PMGKY) was proposed in the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.
   - Under this, besides 50% tax, surcharge and penalty, a quarter of the declared income will be to be deposited in interest free deposit scheme for four years.
   - The scheme enables people with undisclosed income to come clean.
   - In addition to tax, surcharge and penalty, the declarant will have to deposit 25% of undisclosed income in a deposit scheme.
   - This amount is proposed to be utilised for programmes of irrigation, housing, toilets, infrastructure, primary education, primary health, livelihood etc, so that there is justice and equality.

4. Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana
   - The scheme will be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
   - It aims to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.
   - The scheme is meant to provide an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for ten years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly/quarterly/half-yearly or annual basis.
   - The difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on an annual basis.
   - VPBY-2017 is proposed to be open for subscription for a period of one year from the date of launch.

5. Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK)
   - The SBK was set up to attract CSR funds from corporate sector and contribution from individual philanthropists to achieve the objective of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”.
   - The SBK is to be used to achieve the objective of improving cleanliness levels in rural and urban areas, including in schools.
   - The allocation from the SBK is being used to supplement departmental resources for such activities.
   - All donations towards Swachh Bharat Kosh are eligible for deduction of 100% from the total Income Tax.
   - The contributions to SBK can also be included by companies towards CSR under the Companies Act, 2013.
   - Rural Electric Corporation (REC) Limited has contributed Rs. 25 crores towards SBK as part of REC’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)

1. e-dropbox
- The ministry of women and child development (WCD) is working on an e-dropbox that will let children complain about abuse, molestation or harassment in everyday situations in school, bus, tuition classes or at home.
- The e-dropbox will be hosted on the website of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- The project was inspired by Delhi Police’s ‘Operation Nirbheek’, under which complaint boxes were placed in different schools, allowing girls to anonymously complain about any abuse.

2. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save girl child, educate girl child) is a Government of India social campaign that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services meant for girls.
- Aim: It aims to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) through a mass campaign across the country targeted at changing societal mindsets & creating awareness about the criticality of the issue.
- Objectives:
  - Preventing sex selective abortion
  - Ensuring survival and protection of a girl child
  - Ensuring education of the girl child
- Implementation:
  - A 100 critical low CSR districts in all States and UTs have been identified for focused and convergent action by the Ministries.
  - It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
  - All forms of media and social media platforms would be used for this.
  - The key to the success of the initiatives would lie with the communities, States, Panchayats and the local self-Government.
- India’s Olympic Bronze medallist Sakshi Malik was announced as the new brand ambassador of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.
- The Ministry of Women & Child Development has warned unauthorised sites/organisations/NGOs/individuals that are distributing forms in the name of cash incentive under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.
- The government has made it clear that the scheme has no provision for individual CASH TRANSFER COMPONENT by Government of India.

3. POCSO e-Box
- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) e-box.
- (POCSO), e-Box, is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.
• The e-Box is incorporated in the home page of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) website.
• NCPCR has been conferred the Skoch Silver and Skoch Order-of Merit award for POCSO e-Box.
• About POCSO Act:
  o Being concerned about offences against children, the Government enacted POCSO Act, 2012 to protect them from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interest of the child at every stage of the judicial process.
  o This is achieved by incorporating child friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.
  o Any human being up to the age of 18 years is recognised as a child under the POCSO Act.

4. Mahila Police Volunteer Initiative
• The Mahila Police Volunteer initiative was recently launched in Haryana. By launching the initiative in Karnal and Mahendragarh districts, Haryana became the first state to adopt this scheme.
• Originally conceived by the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development, Mahila Police Volunteer is a joint initiative with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
• The Mahila Police Volunteers scheme envisages creation of a link between the police authorities and the local communities in villages through police volunteers who will be women specially trained for this purpose.
• Their primary job will be to keep an eye on situations where women in the village are harassed or their rights and entitlements are denied or their development is prevented.
• In order to provide a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress, one Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) is envisaged per Gram Panchayat across the country.

5. National Alliance against online Child sexual abuse and exploitation
• The Ministry of Women & Child Development is planning to form a National Alliance against Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.
• Aim of the alliance:
  o The alliance aims to develop a comprehensive outreach system to engage parents, schools, communities, NGO partners and local governments (PRIs and ULBs) as well as police and lawyers to ensure better implementation of the legal framework, policies, national strategies and standards in relation to child protection and child rights.
• Objectives:
  o Bring a common definition of child pornography including amendment of acts (Information technology Act, POCSO Act).
  o Set up a multi-member secretariat based in MWCD with a portal inclusive of a hotline for reporting and strengthening existing service
delivery systems.
  o Provide a platform for Government/ NGOs and other child rights activists for **networking and information sharing**.
  o Document and showcases success stories and best practices in terms of prevention of online abuse and exploitation of children.
  o Inform and educate member organisations, parents, teachers, front line service providers and children on the rights of the children and various issues related to online child abuse and exploitation.
  o Provide a forum for **advocacy for child rights and policy inputs** based on research and studies.

   - The NPAC has been developed by the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
   - The Action Plan has **four key priority areas; survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection and participation**.
   - The NPAC identifies key stakeholders for the implementation of different strategies.
   - The plan also puts focus on **new and emerging concerns** for children such as online child abuse, children affected by natural and man-made disasters and climate change, etc.
   - The strategies and action points largely draw upon the existing programmes and schemes of various Ministries/Departments. However, for new and emerging issues related to children; it also suggests **formulation of new programmes and strategies**, as required.
   - The plan takes into account the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and provides a roadmap towards achieving them though co-ordination and convergence with different stakeholders.

**Ministry of Civil Aviation**

1. **Civil Aviation Policy**
   - This new policy aims at providing various **benefits to domestic airline passengers**.
   - The Policy aims at:
     o India to become **3rd largest civil aviation market by 2022 from 9th**.
     o Domestic ticketing to grow from 8 crore in 2015 to 30 crore by 2022.
     o Airports having scheduled commercial flights to increase from 77 in 2016 to 127 by 2019.
     o Cargo volumes to increase by 4 times to 10 million tonnes by 2027.
     o **Enhancing ease of doing business** through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance.
     o **Promoting ‘Make in India’** in Civil Aviation Sector.
o Ensuring availability of quality certified 3.3 lakh skilled personnel by 2025.

- **WHAT’S THERE IN THE POLICY?**
  - **Capping of fare**: Rs 1,200 for 30 minutes and Rs 2,500 for hour-long flights.
  - A single window for all aviation related transactions, complaints, etc.
  - **5/20 rule scrapped**. Under the new rules, airlines must still have 20 planes before they can fly internationally, but no longer need to have operated for five years.
  - **2% levy on all air tickets to fund regional connectivity scheme** and providing viability gap funding for airlines to encourage operations on regional routes.
  - India will have an open-sky policy for countries beyond the 5,000-km radius from Delhi on a reciprocal basis.
  - The government will look to develop about 350 dilapidated or underused airstrips across India into “no frills airports”.

2. **Regional Connectivity Scheme “UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)”**
   - UDAN is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market. It is a market-based mechanism in which airlines bid for seat subsidies.
   - This first-of-its-kind scheme globally will create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.
   - The scheme would be in operation for a period of 10 years.
   - The UDAN scheme will be applicable on flights which cover between 200 km and 800 km with no lower limit set for hilly, remote, islands and regions which are security sensitive.
   - The state governments would reap the benefit of development of remote areas; enhance trade and commerce and more tourism expansion.
   - The scheme UDAN envisages providing connectivity to unserved and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports.
   - The operators could seek a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) apart from getting various concessions.
   - The scheme aims to boost air travel in Tier II and Tier III cities by capping fares at Rs 2,500 per one hour flight. The Airports Authority of India is the implementing authority of the scheme.
   - As per the scheme, the Union Government will subsidise the losses incurred by airlines flying out of dormant airports.
   - About 80% of the subsidy will be collected by charging a levy of up to Rs. 8,500 on each departing flight of domestic airlines and the rest 20% will come from the respective state governments.
   - State government are bound to provide free security and fire service and utilities at concessional rates.
   - There will be no landing charges, parking charges and Terminal Navigation Landing Charges will be imposed for RCS flights.
• Maharashtra has become the first state to sign an MoU with the ministry of civil aviation and the Airports Authority of India for Regional Connectivity Scheme.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

1. National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy
• The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), has come up with a draft National Wind Solar Hybrid Policy.
• The policy lays down the framework for promoting large grid connected wind-solar photovoltaic system.
• The goal of the policy is to reach wind-solar hybrid capacity of 10 GW by 2022.
• Optimal and efficient utilisation of transmission infrastructure and land, reducing the variability in renewable power generation, thus, achieving better grid stability.
• The draft policy proposes hybridisation of existing solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind power plants.
• Providing a guideline towards setting up of new hybrid wind-solar PV power plants.
• Providing fiscal and financial incentives for hybridisation through financial institutions like Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and multilateral banks.

2. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)
• Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is a company of the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, established to facilitate the implementation of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission.
• It is the only Public Sector Undertaking dedicated to the solar energy sector.
• The company’s mandate has recently been broadened to cover the entire renewable energy domain and the company renamed to Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI).
• The company is responsible for implementation of a number of government schemes, major ones being the VGF schemes for large-scale grid-connected projects under JNNSM, solar park scheme and grid-connected solar rooftop scheme, along with specialised schemes such as defence scheme, canal-top scheme, Indo-Pak border scheme etc.
• SECI is the leading PSU in the rooftop solar segment, and has already commissioned over 54 MW capacity of rooftop solar projects under multiple government schemes.

• The scheme for “Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects” has been rolled out by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy on 2014.
• The Scheme has been conceived on the lines of the “Charanka Solar Park” in
Gujarat which is a first-of-its-kind large scale Solar Park in India.

- This scheme envisages supporting the States in setting up solar parks at various locations in the country.
- This scheme will facilitate and speed up installation of grid connected solar power projects for electricity generation on a large scale.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the enhancement of capacity from 20,000 MW to 40,000 MW of the Scheme for Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects.
- The solar parks will be developed in collaboration with State Governments/UTs.
- All the States and UTs are eligible for benefits under the scheme.
- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) will administer the scheme under the direction of MNRE.
- The total capacity when operational will generate 64 billion units of electricity per year which will lead to abatement of around 55 million tonnes of CO2 per year over its life cycle.

**Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

1. **New IT Ministry to have say over UIDAI and NIC**
   - A mega role for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been carved out with say over all policy matters relating to information technology, electronics and the Internet, other than licensing of Internet Service Providers.
   - The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will have complete jurisdiction over the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and National Informatics Centre.
   - All matters relating to cyber laws, administration of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and other IT-related laws would be part of the domain of the new Ministry.
   - The Ministry would lead the Initiative on bridging the Digital Divide.
   - The Ministry has also been entrusted with the task of promotion of the Internet, IT and IT-enabled services, assistance to other departments in the promotion of e-Governance, e-Commerce, e-Medicine, e-Infrastructure and promotion of IT education and IT-based education.
   - It would also deal with matters relating to promotion and manufacturing of Semiconductor Devices in the country excluding all matters relating to Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL), Mohali.
   - Interaction in IT-related matters with international agencies such as Internet for Business Limited (IFB), Institute for Education in Information Society and International Code Council (ICC) would also be under its ambit.

2. **Digital India Awards 2016**
   - Digital India awards, earlier known as the Web Ratna Awards, were instituted under the Ambit of National Portal of India.
   - The award acknowledges exemplary initiatives of various government entities
in the realm of e-governance.

- Web Ratna award **felicitates a Ministry or Department** of the Government of India which has a **comprehensive web presence** and display the level of accountability in terms of quantity, quality, spectrum of coverage, and innovation ascertaining user satisfaction.

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has won gold in the Web Ratna category** in the recently concluded Digital India awards, 2016, conferred by the Ministry of Electronics & IT to promote more **innovative e-governance initiatives** by the government entities.

3. **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan**
   - ‘Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan’ (PMGDISHA) was launched to **make 6 crore rural households digitally literate**.
   - Under the scheme, 25 lakh candidates will be trained in the FY 2016-17; 275 lakh in the FY 2017-18; and 300 lakh in the FY 2018-19.
   - To ensure **equitable geographical reach**, each of the 250,000 Gram Panchayats would be expected to register an average of 200-300 candidates.
   - The implementation of the Scheme would be carried out under the overall supervision of **Ministry of Electronics and IT** in active collaboration with States/UTs through their designated State Implementing Agencies, District e-Governance Society (DeGS), etc.
   - The PMGDISHA is being initiated under **Digital India Programme**.
   - This would empower the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for operating computers / digital access devices.

4. **Cyber Swachhta Kendra**
   - Extending the ‘Swachh Bharat’ campaign to the cyber world, the government has launched the **Cyber Swachhta Kendra – Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre** for analysis of malware and botnets that affect networks and systems.
   - This is a part of **MeitY’s Digital India initiative** aimed at creating a secure cyber space by detecting botnet infections in India and to notify, enables cleaning and securing systems of end-users to prevent further infections.
   - The centre is operated by the Indian **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**.
   - The Centre will also work in close **collaboration with the Banks** to detect malware infections in their banking network and enable remedial actions.
1. **Solar Power Tree**
   - The **Union Ministry of Science and Technology** has launched ‘Solar Power Tree’, an innovative way to generate electricity by **harnessing maximum solar energy in a limited space**.
   - It has been **developed by the CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CMERI)**, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
   - Solar Power Tree innovatively addresses the challenge of increasing demand for **Green Energy** by gainfully utilizing scarce land resources in the country.
   - It thus **reduces the requirement of land** as compared to conventional Solar Photovoltaic layout.
   - Even the **cultivable land can be utilized for solar energy harnessing along with farming at the same time**. The innovation finds its viability both in rural and urban areas.
   - It takes only 4 square feet of land for a 5 KW Solar Power tree, whereas in a conventional layout, it requires 400 square feet of land.
   - By holding the photovoltaic panels at a higher height, **on an average it gets more sunrays for one hour in a day**. As a result, it is possible to harness 10-15% more power in comparison to a conventional layout on ground.

2. **MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge)**
   - The INSPIRE Awards (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research), was renamed as **MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge)**.
   - **MANAK** is an **innovative programme sponsored and managed by the Department of Science & Technology** for attraction of talent to Science.
   - The basic objective of MANAK is to **attract talent to the study of science at an early age** and thus build the required critical human resource pool for **strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R&D base**.
   - It does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level.
   - It believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for identification of talent.
   - **MANAK has three components:**
     - Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (SEATS)
     - Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)
     - Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)
3. **NIDHI (National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations)**

- NIDHI (National Initiative for Development and Harnessing Innovations), is pioneered by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) for nurturing ideas and innovations (knowledge-based and technology-driven) into successful startups.
- NIDHI focuses on building a seamless and innovation driven entrepreneurial ecosystem especially by channelizing youth towards it and thereby bringing in the positive impact on the socio-economic development of the country.
- The program aims to provide technological solutions not only to the pressing needs of the society but also targets to create new avenues for wealth and job creation.
- NIDHI connects and strengthens all the links of the innovation chain from scouting to sustaining to securing to scaling to showcasing.
- The key stakeholders of NIDHI includes various departments and ministries of the central government, state governments, academic and R & D institutions, mentors, financial institutions, angel investors, venture capitalists, industry champions and private sectors.

4. **Biotech-KISAN**

- It is a new programme that empowers farmers, especially women farmers.
- It is a Farmer centric scheme launched by of the Department of Biotechnology.
- Biotech-KISAN aims to link farmers, scientists and science institutions across the country in a network that identifies and helps solve their problems in a cooperative manner.
- The scheme includes the Mahila Biotech- KISAN fellowships, for training and education in farm practices, for women farmers.
- The Scheme also aims to support the women farmers/ entrepreneur in their small enterprises, making her a grass root innovator.
- Biotech-KISAN will connect farmers to best global practices; training workshops will be held in India and other countries.
- Biotech KISAN will connect farmers with science in the 15 agro-climatic zones of the country in a manner, which constantly links problems with available solutions.
- There will be a communication set-up to make radio and TV programmes for local stations, as well as daily connectivity through social media.
Ministry of Home Affairs

1. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)
   - NATGRID is a secure centralised database to stream sensitive information from 21 sets of data sources such as banks, credit cards, visa, immigration and train and air travel details, as well as from various intelligence agencies.
   - It will be an attached office of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
   - The database would be accessible to authorised persons from 11 agencies on a case-to-case basis, and only for professional investigations into suspected cases of terrorism.
   - This combined data will be made available to 11 central agencies, which are:
     o Research and Analysis Wing
     o Intelligence Bureau
     o Central Bureau of Investigation
     o Financial intelligence unit
     o Central Board of Direct Taxes
     o Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
     o Enforcement Directorate
     o Narcotics Control Bureau
     o Central Board of Excise and Customs
     o Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence
   - NATGRID was among the ambitious slew of intelligence reforms undertaken in the wake of the Mumbai attacks of November 2008.

2. Operation Muskaan-II
   - It is the second phase of ‘Operation Muskaan’. Under this campaign, missing children and those found abandoned would be rescued and reunited with their families.
   - It was launched by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
   - A special team comprising officials of the district children protection office, social welfare department, police department, differently abled welfare office, labour department, Childline 1098 and NGOs has been constituted for “Operation Muskaan-II”.
   - Thousands of children have been rescued under the campaign so far.
Ministry of Human Resource Development

1. ‘Prashikshak’
   - ‘Prashikshak’, the teacher education portal for District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs).
   - Prashikshak is a unique IT initiative, a first of its kind in the country, which will contain a comprehensive database of all DIETs in the country with all relevant performance indicators.
   - It will give the opportunity to Central and State Governments to do real time monitoring of the institutions.
   - It will help benchmark DIETs to enable aspiring teachers to make informed choices about their future.
   - Prashikshak was established through joint collaboration between Ministry of Human Resource Development and Central Square Foundation.

2. Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme
   - The Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) commenced in 2003 with World Bank assistance as a long term programme to be implemented in three phases.
   - The Government has approved the proposal for initiation of the Third Phase of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP).
   - It aims to upscale and support ongoing efforts in improving quality of technical education and enhancing existing capacities of the institutions.
   - The Project will be implemented as a ‘Central Sector Scheme’ with total project outlay of Rs. 3600 crore.
   - The project will cover all Government / Government aided engineering institutes, affiliating technical universities (ATUs) and CFTIs from Focus States/UT.
   - The project will be implemented with the facility of Direct Funds Transfer to the accounts of beneficiary institutes.

3. Smart India Hackathon 2017
   - The ‘Smart India Hackathon 2017’ is a pan-India 36-hour nonstop digital programming competition.
   - All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC), i4c, MyGov, NASSCOM, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and Persistent Systems have joined hands to organize this ambitious ‘Smart India Hackathon 2017’ under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development.
   - Through Smart India Hackathon 2017, HRD ministry is keen on reaching out to all technology institutions in India and challenge students to offer innovative solutions to some of the daunting problems faced by our nation.
   - For the first time ever, 29 different government ministries and departments came together and posed 598 problem statements to 30 lakh technical students from India.
   - Smart India Hackathon 2017 would be the first massive scale hackathon
initiative in India.

- Smart India Hackathon can also set an example for the world on how youth power can help find digital solutions to legacy problems within a matter of hours.

4. **Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan**
   - Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA) was launched by the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development (HRD) to make people aware about cashless economic system.
   - Young students and faculty members will be roped to encourage, create awareness and motivate all people to use digitally enabled cashless economic system.
   - For active participation of youth and faculty, HRD Minister also launched a webpage where students can register themselves.
   - NCC/NSS volunteers to spread awareness about these digital modes of transactions to shopkeepers, vendors in nearest market place.

5. **ShaGun**
   - The government has launched a dedicated web portal ‘ShaGun’ for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
   - ‘ShaGun’ aims to capture and showcase innovations and progress in Elementary Education sector of India by continuous monitoring of the flagship scheme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
   - ShaGun, which has been coined from the words ‘Shala’ meaning Schools and ‘Gunvatta’ meaning Quality, has been developed with a twin track approach:
     - First, is the Repository with an engaging interface that focuses on positive stories and developments in the field of School Education.
     - Secondly, it has an online monitoring module to measure state-level performance and progress against key educational indicators.

6. **UDAAN (Giving Wings to Girl Students)**
   - This project aims at addressing the lower enrolment of girls in engineering colleges/IITs and technological institutions.
   - It involves training 1000 selected girl students to compete for admission at premier Engineering colleges in India by providing course in an online and offline format.
   - The girl students enrolled in classes XI of kendriya vidyalayas/ Navoday Vidyalays/other Government run Schools affiliated to any Board in India are eligible for the Scheme.
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
   - The Central Sector Scheme, PMSSY was announced in 2003 with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in under-served or backward States, in particular.
   - PMSSY has two components:
     o Setting up of AIIMS like Institutions
     o Upgradation of Government Medical College Institutions
   - It is hoped that consequent to the successful implementation of PMSSY, better and affordable healthcare facilities will be easily accessible to one and all in the country.

2. National Breastfeeding Promotion Programme
   - Government has launched National Breastfeeding Promotion Programme—MAA (mothers’ absolute affection) to ensure adequate awareness is generated among masses, especially mothers, on the benefits of breastfeeding.
   - The goal of the Programme is to enhance optimal breastfeeding practices, which includes initiation of breastfeeding within an hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and continued breastfeeding for at least two years.
   - The government will train nurses in government hospitals, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) to provide relevant information and counselling support to mothers for breastfeeding.
   - Monitoring and impact assessment is also an integral part of MAA programme.
   - Progress will be measured against key indicators, such as availability of skilled persons at ground for counselling, improvement in breastfeeding practices and number of accredited health facilities.
   - Dedicated funds— Rs 4.3 lakhs per district, have been allocated to states for the programme, which is in addition to the funds approved under National Health Mission’s annual project implementation plans.
   - To ensure effective roll-out of the programme ministry of health has established MAA secretariat and a steering committee will be created in all states and at the district level.
   - The programme will be monitored by UNICEF and other partners. UNICEF has roped in actor Madhuri Dixit as brand ambassador to promote breastfeeding.
3. **Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC)**

- In a bid to **eradicate Leprosy from India**, Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry had launched the biggest **Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC)** in the country across 149 districts of 19 states/UTs.
- The Leprosy Case Detection Campaign is a **unique initiative** of its kind in the world where each and every member of the targeted population will be examined by the search team constituted of one male and one female volunteer at household level.
- **House to house visits** will be done by the search team as per the micro plan prepared for the local area to **detect hidden and undetected leprosy cases**.
- The **objective of the campaign** is the **early detection of leprosy** in affected persons so that they can be **saved from physical disability** and deformity by providing them **timely treatment** and thus also **halting the transmission** of disease at the community level.
- The first LCDC was launched during March-April 2016 in 50 districts of 7 states covering a population of about 6.8 crores.
4. Mission Parivar Vikas

- The government will launch Mission Parivar Vikas to improve family planning services in seven states where the combined total fertility rate (TFR), or the number of children a woman has in her lifetime) constitutes 44% of the country’s population.
- The main objective of ‘Mission Parivas Vikas is to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.
- The Union ministry of health and family welfare will launch the programme in 145 high-focus districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.
- These districts were identified based on their total fertility rate and sterilization performance among other measures taken for family planning, for immediate, special and accelerated efforts.
- The target of the government is to reach the replacement level fertility goals of 2.1 by the year 2025.
- The key strategic focus of this initiative will be on improving access to contraceptives through delivering assured services, dovetailing with new promotional schemes, ensuring commodity security, building capacity (service providers), creating an enabling environment along with close monitoring and implementation.

5. Janani Suraksha Yojna

- The Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a 100% centrally sponsored Scheme with the objective of reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.
- (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NHM).
- Janani Suraksha Yojana was launched in April 2005 by modifying the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS).
- The scheme is under implementation in all states and Union Territories (UTs), with a special focus on Low Performing States (LPS).
- In High Performing States (HPS), where the levels of institutional delivery are satisfactory, Pregnant women from BPL/SC/ST households only are entitled for JSY benefit.
- The scheme provides performance based incentives to women health volunteers known as ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) for promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.
- There is no bar on age of mother, number of children or type of institution i.e a government or accredited private health facility.
- A new study brings in first conclusive evidence of the role played by Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) in reducing ‘socioeconomic disparities’ existing in maternal care.
6. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- With the aim to reduce maternal and infant mortality, the government has rolled out a new scheme to provide fixed-day antenatal care to pregnant women on the ninth of every month.
- The scheme is aimed at ensuring that every pregnant woman undergoes essential checkups during pregnancy to avoid unnecessary complication.
- Scheme is applicable to women through their third to sixth month of pregnancy.
- A key feature of the scheme includes services by gynaecology specialists and physicians with support from private sector doctors to supplement the efforts of the government sector.
- These services include ultrasound, blood and urine tests, in addition to routine antenatal check-up.
- It also invites the private sector to provide free ante-natal services (ANC) on a voluntary basis to pregnant women, especially those living in under-served, semi-urban, poor and rural areas.

   **Background:**
   - India’s MMR of 167 (167 maternal deaths per 100,000 births) failed to meet its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of bringing down maternal deaths to under 140 by 2015.
   - India’s IMR stands at 40 deaths per 1,000 live births, against an MDG target of 29. Only 15 states and UTs — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Manipur, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim and Punjab — have achieved an IMR of 29 and under.

7. Healthy India Initiative/Swastha Bharat-ek pehal

- It is a quarterly magazine launched recently by the government.
- It will cater to health related information and will raise awareness about healthy living.
- The magazine will cover different aspect of health: women and child health, elderly health, seasonal ailments, daily nutritional needs, safe medication practices, home remedies healthy living and many more.
- The current issue is in Hindi and English and the next version will be available in 13 other languages.

8. No More Tension

- It is stress management mobile application. It helps users to manage stress. It was recently launched by the government.
- The main objective of ‘No More Tension’ is to provide information to users regarding stress such as, what is stress, effects, symptoms and its management.
- The application allows the user to measure their stress level and learn various techniques like yoga and meditation to reduce stress from their lives.
9. Swachh Swasth Sarvatra initiative

- The government has launched Swachh Swasth Sarvatra initiative.
- It was launched by the Union Health Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Human Resource Development.
- The objective is to strengthen community health centres in 708 open defecation-free blocks across the country to enable them to achieve higher levels of cleanliness and hygiene.
- Under it, 10 lakh rupees of financial assistance will be given to the community health centres so that they can be strengthened to meet the standards of sanitation, hygiene and infection control.
- The initiative is a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, under the National Health Mission.
- It is focused on the twin objectives of constructing toilets and enabling behavioural change, with the goal of making India free of open defecation by October 2, 2019.

10. Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)

- Universal Immunization Programme is a vaccination program launched by the Government of India in 1985.
- It is currently one of the key areas under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) since 2005.
- The program now consists of vaccination for 11 diseases: Tuberculosis, Pertussis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Polio, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenza type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, Rotavirus diarrhoea and Japanese Encephalitis (JE).
- Rubella, JE and Rotavirus vaccine are given in select states and districts.

11. National deworming programme

- The National Deworming Day is observed every year on February 10 with main objective to combat parasitic worm infections among preschool and school-age children across India.
- It was launched in 2015 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- The programme is being implemented through the combined efforts of Department of School Education and Literacy under Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- During NDD single dose of Albendazole is administered to children from under 1 to 19 years of age group through the platforms of schools and aanganwadi centers.
- Albendazole is an extremely safe drug that has been used for decades by millions of people around the world and in India, with no or minimal side effects.
- Side effects such as nausea and vomiting can manifest in the children with
12. **SAATHIYA’ Resource Kit**

- Under its Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, Union health ministry has launched Saathiya resource kit that is specially designed by experts to help peer educators, especially in villages, discuss sensitive issues and answer teenage queries in their community in an informed manner.
- The ‘Saathiya Resource Kits’ is a nationwide programme under which 1.6 lakh boys and girls will work as peer educators to adolescents and respond to their queries on key health issues including mental and physical changes, nutrition and addiction.
- The Resource Kit has been developed by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Population Foundation of India (PFI).
- The initiative also aims to bring down the apprehensions and doubts among growing adolescents about the body related changes that they undergo during puberty.
- The resource kit comprises of an Activity Book, Bhranti-Kranti Game, a Question-Answer Book and a Peer Educator Diary.
- The Peer Educators will be trained across the country in a phased manner and the Peer Educator to be recognized and respected as ‘saathiya’, a good friend for the adolescents.

13. **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKS)**

- RSK programme was launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in January 2014 with an aim to cater and address health and development needs of the country’s adolescents.
- It introduces community-based interventions through peer educators (Saathiyas), and is underpinned by collaborations with other ministries and state governments.
- To guide the implementation of this programme, the ministry in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has developed a National Adolescent Health Strategy.
- RSK identifies six strategic priorities for adolescents:
  - Nutrition
  - Sexual and reproductive health (SRH)
  - Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
  - Substance misuse
  - Injuries and violence (including gender-based violence)
  - Mental health.
- The strategy focuses on age groups 10-14 years and 15-19 years with universal coverage.
- It covers males and females in school and out of school; married and unmarried; in urban and rural; and vulnerable and under-served.

14. **National Health Policy 2017**

- The government aims in shifting focus from “sick-care” to “wellness”, by promoting prevention and well-being.
• It intends on gradually **increasing public health expenditure** to 2.5% of the GDP.
• The policy proposes **increasing access, improving quality and reducing costs.** It proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency and essential healthcare services in public hospitals.
• It focuses on **primary health care:** The policy advocates allocating two-thirds (or more) of resources to primary care.
• It promotes ‘**Make in India**’ initiative by using drugs and devices manufactured in the country.
• It **highlights AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) as a tool for effective prevention and therapy that is safe and cost-effective.
• It proposes **introducing Yoga** in more schools and offices to promote good health.
• It proposes **reforming medical education.**
• **Key targets:**
  o **Increase Life Expectancy at birth** from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
  o **Reduce infant mortality rate** to 28 by 2019.
  o **Reduce Under Five Mortality** to 23 by 2025.
  o **Achieve the global 2020 HIV target** (also termed 90:90:90; 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression).
  o **To reduce premature mortality** from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025.

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**Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**

1. **New Print Media Advertisement Policy**

   • **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has framed a **New Print Media Advertisement Policy** for **Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP).**
   • Objective to promote **transparency and accountability** in issuing of advertisements in print media.
   • The policy focuses on **streamlining release of Government advertisements** and to also promote equity and fairness among various categories of newspapers/periodicals.
   • For the first time, the policy **introduces a new marking system to incentivise newspapers** which have a better professional standing and get their circulation verified by **Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) or Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI).**
   • The policy allows **relaxations to encourage publications in regional languages**, small and medium newspapers, mass circulated newspapers (over 1 lakh), papers in the Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
Ministry of Tourism

1. **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**
   - The **Ministry of Tourism** has launched the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** in 2014-15 with an aim to **develop theme based tourist circuits** in the country.
   - Synergizing efforts to **focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders** to enrich tourist experience and enhance **employment opportunities**.
   - **Thirteen thematic circuits** have been identified, for development namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.
   - **Objective of Swadesh Darshan Scheme:**
     - Integrated development of Infrastructure in identified theme based circuits.
     - Follow community-based development and pro-poor tourism approach.
     - Creating awareness among the local communities about the importance of tourism for them in terms of increase in sources of income, improved living standards and overall development of the area.
     - Promote local arts, culture, handicrafts, cuisine, etc to generate livelihoods in the identified regions.
     - Harness tourism potential for its direct and multiplier effects in employment generation and economic development.
   - **Features of Swadesh Darshan Scheme:**
     - The scheme is 100% centrally funded for the project components undertaken for public funding.
     - Leverage Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and corporate sector.
     - Funding of individual project will vary from state to state.
     - A National Steering Committee (NSC) will be constituted with Minister in charge of M/O Tourism as Chairman, to steer the mission objectives and vision of the scheme.
     - A Mission Directorate headed by the Member Secretary, NSC as a nodal officer will help in identification of projects in consultation with the States/UTs governments and other stake holders.
**The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**

1. **Draft National Forest Policy, 2016**
   - The environment ministry has come out with a *draft National Forest Policy (NFP).*
   - The policy is aimed at *facilitating ecologically responsible behaviour* among stakeholders.
   - The draft policy has been prepared by the *Bhopal-based Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM).*
   - **Highlights:**
     - The policy proposes levy of a *green tax* and calls for safeguarding forest land by exercising *strict restraint on diversion for non-forestry purposes* like mining and industrial projects.
     - *Eco-tourism* in forest areas to ensure safety of wildlife.
     - It aims to *bring a minimum one-third of India’s total geographical area under forest or tree cover* through scientific interventions and enforcing strict rules to protect the dense cover.
     - The new policy will replace the existing one that has been guiding the government to manage forests since 1988.
     - The policy will guide the forest management of the country for the next 25-30 years.
     - The policy also proposes to levy *environmental cess, green tax, carbon tax etc.* on certain products and services.
     - “Forest land diversion projects related to mining, quarrying, construction of dams, roads and other linear infrastructure needs to adopt special caution. Use of *state-of-the-art technology* which causes minimum pollution and damage should be promoted.”
     - The policy also emphasised on large-scale expansion of *agro-forestry and farm forestry.*

**Ministry of Labour & Employment**

1. **Model Shops and Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Services) Bill 2016**
   - The law will allow shops, malls and cinema halls, among other establishments to run 24×7 throughout the year.
   - It *covers establishments employing 10 or more workers* except manufacturing units and will provide *freedom to operate 365 days* with flexibility on timing to open and close.
   - It also provides for *women to be employed on night shifts with adequate security,* and calls for better working conditions for employees such as drinking water, canteen, first-aid, lavatory and crèche.
   - The law also provides *exemption to highly-skilled workers* like those in IT and biotechnology from daily working hours (9 hours) and weekly working hours (48 hours).
• There are also provisions in the bill regarding powers of Government to make rules regarding **adequate measures** to be taken by the employer for the **safety and health of workers**.

2. **Central Board for Workers’ Education**
   • The government has renamed **Central Board for Workers’ Education** as **“Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development”**.
   • The Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development having national network is a **Central Autonomous Body**, under Government of India, **Ministry of Labour & Employment**.
   • It is engaged in **generating awareness** about various subjects relating to labour, industry, nation and other socio-economic issues, besides Government’s schemes amongst both organized and unorganized/ rural sector workers for the last 59 years in the country.
   • The Headquarter is situated at Nagpur. It also has an **Apex National Training Institute** i.e. **Indian Institute of Workers’ Education** at Mumbai.

### Ministry of Commerce and Industry

1. **National Standards Strategy Paper**
   • The Commerce Ministry is planning to bring out a **five-year ‘National Standards Strategy Paper’** to **weed out substandard products** from the domestic market and **boost India’s exports of high quality goods**.
   • An inter-ministerial panel is already working on identifying goods that do not **conform to safety, security, environment and health standards**.
   • This is also necessary for India to develop a coordinated national response to meet the challenges of the **World Trade Organisation regime in standards and conformity assessment**.
   • A strong standards and regulatory framework would help **domestic industry in becoming competitive** in the world as well as domestic market.
   • This would help in **increasing the exports** by measuring up to standards and conformity assessment procedures both in quantitative terms and also getting higher value exports.
   • This will also fulfil the vision of **‘zero defect, zero effect’** (meaning, environment-friendly)’ and ‘Make In India’ campaigns.
   • It would also help **prevent flooding of domestic market with unsafe/sub-standard imports** which adversely affect consumers and domestic industry, according to the note.

2. **Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS)**
   • Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) under Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20) is one of the two schemes introduced in Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015-20.
   • MEIS is a major export promotion scheme of GOI implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Objective** of MEIS is to **offset infrastructural inefficiencies** and associated costs involved in export of goods/products, which are produced/manufactured in India, especially those having **high export intensity**, employment potential and thereby **enhancing India’s export competitiveness**.
- Incentives under MEIS are available to units located in SEZs also.
- The reward/incentives provided by the Government makes the exporters competitive in the international market including Europe, The United States of America and Africa.

3. **Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC)**
   - The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched pilot Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC).
   - RISPC is the **improved form of the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) Scheme** which was closed in 2013.
   - Launched for protecting growers of plantation crops from **twin risks of yield loss due to pest attacks, adverse weather parameters etc. and income loss caused by fall in domestic and international prices**.
   - It shall be covering **tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom and tobacco plantations** and shall be implemented by the commodity boards.
   - The scheme is compulsory for growers registered with the respective Commodity Boards (CBs) and it is implemented on pilot basis in 7 states.

4. **Start-up India Scheme**
   - It aims at **fostering entrepreneurship and promoting innovation** by creating an ecosystem that is conducive for **growth of Start-ups**.
   - According to the scheme, a start up is an entity that is head quartered in India which was opened less than five years ago and has an annual turnover less than 25 crore
   - Start-up profits to be **tax-free for 3 years** and also **no labour inspections for 3 years** of launch of the venture.
   - Tax exemption to be provided on capital gains if money is invested in another start up.
   - Compliance regime based on **self-certification** for labour and environmental laws. **Easy exit policy** for start-ups with 90 days.
   - Liberalised **Fast-track mechanism** for start-up patent applications under intellectual property rights protection with 80% cost rebate.
   - **Credit Guarantee Fund** for start ups through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
   - The initiative is also aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among **SCs/STs, women communities**.
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

1. **Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD)**
   - MPLADS is a centrally-sponsored plan scheme fully funded by the government of India under which funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities.
   - It was launched in December, 1993, to provide a mechanism for the Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs.
   - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has been looking into its working.
   - Preference under the scheme is given to works relating to national priorities, such as provision of drinking water, public health, education, sanitation, roads, etc.
   - The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable. The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility.
   - The MPs have a recommendatory role under the scheme. They recommend their choice of works to the concerned district authorities who implement these works by following the established procedures of the concerned state government.
   - The district authorities get the works executed through the line departments, local self governments or other government agencies. In some cases, the district authorities get the works executed through reputed non government organisations.
   - The Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
   - The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected.
   - Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.

2. **One MP – One Idea**
   - “One MP-One Idea” Scheme announced by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).
   - **Focus of the Scheme:**
     - Advocating a grass-root bottoms-up approach to innovation and development
     - Arriving at solutions for local problems which are sustainable and scalable
   - ‘One MP – One Idea’ Competition may be held in each Lok Sabha constituency in a year in which 3 best innovative ideas from the local people on development projects will be awarded cash prizes.
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

1. **FMD Mukta Bharat (FMD Free India)**
   - **Seeking to end Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)** — one of the most devastating contagious *viral animal diseases* affecting all susceptible cloven-footed animals from India.
   - The *agriculture ministry* has conceived a ‘FMD Mukta Bharat’ (FMD Free India) programme to *cover all the states*.
   - Sixteen states and one Union Territory (UT) are yet to be covered under intensive FMD vaccination.
   - FMD vaccination in these states and UT will be taken up under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)*.

   **Background:**
   - In order to prevent the economic losses arising due to Foot and Mouth Disease, a location specific programme called *Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP)* is under implementation since 10th Plan Period.
   - Gradually, the FMD-CP was expanded during 11th & 12th Plan Period. As of now, it covers 351 districts in 13 states and 6 UTs.

   **About Foot-and-mouth disease:**
   - Foot-and-mouth disease is an infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease that affects *cloven-hoofed animals, including domestic and wild bovids*.
   - It is *highly infectious* and can be spread by infected animals through aerosols, through contact with contaminated farming equipment, vehicles, clothing, or feed, and by domestic and wild predators.
   - Susceptible animals include *cattle, water buffalo, sheep, goats, pigs, antelope, deer, and bison*.
   - The virus responsible for the disease is a *picornavirus*, the prototypic member of the genus Aphthovirus. The virus is *genetically highly variable*, which limits the effectiveness of vaccination.
   - Humans can be infected with foot-and-mouth disease through contact with infected animals, but this is extremely rare.
   - Because the virus that causes FMD is sensitive to stomach acid, it cannot spread to humans via consumption of infected meat, except in the mouth before the meat is swallowed.

2. **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**
   - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is a national mission to *improve farm productivity* and ensure better utilization of the resources in the country.
   - The primary objectives of PMKSY are to *attract investments* in irrigation system at field level, develop and *expand cultivable land* in the country, *minimize wastage of water*, enhance crop per drop by implementing water-saving technologies and precision irrigation.
   - The goal is to open the doors for *optimal water budgeting* in all sectors. *Tagline for PMKSY is "more crop per drop".*
• PMKSY has been conceived amalgamating ongoing schemes:
  o Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)
  o Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
  o On Farm Water Management (OFWM)
• States to draw up their own irrigation development plans based on District Irrigation Plan (DIP) and State Irrigation Plan (SIP).
• PMKSY funds would be given to states as 75 per cent grant by the central government and the remaining 25 per cent share is to be borne by the state government. But, for the north-eastern region and hilly states, the funding pattern would be 90:10.
• Har Khet ko Pani:
  o This component mainly focuses on creation of new water sources through minor irrigation that includes both surface and groundwater.
  o It also encompasses the repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies;
  o Strengthening carrying capacity of traditional water sources,
  o Construction of rain water harvesting structures under its Jal Sanchay sub-component.

3. e-pashuhaat portal
• e-pashuhaat portal was recently launched to connect farmers and breeders of bovine animals.
• The portal was launched on the occasion of birth anniversary of the father of India’s White Revolution Verghese Kurien and National Milk Day.
• The Centre through the portal will provide all details at a single platform, including availability of bovine germplasm.
• The portal will also connect the farmers with the milk cooperatives in the country.
• Background:
  o India has the largest bovine population in the world. India accounts for 14% of the world cattle population, while share for buffalo alone is 53%.
  o The indigenous varieties are endowed with quality of heat tolerance, resistance to diseases and survive with little inputs.

4. Soil Health Card Scheme
• It is a scheme to provide every farmer a Soil Health Card in a Mission mode.
• Provides assistance to State Governments for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories for issuing Soil Health Cards to farmers.
• The scheme will be implemented in all states to promote soil testing services
• State Governments should adopt innovative practices like involvement of agricultural students, NGOs and private sector in soil testing, determining average soil health of villages, etc., to issue Soil Health Cards.
• The state governments are also required to prepare yearly action plan on the issue and the cost will be shared in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and states.
5. **Ornamental Fisheries Project**

- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has envisaged a program to unlock the country’s ornamental fisheries sector through a special drive by launching a pilot scheme for the development of ornamental fisheries.

- **Objectives:**
  - To promote ornamental fish culture with cluster-based approach.
  - To augment ornamental fisheries trade and export earnings.
  - To create employment opportunities for the rural & periurban population.
  - Use of modern technology and innovation to make ornamental fisheries a thriving activity.

- Development of Ornamental Fisheries for the socio-economic development of the people involved in this activity as well as for exports.

- The pilot project on ornamental fisheries shall be implemented by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) through the Fisheries Departments of States/UTs.

- For the purpose of implementation of the pilot project, a total of 8 potential States have been identified, viz., Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

- **Ornamental fishery:**
  - Ornamental fishery is a sub-sector of the fisheries sector dealing with breeding and rearing of coloured fish of both freshwater and marine water.
  - Though ornamental fisheries do not directly contribute to the food and nutritional security, it generates livelihood and income for the rural and periurban population, especially women and unemployed youth as part-time activities.
  - The ornamental fish industry in India is small but vibrant, with potential for tremendous growth.
  - About 400 species of marine ornamental fishes and 375 freshwater ornamental varieties are available in various parts of our country.

6. **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**

- Under the new scheme, farmers will have to pay a uniform premium of 2% for all kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.

- For annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers will have to pay a premium of 5%.

- The remaining share of the premium will continue to be borne equally by the Centre and the respective state governments.

- Under PMFBY, there will be no upper limit on government subsidy and even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the government.

- Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers.

- It is compulsory for farmers availing crop loans for notified crops in notified areas and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.
Use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent. Smart phones will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers. Remote sensing will be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments. Farm level assessment for localised calamities including hailstorms, unseasonal rains, landslides and inundation.

7. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna
   - It has been formulated to promote Organic Farming.
   - The objective is to promote eco-friendly concept of cultivation reducing the dependency on agro-chemicals and fertilizers and to optimally utilize the locally available natural resources for input production.
   - It will be implemented in a cluster based approach and farmers will be funded to meet the expenditure from farm to market.
   - Government is promoting organic farming through various schemes/programmes under:
     o National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/ Paramapragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY),
     o Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY),
     o Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH),
     o National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP),
     o Network Project on Organic Farming of ICAR.

8. National Agriculture Market (eNAM)
   - National Agriculture Market portal eNAM is to connect e-mandis in several States.
   - eNAM is an online inter-connectivity of e-mandis, aimed at ushering agriculture marketing reforms to enable farmers to get better price of their produce.
   - Funded by Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) which is set up through the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).
   - Farmers can showcase their produce online from their nearest market and traders can quote price from anywhere.
   - It will result in increased numbers of traders and greater competition. It will also ensure open price discovery and better returns to farmers.
   - To integrate a wholesale mandis across the country with the online platform, the state governments have to amend their Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act.

9. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme
   - Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme launched in the year 2016 to promote agricultural education under which 100 centres are opened.
   - Opening of new Universities and Colleges are being done to promote agriculture education.
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

1. **Prime Minister’s Annual Award for Excellence in Public Administration**
   - The Department of Administrative Reforms has announced the institution of the Prime Minister’s Annual Award for Excellence in Public Administration to honour “extraordinary and innovative work” done by districts and the organisations of the Central and State governments in implementing the priority programmes of the Government of India.
   - The award will be given away *every year for excellence in implementing the priority programmes* and extraordinary and innovative work in ‘public governance’.
   - For the awards to be presented on the Civil Services Day 2017, the five programmes identified are Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Start-Up India/Stand-Up India and e-National Agriculture Market (National e-Mandi).

2. **DARPGSEVA**
   - It is a Twitter Seva initiative of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
   - The Twitter Seva aims to address issues relating to the DARPG like Public Grievances and Administrative Reforms etc.
   - The Twitter Seva will enable the DARPG to reach out to the common public and various stakeholders for facilitating redress of grievances and other issues of importance relating to the department.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries

1. **Mega Food Parks Scheme**
   - The Scheme of Mega Food Park aims at providing a mechanism to *link agricultural production to the market* by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to ensure *maximizing value addition*, minimizing wastages, increasing farmers’ income and creating employment opportunities particularly in rural sector.
   - **Aim of the Scheme**: The Scheme is aimed at providing modern infrastructure facilities along the value chain from farm gate to the market with strong backward and forward linkages.
   - The government is planning to set up 100 new cold chain projects aimed at boosting farm sector incomes by establishing farm to fork linkages.
   - They facilitate the efforts to increase the level of *processing of agricultural and horticultural produce*, with particular focus on perishables, in the country and thereby to check the wastage.
   - The Scheme has a *cluster based approach based on a hub and spokes model*. It includes creation of infrastructure for primary processing and storage near
the farm in the form of **Primary Processing Centres (PPCs)** and **Collection Centres (CCs)** and common facilities and enabling infrastructure at **Central Processing Centre (CPC)**.

- The scheme is **demand-driven** and would facilitate food processing units to meet environmental, safety and social standards.
- Mega Food Park project is implemented by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act.
- State Government/State Government entities/Cooperatives applying for setting up a project under the scheme are not required to form a separate SPV.

### Ministry of Railways

1. **New trains announced**
   - Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has announced **four new categories of trains**:
     - **Antyodaya Express**: It is a long-distance, fully unreserved, super-fast train service for the common man. It will operate on dense routes.
     - **Humsafar**: It is a fully third AC train.
     - **Tejas**: It will run at 130 km an hour with local cuisine, Wi-Fi and other amenities on board.
     - **UDAY (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air-conditioned Yatri)**: It will be an overnight train plying on the busiest routes to increase capacity by 40%.

2. **Insurance cover for Rail Passengers**
   - The railways has launched a scheme allowing a person to get an **insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakh on booking a train ticket online by paying less than one rupee**.
   - The facility is **reserved for passengers of Indian Railways who book e-ticket, excluding suburban trains, through its official website, irrespective of the class of the ticket**.
   - The cover will **not be applicable for children up to 5 years of age and foreign citizens**.
   - The scheme is being **implemented by IRCTC in partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance, Royal Sundaram General Insurance and Shriram General Insurance**
   - The scheme is also applicable for **Vikalp trains**, short termination and diverted route.

3. **Yatri Mitra Seva**
   - It is an initiative of railways to improve the railway travel experience of **elderly, differently-abled and ailing passengers**.
   - It aims to simplify access to wheelchairs, battery operated cars and porter services.
   - The scheme will be operational at **all major railway stations**.
The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. has been entrusted with implementing services.

### Ministry of Defence

1. **Tree plantation drive**
   - The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), under Ministry of Defence, has launched a massive tree plantation drive in the Northern & Eastern states of India.
   - This is one of the biggest ever tree plantation drive undertaken by the BRO, organised with the aim to protect the ecology and increase the green cover along the border areas of the Country.
   - **About BRO:**
     - The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) develops and maintains road networks in India’s border areas and friendly neighbouring countries.
     - It is staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army’s Corps of Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police and army personnel on extra regimental employment.
     - Officers from the Border Roads Engineering Service and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre of the Border Roads Organisation.
     - Currently, the organisation maintains operations in twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.
     - The BRO operates and maintains over 32,885 kilometres of roads and about 12,200 meters of permanent bridges in the country.

### Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

1. **Smart Ganga City Scheme**
   - The Union Government has launched the first phase of Smart Ganga City programme in 10 cities located along River Ganga.
   - The first phase of programme was jointly launched by the Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu and Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti.
   - Under this programme, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and improve drainage network will be set up on hybrid annuity mode on public private partnership basis.

2. **Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Program (AIBP)**
   - AIBP was launched in 1996-97 for extending loan assistance to states for the completion of near complete irrigation scheme.
   - The Major/Medium Irrigation (MMI) includes Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) of irrigation projects and Surface Minor Irrigation
schemes, as well as Lift Irrigation Schemes (LIS).

- The assistance provided was entirely in the form on loan in the beginning but later a grant component was also added in 2005.
- For special category states, DPAP (Drought Prone Area Programme) states, Tribal Areas, Flood Prone Areas and KBK (Koraput-Balangir-Kalahandi) area of Odisha, the Central Government would provide 90% of the project cost only as grants.

3. **Jal Kranti Abhiyan**
   - Jal Kranti Abhiyan was launched on June 05, 2015 to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach.
   - One of the main objectives of the Jal Kranti Abhiyan is “strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies for Participatory Irrigation Management.”
   - There are four important components of Jal Kranti Abhiyan viz.
     - Jal Gram Yojana,
     - Development of Model Command Area,
     - Pollution Abatement
     - Mass Awareness Programme.
   - Under Jal Gram Yojana, two water stressed villages in each district of the country are to be selected and a comprehensive water security plan is formulated to achieve water security for these villages.
   - So far 726 such villages have been identified against the total target of 828.

**Ministry of Urban Development**

1. **Asli Tarakki**
   - It is a new campaign for Swachh Bharat Mission launched by the Ministry of Urban Development.
   - It is aimed at sanitising six cities of the National Capital Region (NCR).
   - Further, it will be replicated in other States if it succeeds.
   - About 450 young men and women with “communication skills and leadership qualities” have been selected as “lead motivators” to spread awareness on Swachh Bharat Mission.

2. **Swachh Survekshan 2017**
   - The Union Ministry of Urban Development launched Swachh Survekshan 2017 to rank 500 cities/towns across the country on cleanliness with a population of 1 lakh and above.
   - The survey will be conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI) under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in a bid to encourage competition to improve sanitation.
   - Swachh Survekshan 2017 will judge cities on the basis of data provided by Municipal bodies, data collected through direct observations and independent assessment and citizen feedbacks.
- Data provided by Municipal bodies will carry 900 marks, data collected through direct observations and independent assessment will carry 500 marks and citizen feedbacks will carry 600 marks.
- **Areas of evaluations**: Waste collection, sweeping and transportation (40% marks), Open defecation free (ODF) and toilets (30%), Municipal Solid Waste-processing and disposal (20%) and Information, education and behaviour change and Capacity building-Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) e-learning portal (5% each).
- The citizens can also give their feedback by filling up a feedback form on the Swachh Survekshan website.
- **Swachh Survekshan 2016** had ranked 73 cities across the country and Mysore was ranked on top followed by Chandigarh.

3. **Heritage Infrastructure Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)**
   - The National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) aims to **preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage** of the country.
   - It seeks to promote an **integrated, inclusive and sustainable development** of heritage sites, focusing not just on **maintenance of monuments** but on **advancement of the entire ecosystem** including its citizens, tourists and local businesses.
   - Central government will meet the entire expenditure under the scheme **(Central Sector Scheme)**. But, the states and local urban bodies are requested to supplement their resources for rapid development of heritage cities.
   - The project will work through a partnership of Government, Academic Institutions and local community combining affordable technologies.
   - **The 12 cities selected** for the scheme are Ajmer, Amritsar, Amravati, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Warangal, Puri, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Varanasi and Velankanni.
   - **Objectives of Scheme**:
     - Bring urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation together for heritage cities.
     - **Beautification of heritage cities** in an inclusive and integrated manner with prime focus on livelihoods, skills, cleanliness, security, safety, accessibility and faster service delivery.
     - Guide conservation, restoration, future use and development of heritage cities.
     - Create **improved connectivity** platform and access to tourists.

4. **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**
   - AMRUT is the new avatar of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).
   - It adopts a **project approach** to ensure **basic infrastructure services** relating to water supply, sewerage, storm-water drains, transportation and development of green spaces and parks with special provision for meeting
the needs of children.

- Under this mission, **10% of the budget allocation** will be given to states and union territories as **incentive based on the achievement of reforms during the previous year**.
- AMRUT will be implemented in 500 locations with a population of one lakh and above.
- It would cover some cities situated on stems of main rivers, a few state capitals and important cities located in hilly areas, islands and tourist areas.
- Under this mission, **states get the flexibility of designing schemes** based on the needs of identified cities and in their execution and monitoring.
- States will only submit **state annual action Plans** to the centre for broad concurrence based on which funds will be released. The central government will not appraise individual projects.
- **Central assistance** will be to the extent of 50% of project cost for cities and towns with a population of up to 10 lakhs and one-third of the project cost for those with a population of above 10 lakhs.
- **States will transfer funds to urban local bodies** within 7 days of transfer by central government and **no diversion of funds to be made** failing which penal interest would be charged besides taking other adverse action by the centre.

### 5. Smart Cities Mission

- Under the scheme that was **launched in 2014**, around 100 cities in the country will be developed.
- In September 2016, the last set of 27 cities was announced.
- **Bottom-up approach** has been the key planning principle under Smart City Mission.
- These cities will be developed to have **basic infrastructure** through assured water and power supply, sanitation and solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, IT connectivity, e-governance and citizen participation.
- The mission will provide **central funding** of Rs 48,000 crore to the selected cities for improving their infrastructure and service delivery through **application of better technology and e-governance**.
- **States and Urban local Bodies (ULBs) will play a key supportive role** in the development of Smart Cities.
- The implementation of the Mission at the City level will be done by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** created for the purpose.
- The SPV will plan, appraise, approve, release funds, implement, manage, operate, monitor and evaluate the Smart City development projects.
- Each smart city will have a **SPV which will be headed by a full time CEO** and have nominees of Central Government, State Government and ULB on its Board.
- **Japan** has decided to be associated with the development of **Chennai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi** as smart cities.
- So far, leading countries have come forward to be associated with development of 15 smart cities. These include:
United States Trade Development Agency (USTDA) – Visakhapatnam, Ajmer and Allahabad,

UK – Pune, Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh) and Indore,

France – Chandigarh, Puducherry and Nagpur and

Germany – Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore and Kochi.

### Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

#### 1. Gramin Swachh Survekshan

- A total of 22 hill districts and 53 plain areas were assessed under the Gramin Swachh Survekshan launched in May 2016.
- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had commissioned Quality Council of India (QCI) to carry out the assessment.
- Each district has been judged on four distinct parameters. Maximum weightage was places on accessibility to safe toilets and water. The parameters to judge sanitation status include:
  - Households having access to safe toilets and using them (toilet usage, water accessibility, safe disposal of waste) (40%).
  - Households having no litter around (30%).
  - Public places with no litter in the surrounding (10%).
  - Households having no stagnant wastewater around (20%).
- **Highlights of the study:**
  - Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) and Sindhudurg (Maharashtra) are the cleanest districts in India.
  - Mandi was judged as the cleanest district in “Hills” category and Sindhudurg as the cleanest in the “Plains” category.
  - Districts of Sikkim, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Nadia (West Bengal) and Satara (Maharashtra) have also featured at the top of the index.

#### 2. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM-G)

- The Swachh Bharat Mission, launched in October 2014, consists of two sub-missions –
  - Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM-G), which will be implemented in rural areas
  - Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), which will be implemented in urban areas.
- SBM-G seeks to eliminate open defecation in rural areas by 2019 through improving access to sanitation.
- It also seeks to generate awareness to motivate communities to adopt sustainable sanitation practices, and encourage the use of appropriate technologies for sanitation.
- SBM-Gramin mainly focuses on ensuring the use of toilets, besides their construction.
- The States and their implementing agencies will be given incentives for meeting performance standards: reducing open defecation, sustaining their open defecation-free status and improving solid and liquid waste management in rural areas.
• The World Bank will also provide a $25-million technical assistance for building the capacity of select State governments.
• Kerala has become the third State overall and the largest State so far to be declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Gramin).
• Previously, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh was declared ODF.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

1. Gas4India campaign
• The centre has launched Gas4India campaign, aimed at promoting the use of gas in the country.
• Gas4India is a unified cross-country, multimedia, multi-event campaign to communicate the national, social, economic and ecological benefits of using natural gas as the fuel of choice to every citizen who uses, or will use in the near future, gas in any way—cook, travel, light their homes, and power their business.
• Details:
  o The campaign includes social engagement via Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and its official blog site, as well as hyper-local, offline events to directly connect with consumers through discussions, workshops and cultural events.
  o Public and private sector companies working in the sector have joined hands to promote the natural gas sector.

2. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
• It aims at providing Free LPG connections to Women from BPL Households.
• The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
• This is the first time in the history of the country that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas would implement a welfare scheme benefitting crores of women belonging to the poorest households.
• Under the scheme, Rs 8000 crore has been earmarked for providing five crore LPG connections to BPL households. This Scheme would be implemented over three years, namely, the FY 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.
• The Scheme provides a financial support of Rs 1600 for each LPG connection to the BPL households.
• The identification of eligible BPL families will be made in consultation with the State Governments and the Union Territories.
• The scheme is being partly funded from the savings of the GiveItUp initiative.
• Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has decided to extend the benefits under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to the people of all Hilly States including North-East States by treating them as ‘Priority States’.
3. **Urja Ganga**
   - Urja Ganga is the highly ambitious gas pipeline project in Varanasi.
   - The gas pipeline project aims to provide piped cooking (PNG) gas to residents of the eastern region of the country and CNG gas for the vehicles.
   - The project is being implemented by state-run gas utility GAIL. It envisages laying a 2,050-km pipeline connecting Jagdishpur (UP) to Haldia (West Bengal) by 2018.
   - From Varanasi’s perspective, 50,000 households and 20,000 vehicles will get cleaner and cheaper fuel PNG and CNG gas respectively.
   - The project is considered as a major step towards collective growth and development of the Eastern region of India.

4. **National Gas Hub**
   - The government is planning to come up with a national gas hub, which would be a trading platform for gas at market-determined price.
   - A gas hub is a physical point where several gas pipelines come together or intersect.
   - The ministry of petroleum and natural gas is working towards setting up a common gas hub after the government introduced a new gas pricing formula in 2014.
   - **Significance of this move:**
     - India will also have a gas-trading place similar to international hubs such as the US’ Henry Hub and the UK’s National Balancing Point.
   - **Present scenario:**
     - At present, the Indian domestic natural gas price is calculated on a half-yearly basis, based on a weighted average of Henry Hub, National Balancing Point, Russian gas and Canada’s Alberta Gas.
   - **How it operates?**
     - A gas hub works exactly like a stock exchange does. There are buyers and sellers, and prices are determined by market forces. Gas is thus freely traded.
   - **Why is the setting up of gas hub good for India?**
     - This is a huge positive for upstream companies in India as prices will be market-driven. Moreover, it seems like the domestic natural gas pricing will be uniform with the move.

5. **Saksham – 2017**
   - Saksham – 2017 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is aimed to create awareness amongst masses towards judicious utilization and conservation of petroleum products along with use of energy efficient appliances and switching to cleaner fuels.
   - The programme is being organized by PCRA (Petroleum Conservation Research Association) and other Oil & Gas PSUs under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
   - It is a month long awareness programme. During one-month long drive, workshops will be held for drivers of commercial vehicles and housewives,
cooks on adopting simple fuel saving measures.

- Saksham – 2017 also aims to educate on various steps for fuel conservation through activities like Quiz Show, Saksham Asian Cycling Championship, Walkathons, concerts and other activities across the country.

**Ministry of Communications**

1. Universal Service Obligation Fund
   - USOF, established in 2002, provides effective subsidies to ensure telegraph services are provided to everyone across India, especially in the rural and remote areas. It is headed by the USOF Administrator who reports to the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
   - Funds come from the Universal Service Levy (USL) of 5% charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) which are then deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India, and require prior parliamentary approval to be dispatched.
   - The USOF works through a bidding process, where funds are given to the enterprise quoting the lowest bid.
   - The government is planning to unveil a new scheme to provide mobile phone access to over 55,000 villages, particularly those in Border States and in the Himalayan region, to push forward its flagship Digital India programme. The scheme will be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**

1. Mobile Air Dispensary
   - Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), has proposed “Mobile Air Dispensary” service for remote and far-flung areas of Northeast.
   - Key facts:
     - The initiative involves a mobile dispensary in a Helicopter with a doctor, necessary equipment and medicines that can fly to remote and far-flung on regular basis and also, as and when required.
     - The idea takes its inspiration from “Royal Flying Service of Australia”, popularly known as “Flying Doctors”.
   - This initiative is helpful particularly in areas from where patients find it difficult to reach a dispensary. With this, a doctor with dispensary can reach them.

**Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises**

1. National SC/ST hub
   - National SC/ST Hub under the Ministry of MSME will promote the SC/ST entrepreneurs.
   - It will have an initial outlay of Rs 490 crore.
   - The hub will work towards strengthening market access/linkage, monitoring,
capacity building, leveraging financial support schemes and sharing industry-best practices.

- It will also enable central public sector enterprises to fulfil the procurement target set by the government.

2. **Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme**
   - Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme is for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
   - The **ZED Maturity Assessment Model** has been conceived and structured to offer graded benchmark levels of an organisation’s performance through a set of standards.
   - It aims to rate and handhold all MSMEs to **deliver top-quality products using clean technology**.
   - The aim is to help MSMEs evolve and grow by providing them **adequate training and funding** to move up the value chain and **produce quality products**.
   - The ZED model will sensitise MSMEs to emphasise delivery of **high quality products with zero defects**.
   - There will be **sector-specific assessment parameters** for each industry such as food processing, textiles, leather, auto parts, etc.

**Ministry of Mines**

1. **Mining Surveillance System (MSS)**
   - The government has launched the **Mining Surveillance System (MSS)**. It uses **space technology for curbing illegal mining activity in the country through automatic remote sensing detection technology**.
   - **Ministry of Mines**, through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has developed the MSS, in coordination with **Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar** and **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**.
   - Developed under the **Digital India Programme**, MSS is one of the first such surveillance systems developed in the world using space technology.
   - The current system of monitoring of illegal mining activity is based on local complaints and unconfirmed information.
   - In the MSS the maps of the mining leases have been geo-referenced. The geo-referenced mining leases are superimposed on the latest satellite remote sensing scenes obtained from CARTOSAT & USGS.
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

1. **Indian Bridge Management System**
   - IBMS is being developed to create an **inventory of all bridges** in the country and rate their structural condition so that timely repair and rehabilitation work can be carried out based on the criticality of the structure.
   - IBMS is the **largest platform in the world owned by a single owner**, with database that could exceed 1,50,000 bridge structures.

2. **Setu Bharatam**
   - Setu Bharatam Project to make all national highways free of railway crossings by 2019.
   - This project will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
   - Around 1,500 bridges that are over 50 to 60 years old or of the British era will be overhauled and will be rebuilt.

Ministry of Shipping

1. **Sagarmala Programme**
   - The Sagarmala project seeks to develop a string of ports around India’s coast.
   - Promote “**Port-led development**” along India’s 7500 km long coastline.
   - The **Union Ministry of Shipping is the nodal ministry** for this initiative.
   - Sustainable development of the population living in the **Coastal Economic Zone (CEZ)**.
   - Improve port connectivity through rail corridors, freight-friendly expressways and inland waterways.
   - Develop skills of fishermen and other coastal and island communities.
   - **Three pillars of development:**
     a. Enabling Port-led Development through appropriate policy and institutional interventions.
     b. Modernization and setting up of new ports.
     c. Evacuation to and from hinterland.
   - Implementation:
     d. To implement this, State governments would set up **State Sagarmala committees**, headed by the chief minister or the minister in charge of ports.
     e. At the central level, a **Sagarmala Development Company (SDC)** will be set up to provide equity support to assist various special purpose vehicles (SPVs) set up for various projects.
   - The Ministry of Shipping has sanctioned the **Capital Dredging Project** for Ro Pax Ferry Services between Gogha & Dahej, in Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat.
   - **Significance of this project:**
     o The project would result in reduction in motorable distance of 231 kms between Gogha & Dahej to mere 31 kms and reduce the travel time from 7 hours to 1 hour only by crossing the Gulf in Cambay in 17 Nautical
The initiative also results in **savings in fuel, reduction in CO2 emission** and **reduction in road congestion**.

- The project is **first of its kinds in India** as it will be executed in the area of world’s 2nd highest tidal range.
- It would also help in utilisation of inland waterways through River Narmada for shipping goods from industries located upstream.

**Ministry of Earth Sciences**

1. **HIMANSH**
   - It is India’s **Remote and High-Altitude research Station** opened recently in Himalaya.
   - To better **study and quantify the Himalayan glacier responses** towards the climate change.
   - It is located at a remote region in **Spiti, Himachal Pradesh**.
   - It has been established by **the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
   - Some of the instruments that are available at this research facility include, **Automatic Weather Stations** for weather monitoring, **water level recorder** for quantifying the glacier melt and **ground penetrating radar** to know the thickness of glaciers.
   - The **Terrestrial Laser Scanners (TLS) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)** would digitize the glacier motion and snow cover variations with exceptional precision.

**Ministry of Minority Affairs**

1. **Management of Haj Pilgrimage**
   - Following President Pranab Mukherjee’s assent to **amendments to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961**, the Centre has transferred the **management of Haj Pilgrimage**, including administration of the Haj Committee Act, 1959, **to the Minorities Affairs Ministry**.
   - The **Ministry of External Affairs** has dealt with the Haj pilgrimage and other aspects of the Act **so far**.
   - Under the amended business rules, the Ministry would however, continue to oversee other pilgrimages to places outside India under the **Indian Pilgrimships Rules, 1933**, and pilgrim parties from India to shrines in Pakistan and vice versa.

2. **Hunar Haath**
   - It is being organized by the Minority Affairs Ministry to **encourage, promote and provide national and international market to master artisans/craftsmen belonging to the Minority communities** from across the country.
   - “Hunar Haat” is being organized through **National Minorities Development &
3. **USTTAD scheme**
   - USTTAD stands for **upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development**.
   - It was launched by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs.
   - The scheme aims at **preserving and promoting the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts** of the Minority communities.
   - In the light of globalisation & competitive market, these crafts have gradually lost their employability.
   - It also envisages at **boosting the skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans** who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.
   - The scheme, which will be **funded by the Central Government**, will prepare skilled and unskilled artisans and craftsmen to compete with big companies.

### Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

1. **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Urban)**
   - The scheme was launched in June 2015 and envisages **Housing for All by 2022**.
   - It involves building of more than **two crore houses** in a span of seven years.
   - The beneficiaries are people living under **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG)** categories in the country.
   - The scheme is divided into **three phases**:
     - In the first phase, a total of 100 cities will be covered from April 2015 to March 2017.
     - In phase two, 200 cities will be covered from April 2017 to March 2019.
     - In the third phase, the leftover cities will be covered from April 2019 to March 2022.
   - The government is providing an **interest subsidy of 6.5% on housing loans** which can be availed by beneficiaries for 15 years from start of loan date.
   - The government will grant Rs 1 lakh to all the beneficiaries of the scheme. In addition, Rs 1.5 lakh will be given to all eligible urban poor who want to construct their houses in urban areas or plan to go for renovation in their existing houses.
   - One can also avail loans under this scheme to **build toilets in existing houses**.
   - The Mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor **including slum dwellers** through following programme verticals:
     - **Slum rehabilitation** of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource.
     - Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker section through **credit linked subsidy**.
     - Affordable Housing in **Partnership with Public & Private sectors**.
NOTES

Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement.

Ministry of Rural Development

1. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin)
   - Prime Minister Shri Narendra has formally launched “Housing for All” in rural areas under which the Government proposes to provide an environmentally safe and secure pucca house to every rural household by 2022.
   - Named the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin), in its first phase the target is to complete one crore houses by March 2019.
   - Minimum support of nearly Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh to a household is available. There is also a provision of Bank loan upto Rs. 70,000/-, if the beneficiary so desires.
   - The selection of beneficiaries has been through a completely transparent process using the Socio Economic Census 2011 data and validating it through the Gram Sabha.
   - PMAY-G is also a major step forward in bringing together Skill India, Digital India, Make In India, IT/DBT Aadhaar platform and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).
   - The programme provides for skilling 5 lakh Rural Masons by 2019.
   - A large scale use of local materials is envisaged along with a complete home with cooking space, electricity provision, LPG, toilet and bathing area, drinking water etc through convergence.
   - The programme targets the poor households and uses ICT and space technology to further confirm correct selection of beneficiaries and progress of work.
   - The entire payments are through IT/DBT mode with Aadhaar linked Bank accounts with consent, to ensure complete transparency and accountability.
   - There is a provision for orientation of beneficiaries. A 45 days on site hands-on skill training of Rural Masons helps poor households to move up the skilling ladder.

2. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY -NRLM)
   - Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY -NRLM) is a flagship rural poverty reduction program of Ministry of Rural Development launched nationwide with the objective of social mobilization, financial inclusion and sustainable livelihoods promotion.
   - DAY – NRLM aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.
   - One of the major focus areas of DAY – NRLM is promotion of existing livelihood portfolios of the rural poor in farm and non-farm sectors.
   - Upgradation and sharing of knowledge on agricultural practices for
sustainable income is therefore, considered a valuable input for poverty alleviation and higher income generation.

- **DAY – NRLM** recognizes the importance of achieving the post-2015 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as other global priorities, that relate to rural poverty reduction, sustainable rural livelihoods, rural employment, social protection, good governance and gender equality.

### 3. Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Areas

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely “Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Areas” to improve the **rural road connectivity in the worst LWE affected districts** from security angle.
- The project will be implemented as a vertical **under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**.
- The roads will be operable throughout the year irrespective of all weather conditions.
- The roads taken up under the scheme would include Other District Roads (ODRs), Village Roads (VRs) and upgradation of the existing Major District Roads (MDRs) that are critical from the security point of view.
- **The PMGSY guideline does not permit construction/upgradation of MDRs.** However, keeping special circumstances of LWE areas in view, MDRs would be taken up under the scheme as a special dispensation.
- The roads to be constructed under the scheme have been identified by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** in close consultation with the State Governments and the security agencies.
- The **fund sharing pattern** of LWE road project will be the same as that of PMGSY i.e. in the ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and States for all States except for eight North Eastern and three Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand) for which it is 90:10.

### 4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched on 25th December, 2000 as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with the objective to provide all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected habitations in **rural areas** of the country.
- The programme envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations with:
  - Population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in **plain areas**.
  - 250 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in **Special Category States**.
  - **Tribal (Schedule-V) areas.**
  - **In Select Tribal and Backward Districts** (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs).
  - **The Desert Areas** (as identified in Desert Development Programme).
- For most intensive **Integrated Action Plan (IAP) blocks** as identified by
Ministry of Home Affairs the unconnected habitations with population of 100 and above (as per 2001 Census) are eligible to be covered under PMGSY.

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

1. **National Resource Centre for Tribal Livelihood**
   - Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with UNDP and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) has launched “Vanjeevan” the National Resource Centre for Tribal Livelihood issues at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
   - Vanjeevan will be a programme to **identify the problems in livelihood issues** in select districts of **six states having low HDI of tribal people in the first phase.** The states are Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha and Telangana.
   - In the second phase the programme will be implemented in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Tripura.
   - The programme will focus on the **identification of local resources**, keeping in view the existing skill level.
   - The programme will facilitate utilization of funds under various Government programmes for the above purpose.
   - The National Resource Centre will serve as a platform for **livelihood mapping, skill gap analysis and knowledge hub** where consolidation of best livelihood and entrepreneurship models will be accessible for tribal entrepreneurship development.

**Ministry of Textiles**

1. **Bunkar Mitra**
   - “Bunkar Mitra” is the **Government of India’s Helpline for Handloom Weavers**.
   - The helpline was launched by the government on the occasion of “Good Governance Day on December 25, 2016”.
   - The helpline provides a **single point of contact to handloom weavers across the country** for addressing queries and providing guidance.
   - Services that are available through this helpline include- **Assistance on technical issues**, Access to marketing linkages and Information about various schemes and procedure to avail benefits.
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

1. **Mission XI Million**
   - With the vision of **making football the sport of choice in India**, Mission XI Million, the biggest school sport outreach programme was launched by the government.
   - **A first of its kind**, the programme will encourage children to play the game of football, gain healthy habits and learn important life lessons in teamwork and sportsman spirit.
   - The approach is to work with school principals and sports teachers and **encourage and incentivize** them to make children play football games on regular basis.
   - It aims to instil the passion for football in 11 million children from every part of the country.
   - Mission XI Million also equips parents and schools with the equipment and the knowledge about how to make regular play a reality for their wards.

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1. **Jan Aushadhi Scheme**
   - It is a scheme which seeks to make available **quality medicines at affordable prices for all**, especially the poor and the disadvantaged.
   - The State Government has to provide space in **Government Hospital premises** for the running of the outlets (Jan Aushadhi Stores).
   - Government hospitals, NGOs, Charitable Organisations and public societies like Red Cross Society, Rogi Kalyan Samiti typically constituted for the purpose can be **operating agencies for the JAS**.
   - **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementing agency.

Acts / Bills

1. **Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostics Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act, 1994**
   - The **Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostics Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act, 1994** was enacted in response to the decline in **Sex ratio in India**.
   - The main purpose is to **ban the use of sex selection techniques** before or after conception.
   - **Prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic technique** for sex selective abortion.
   - It **regulates** the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, like ultrasound and amniocentesis by allowing them their use only to detect few cases.
   - Any person who puts an advertisement for pre-natal and pre-conception sex determination in any form can be imprisoned for up to three years and fined Rs. 10,000.
   - The Act mandates **compulsory registration** of all diagnostic laboratories, all
genetic counselling centres, genetic laboratories, genetic clinics and ultrasound clinics.

- Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (PNDT), was amended in 2003 to The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition Of Sex Selection) Act (PCPNDT Act) to improve the regulation of the technology used in sex selection.

- **Offenses include:**
  - Conducting or helping in the conduct of prenatal diagnostic technique in the unregistered units.
  - Conducting PND test for any purpose other than the one mentioned in the act.
  - Sale, distribution, supply, renting etc. of any ultra sound machine or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus.

2. **Compensatory and Afforestation Fund (CAF) Bill, 2016**

- Compensatory and Afforestation Fund (CAF) Bill, 2016 allows States to access nearly Rs. 42,000 crore and channel into Afforestation projects.
- The Bill establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.
- These Funds will receive payments for: (i) compensatory Afforestation, (ii) net present value of forest (NPV), and (iii) other project specific payments.
- **Net present value (NPV) of forest** is the value of diverted forest which is calculated and recovered from the user agency for diverting forests. It is calculated for 50 years period.
- The National Fund will receive 10% of these funds, and the State Funds will receive the remaining 90%.
- These Funds will be primarily spent on Afforestation to compensate for loss of forest cover, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wildlife protection and infrastructure development.
- The Bill also establishes the National and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authorities to manage the National and State Funds.

3. **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**

- The Act seeks to cover all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protect them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organized or unorganized.
- The Act defines sexual harassment at the work place and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.
- It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.
- Along with the traditional office set-up where there is a clear employer-employee relationship, the Act also includes organisations, department, office, branch unit etc. in hospitals, nursing homes, educational institutions, sports institutes, stadiums, sports complex and any place visited by the
employee during the course of employment including the transportation.

- Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- The District Officer is required to constitute a Local Complaints Committee at each district, and if required at the block level.
- The Committee is required to complete the inquiry within a time period of 90 days.
- On completion of the inquiry, the report will be sent to the employer or the District Officer, as the case may be, they are mandated to take action on the report within 60 days.
- The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence. The Complaints Committees are required to provide for conciliation before initiating an inquiry, if requested by the complainant.
- Penalties have been prescribed for employers. Non-compliance with the provisions of the Act shall be punishable with a fine of up to 50,000. Repeated violations may lead to higher penalties and cancellation of licence or registration to conduct business.

- What is sexual harassment?
  - Sexual harassment includes physical contact and advances, demand or request for sexual favours, sexually coloured remarks, showing any pornography and any other unwelcome physical, verbal, non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.
  - Implied or explicit promise of preferential or detrimental treatment in employment, implied or explicit threat about her present or future employment status, interference with her work and humiliating treatment likely to affect her health or safety may also amount to sexual harassment.

4. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009

- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A.
- Article 21-A and the RTE Act came into effect on 1 April 2010.
- Every child in the age group of 6 to 14 years has Right to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school.
- ‘compulsory education’ means obligation of the appropriate government to provide free elementary education and ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education to every child in the six to fourteen age group.
- ‘Free’ means that no child shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education.
- A non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.
- It specifies the duties and responsibilities of appropriate Governments, local authority and parents in providing free and compulsory education, and
NOTES

sharing of financial and other responsibilities between the Central and State Governments.

- It lays down the norms and standards relating inter alia to Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings and infrastructure, school-working days, teacher-working hours.
- It also provides for prohibition of deployment of teachers for non-educational work, other than decennial census, elections to local authority, state legislatures and parliament, and disaster relief.
- The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the main vehicle for implementation of the RTE Act.
- It is one of the largest programmes of its kind in the world.
- It is primarily funded from central budget and it covers the whole country.
- Under SSA, special attention has been given to urban deprived children, children affected by periodic migration and children living in remote and scattered habitations.
- Attempts have also been made to reach out to children suffering from autism. It involves their identification, preparation of individualized Education Plan, teacher training on Autism and therapeutic support.

5. **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**

- The objectives of 2013 Act:
  - Eliminate the insanitary latrines.
  - Prohibit:
    - Employment as Manual Scavengers
    - Hazardous manual cleaning of sewer and septic tanks
  - Survey of Manual Scavengers and their rehabilitation

- Main features of the 2013 Act:
  - Definitions of manual scavengers and insanitary latrines widened to cover not only dry latrines but other insanitary latrines as well.
  - Offences under the Act are cognizable and non-bailable and attract stringent penalties.
  - Vigilance/Monitoring Committee at sub-Division, District, State and Central Govt. levels.
  - National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) would, inter alia, monitor implementation of the Act and enquire into complaints regarding contravention of the provisions of the Act.
  - Provision of construction of adequate number of sanitary community latrines in urban areas, within three years from the date of commencement of this Act to eliminate the practice of open defecation.


- The Bill amends:
  - The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and
Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002,
  o The Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993,
  o The Indian Stamp Act, 1899, and
  o The Depositories Act, 1996.
• The Bill **empowers banks to confiscate security in the case of loan default.**
• The amendments are aimed at:
  o **Faster recovery and resolution of bad debts** by banks and financial institutions
  o Making it easier for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to function.
  o Put in place an **enabling infrastructure to effectively deal with non-performing assets** in the Indian banking system.

7. **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016**
• The Bill will regulate surrogacy in India by establishing **National Surrogacy Board** at the central level and **State Surrogacy Boards** and Appropriate Authorities in the State and Union Territories.
• The legislation will ensure **effective regulation of surrogacy, prohibit commercial surrogacy and allow ethical surrogacy** to the needy infertile couples.
• A woman will be allowed to become a surrogate mother **only for altruistic purpose and under no circumstances money shall be paid to her**, except for medical expenses.
• The rights of surrogate mother and children born out of surrogacy will be protected.
• The Bill shall **apply to whole of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.**
• Only legally—wedded Indian couples can have children through surrogacy, provided at least one of them have been proven to have fertility-related issues.
• **Foreigners, even Overseas Indians, are barred from commissioning surrogacy.**
• Unmarried couples, single parents, live—in partners and homosexuals cannot opt for surrogacy as per the new bill.

8. **Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)**
• The Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) is an act of Parliament of India. It is a central law.
• It was established to **ensure the delivery of certain services**, which if obstructed would affect the normal life of the people. These include services like **public transport (bus services), health services (doctors and hospitals).**
• Although it is a very powerful law, **its execution rests entirely on the discretion of the State government. Each state** in the union of India hence **has a separate state Essential Services Maintenance Act** with slight variations from the central law in its provisions. This freedom is accorded by
the central law itself.

9. **Forest Rights Act, 2006**
   - The legislation protects the **rights of forest-dwelling communities** to land and other resources, denied to them over decades as a result of the continuance of colonial forest laws in India.
   - The Act grants **legal recognition** to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities.
   - **Rights under the Act:**
     - **Title rights** – i.e. ownership to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a **maximum of 4 hectares**; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family, meaning that no new lands are granted.
     - **Use rights** – to **minor forest produce** (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
     - **Relief and development rights** – to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
     - **Forest management rights** – to protect forests and wildlife.
   - **Eligibility:**
     - Those who **“primarily reside in forests”** and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood.
     - Further, either the claimant must be a member of the **Scheduled Tribes scheduled in that area** or must have been **residing in the forest for 75 years**.
   - **Process of recognition of rights:**
     - The Act provides that the **gram sabha, or village assembly**, will initially pass a resolution recommending whose rights to which resources should be recognised.
     - This resolution is then screened and approved at the level of the **sub-division (or taluka)** and subsequently at the **district level**.
     - The **screening committees** consist of **three government officials** (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and **three elected members** of the local body at that level. These committees also hear appeals.

10. **Bihar prohibition and excise act, 2016**
    - This is a new and more stringent **liquor-ban law** with **provisions such as arrest of all adults in the family if anyone consumes or stores alcohol**.
    - It aims to ensure that the ban on sale and consumption of alcohol, including Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), continues in Bihar.
    - Those flouting the ban face up to 10 years in jail, a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh and there is also a provision to confiscate the house or premises where liquor is stored or drunk.
    - Though in a **rare case**, it also prescribes **death penalty** if people die after consuming hooch.
• Enforcement of the new law, calculated to impose prohibition in a holistic manner, would repeal the previous excise laws in the state.
• Bihar has claimed to have formed the world’s largest human chain to reaffirm commitment towards liquor ban. The chain was billed as a social message against addiction, and specifically in favour of prohibition.

**Miscellaneous**

1. **National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP)**
   • National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP), is the largest and one of the most significant initiatives in automotive sector so far.
   • It represents a unique joining of hands between the Government of India, a number of State Governments and Indian Automotive Industry to create a state of the art Testing, Validation and R&D infrastructure in the country.
   • NATRIP project is required to adopt global best practices to ensure road safety, environmental protection etc in design, manufacture, testing and operation of motor vehicles in India
   • India is signatory to UN Regulation on Harmonisation of Vehicle Specifications under WP-29 of 1998.
   • The Project aims at creating core global competencies in automotive sector in India.
   • Position the country prominently on the global automotive map.

2. **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)**
   • National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) is the first ever national plan prepared in the country.
   • The plan is based on the four priority themes of the “Sendai Framework,” namely:
     o Understanding disaster risk
     o Improving disaster risk governance
     o Investing in disaster risk reduction
     o Disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.
   • It provides for horizontal and vertical integration among all the agencies and departments of the Government.
   • The plan also spells out the roles and responsibilities of all levels of Government right up to Panchayat and Urban local body level in a matrix format.
   • It also identifies major activities such as early warning, information dissemination, medical care, fuel, transportation, search and rescue, evacuation, etc. to serve as a checklist for agencies responding to a disaster.
   • To prepare communities to cope with disasters, it emphasises on a greater need for Information, Education and Communication activities.
   • It even calls for ethical guidelines for the media for coverage of disasters as
well as self-regulation. The plan wants the media to respect the dignity and privacy of affected people.

- In a move aimed to stop rumours and spread of panic, the plan directed the authorities to schedule regular media briefing (depending on the severity of the disaster) and designate a nodal officer for interacting with the media on behalf of the government.

3. Good Samaritans
- Supreme Court had directed in an October 2014 case of SaveLIFE Foundation asking the Centre to issue directions to save Good Samaritans.
- Good Samaritan is a person who voluntarily declares himself to be an eyewitness of a road accident and who give reasonable assistance to those who are injured in the accident.
- Centre, in April 2016, had issued notification for protection of Good Samaritans. Guidelines include:
  - Assuring Good Samaritans anonymity and protecting them from any civil or criminal liability for taking the victim to the nearest hospital.
  - They shall be treated respectfully and without discrimination on the grounds of gender, religion, nationality, caste or any other.
  - Complete anonymity in case the Good Samaritan does not want to reveal his name or details.
  - Use of video-conferencing in case of any further interaction with him by the authorities and provision for the police to examine him at his residence or office or any place of his convenience.

4. Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims of Terrorist/Communal/Left Wing Extremist (LWE), Cross Border Firing and Mine/IED blasts on Indian Territory
- For the first time, civilian victims of cross border firing along the Indo-Pak border will be given a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh similar to those who die due to terrorism or LWE violence.
- Now onwards, any civilian who dies anywhere in the country due to terror attack, LWE violence, firing from across the border, shelling or IED explosion will be given Rs.5 lakh as compensation uniformly. The amount will be given to the next of kin of the victim.
- 5 lakh will also be given to those who receive 50% or more disability or incapacitation due to the same reasons.
- The compensation amount will be given subject to the condition that no employment has been provided to any of the family members of the victims by State or Central Government.
- Families of the victims would be eligible to get assistance under the scheme even if they have received any other assistance, by way of payment of ex-gratia or any other type of relief from the Government or any other source except when a similar scheme is already being implemented by the Central Government.
5. **SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avataran Irrigation) Yojana**

- The **first phase of SAUNI** (Saurashtra Narmada Avataran Irrigation) Yojana was launched by PM Modi at **Sanodara of Jamnagar district of Gujarat**.
- SAUNI Yojana is a **multipurpose project** that aims to **solve the water problems** of a parched Saurashtra region of Gujarat.
- Under this project, 115 dams in the Saurashtra region will be filled with **excess water from the Sardar Sarovar dam**.
- In the first phase, around 10 dams and reservoirs of Rajkot, Jamnagar and Morbi districts will be filled with water from **Narmada River** for irrigation and drinking purposes.
- **Farmers can reap both Kharif and Rabi crop** — as opposed to Kharif crop cultivation so far — once the project makes more water accessible for agriculture.
- SAUNI project involves **making pipe canals instead of the conventional open canals** which has led to no acquisition of land for the project.
- Though the project will not be added to the command area under irrigation, it will **strengthen the existing network** by providing 1 acre million cubic feet of surplus Narmada water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam through a new pipeline network connecting existing dams.

6. **Sukanya Samriddhi Account**

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** was launched by the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi on 21st January 2015; **under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign**.
- This scheme was launched to meet the **expense of the Girl child’s higher education and marriage**.
- **Who is eligible** under this scheme?
  - Gender: Girl child only
  - Citizenship: Child should be Indian citizen. NRI, OCI and other cannot open account under this scheme.
  - Age limit: On the date of opening the account, the child’s age should be 10 years or younger.
- **Who can Invest**:
  - Parent or Legal Guardian of the eligible Girl child.
- **Investment limit**:
  - In 1 year, minimum Rs 1000/- needs to be invested., thereafter in multiples of 100/-
  - Maximum of Rs 1, 50,000/- can be invested.
  - Deposits can be made in lump-sum or spread out manner.
  - No limit on number of deposits either in a month or in a financial year.
- **Termination of the Scheme**:
  - Scheme Tenure is 21 years from date of opening, or when the marriage of the girl child happens; whichever happens earlier.
  - Account can be continued after the marriage of girl child, if she wishes to do so; until 21 years from date of opening the account.
  - In case after maturity of the account (21 years) the account is not closed, balance will not earn any further interest.
• The provision of not allowing withdrawal from the account till the age of 18 has been kept to prevent early marriage of girls.
• When the girl child attains the age of 18 years, she herself would become eligible to operate the account.
• To meet the requirement of higher education expenses, partial withdrawal of 50 per cent of the balance would be allowed after the girl child has attended 18 years of age.

7. **INDOSAN**
   • INDOSAN is an annual national event, that brings together all stakeholders working in sanitation government, NGOs, academicians, researchers, partner agencies, corporates on one platform for a shared vision.
   • This will create an opportunity for collective vision, collective understanding of the key elements of the Swachh Bharat Mission programme.
   • INDOSAN is the platform, where each state will share their approaches most suitable to them to reach ODF.
   • INDOSAN will discuss on all these approaches, emerging innovations, learnings are cross shared, for the benefit of all.

8. **Nasha Mukt Bharat Andolan Yatra’**
   • ‘Nasha Mukt Bharat Andolan Yatra’, a nation-wide campaign to make society liquor free, was launched at Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on October 2 to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

9. **Student Startup Policy**
   • The National Student Startup Policy, formulated by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), aims to create 100,000 technology based student start-ups and a million employment opportunities within the next 10 years.
   • Developing an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem and promoting strong inter-institutional partnerships among technical institutions.
   • By developing an ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem, the policy aims to lend crucial soft skills such as decision-making in the students.

10. **Prime Minister’s Shram Awards**
    • The Prime Minister’s Shram Awards were instituted in 1985 by the Government of India.
    • This national award is conferred on workers for outstanding contributions that improve productivity, innovation, and indigenization, resulting in saving foreign exchange.
    • Those workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers.
    • They are four types of awards:
        o Shram Ratna
        o Shram Bhushan
11. BioAsia 2017

- BioAsia is the annual flagship event of the Telangana government.
- The event covers areas ranging from innovation and R&D, manufacturing, digital healthcare, diagnostics and hospital infections to anti-microbial resistance.
- BioAsia seeks to enhance, enrich and encourage newer innovations, path-breaking discoveries and effective solutions in the industry by offering a vibrant global platform for convergence of the key stakeholders.
- Organized by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Telangana, this event has emerged as a pre-eminent technology and bio-business convention in Asia for Life sciences, pharmaceuticals and healthcare.

12. Mission Kakatiya

- Mission Kakatiya is the Telangana government’s flagship programme aimed at restoring minor irrigation sources like tanks and other water bodies to help small and marginal farmers.
- The name ‘Mission Kakatiya’ is given in the remembrance and tribute to the Kakatiya rulers who developed large number of the irrigation tanks.