



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSTA PT 2020

EXCLUSIVE



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

**GOVERNMENT SCHEMES –
PART 2**

MARCH 2020 – AUGUST 2020

Table of Contents

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	5
1. ODF+ AND ODF++ UNDER PHASE 2 OF THE SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (URBAN)	5
2. SPECIAL WINDOW FOR AFFORDABLE AND MID INCOME HOUSING (SWAMIH)	5
3. INDIA CYCLES4CHANGE CHALLENGE	6
4. SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2020 REPORT	6
Ministry of Jal Shakti	7
1. RASHTRIYA SWACHHATA KENDRA	7
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	7
1. NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION	7
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).....	8
1. PRIME MINISTER EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAM (PMEGP)	8
2. GRAMODYOG VIKAS YOJANA	8
Ministry of Finance	9
1. PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY).....	9
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).....	10
1. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)	10
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.....	11
1. MODIFIED ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING CLUSTERS (EMC 2.0) SCHEME	11
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.....	11
1. KISAN RATH MOBILE APP	11
2. KRISHI KALYAN ABHIYAAN	11
3. RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA	12
4. KRISHI MEGH	13
5. AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND	13
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	14
1. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT 2013	14
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.....	15
1. PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADA YOJANA (PMMSY)	15
Ministry of Panchayati Raj	15
1. SWAMITVA YOJANA	15
Ministry of Rural Development	16
1. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHLYA YOJANA (DDU-GKY)	16
2. MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT, 2005 (MGNREGA)	16
3. PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA- GRAMIN (PMAY-G)	17

Ministry of Corporate Affairs	18
1. COMPANIES FRESH START SCHEME, 2020 AND REVISED LLP SETTLEMENT SCHEME, 2020	18
Ministry of Labour & Employment	18
1. NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE (NCS) PROJECT	18
Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)	19
1. SOLAR CHARKHA MISSION	19
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.....	19
1. SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF BULK DRUG PARKS.....	19
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Now Ministry of Education).....	19
1. SAMADHAN CHALLENGE.....	19
2. BHARAT PADHE ONLINE.....	19
3. YUKTI PORTAL.....	20
4. PRIME MINISTER'S RESEARCH FELLOWS SCHEME.....	20
5. SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION (SPARC) 20.....	20
6. HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCY (HEFA).....	21
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	21
1. TECH FOR TRIBALS	21
2. MSP FOR MFP	22
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER)	22
1. NORTH EAST VENTURE FUND (NEVF)	22
Ministry of Science and Technology	23
1. TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD.....	23
Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).....	23
1. IFLOWS-MUMBAI.....	23
Schemes/policies for minorities in various States	24
Initiatives to boost Education Sector	24
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	25
1. CATEGORISATION OF INDUSTRIES	25
Ministry of Defence	25
1. DEFENCE TESTING INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (DTIS).....	25
Ministry of Civil Aviation.....	26
1. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) RULES OF 2020	26
NITI Ayog.....	26

1. WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA AWARDS	26
Bills / Acts / Policies.....	27
1. ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT.....	27
2. MINERAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020	27
3. MAJOR PORT AUTHORITIES BILL, 2020	28
4. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT (FRBM) ACT.....	28
5. PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT 2005	29
6. PCPNDT ACT	29
7. INTER-STATE MIGRANT WORKMEN (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT, 1979	30
8. GENERAL FINANCIAL RULES	31
9. DOMICILE RULES FOR J&K.....	31
10. DRUGS AND MAGIC REMEDIES (OBJECTIONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS) ACT, 1954	32
11. POWER OF STATES UNDER THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT	32
Government Departments / Organisations	33
1. ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE	33
2. CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL FORUM	33
3. PETROLEUM & EXPLOSIVES SAFETY ORGANIZATION.....	34
4. NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY (NTA)	34
5. CERT-IN.....	35
6. CIVIL SERVICES BOARD	35
7. ICAR AND NICRA	35
8. KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA	35
9. NATIONAL ATLAS AND THEMATIC MAPPING ORGANISATION (NATMO).....	36
10. TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA (TRIFED)	36
11. NATIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY (NRA)	37
Miscellaneous.....	37
1. CRIME MULTI AGENCY CENTRE (CRI-MAC)	37
2. DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL (DAC)	37
3. OPERATION NAMASTE	38
4. OPERATION SANJEEVANI.....	38
5. OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU.....	38
6. VANDE BHARAT MISSION	38
7. SWADES: SKILL MAPPING EXERCISE FOR RETURNING CITIZENS.....	38
8. CHAKMAS AND HAJONGS.....	39
9. SUJALAM SUFALAM JAL SANCHAY ABHIYAN	39
10. NATIONAL CADET CORPS.....	39
11. AAROGYASETU	39
12. IAS, IPS OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS FORM 'CARUNA', AN INITIATIVE TO FIGHT CORONAVIRUS.....	40
13. VIZAG GAS LEAK: 'STRICT LIABILITY' OR 'ABSOLUTE LIABILITY'?.....	40
14. GOVT NOTIFIES BS-VI EMISSION NORMS FOR QUADRICYCLES.....	41
15. EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS).....	41
16. BHARATMARKET.....	41
17. SCHEME FOR FORMALIZATION OF MICRO FOOD PROCESSING ENTERPRISES (FME)42	

18.	SARAS COLLECTION	42
19.	GOAL (GOING ONLINE AS LEADERS)" PROGRAMME.....	43
20.	HANKO	43
21.	ELECTRONICS INCENTIVE SCHEMES	43
22.	WORLD BANK'S STARS PROJECT.....	43
23.	TULIP - URBAN LEARNING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.....	44
24.	GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAAN	44
25.	PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA	45
26.	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (AHIDF).....	45
27.	KOLKATA PORT TRUST RENAMED AS SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE TRUST	45
28.	DECCAN QUEEN	46
29.	ATHIRAPPILLY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT	46
30.	KUMBHAR SASHAKTIKARAN PROGRAM	46
31.	DRUG DISCOVERY HACKATHON 2020 (DDH2020)	46
32.	PRAGYATA GUIDELINES	47
33.	NATIONAL BIOPHARMA MISSION (NBM)	47
34.	'ACCELERATE VIGYAN' SCHEME	47
35.	PRERAK DAUR SAMMAN	48
36.	VRIKSHAROPAN ABHIYAN	48
37.	'DARE TO DREAM 2.0' CONTEST	48
38.	NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION 2020-2025 (NSFE).....	48

NOTES



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

1. ODF+ and ODF++ under Phase 2 of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development tabled its report on the performance of the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)** in Lok Sabha.

Key observations:

1. Despite the fact that work on three protocols under the next phase of **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban-2) — ODF+, ODF++ and Water Plus** — is to be completed by 2024, the ground situation was not matching with the assigned timeline. The progress has been slow.
2. Less than 30 per cent of the cities have been certified as ODF+.
3. The number of ODF++ cities — 411 — means that less than 10 per cent cities are certified as ODF++ so far.

What is ODF+, ODF++?

ODF+ and ODF++ were launched in August 2018 to further scale up and sustain the work undertaken by the cities after achieving the ODF status under **Phase I of the Swachh Bharat Mission — Urban (SBM-Urban)**.

Eligibility: Cities that had been certified ODF at least once, on the basis of the ODF protocols, are eligible to declare themselves as SBM-ODF+ & SBM-ODF++.

What do they mean?

ODF+ and ODF++ are aimed towards proper maintenance of toilet facilities and safe collection, conveyance, treatment/disposal of all faecal sludge and sewage.

While **ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene, ODF++ focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management.**

What is water plus?

Announced in August 2019, Water Plus aims **to sustain toilets by treating and reuse of water.** It contributes to the government's focus on water conservation and reuse under **the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and is in alignment with United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goal No 6 on clean water and sanitation.**

Background:

Under Phase 1 of the Swachh Bharat Mission (U), 99 per cent of the cities became ODF, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) had claimed in December 2019.

2. Special Window for Affordable and Mid Income Housing (SWAMIH)

About SWAMIH:

In November 2019, the Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to set it up.

- **SWAMIH Investment Fund** has been formed to complete construction of stalled, RERA-registered affordable and mid-income category housing projects which are stuck due to paucity of funds.
- The fund was set up as a **Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund** registered with SEBI.
- **The Investment Manager of the Fund** is SBICAP Ventures, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBI Capital Markets, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the State Bank of India.
- **The Sponsor of the Fund** is the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on behalf of the Government of India.

Who will be the investors of the fund?

AIFs created/funded under the Special Window would solicit investment into the fund from the Government and other private investors including cash-rich financial institutions, sovereign wealth funds, public and private banks, domestic pension and provident funds, global pension funds and other institutional investors.

3. India Cycles4Change Challenge

It is an **initiative of the Smart Cities Mission**, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs **to inspire and support Indian cities to quickly implement cycling-friendly initiatives in response to COVID-19**. The Challenge aims to help cities connect with their citizens as well as experts to develop a unified vision to promote cycling.

Who can apply?

- Cities with a population of more than 5 lakh.
- Capital cities of states/UTs.
- Cities under the Smart Cities Mission.

4. Swachh Survekshan 2020 report

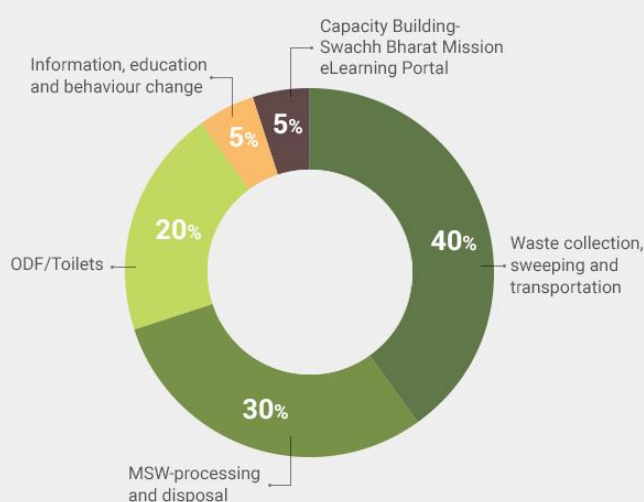
Swachh Survekshan 2020 report was recently released by the **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry**.

- Swachh Survekshan 2020 covered 4,242 cities, 62 cantonment boards and 92 Ganga towns. This survey was carried out in 28 days.
- This year the Ministry has released **rankings based on the categorisation of cities on population**, instead of releasing overall rankings.

Performance of various cities:

1. **Indore was ranked the cleanest city in the overall category** this year followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai.
 2. **Chhattisgarh** is the cleanest state in the category of **states with more than 100 urban local bodies (ULBs)**.
 3. **Ahmedabad** is India's the **cleanest Mega city**.
 4. **New Delhi** is the **cleanest capital city**.
 5. **Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur** is the **cleanest smallest city**.
1. **Bengaluru** wins the **Best Self Sustainability award in the Mega city category**.
 2. **Cleanest Town along the banks of river Ganga: Varanasi**.

Areas Of Evaluation Under SWACHH SURVEKSHAN



What is Swachh Survekshan?

- Launched by PM Modi in 2016.
- It is meant **to monitor the performance of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, which was launched on October 2, 2014, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It was also aimed at inculcating a spirit of **healthy competition among cities** towards becoming India's cleanest cities.

Who conducts the survey?

www.insightsonindia.com

The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** is in charge of evaluating the performance of the participating cities. This is an autonomous accreditation body which was set up by the Government of India in 1997 for quality assurance in all fields, including governance.

Ministry of Jal Shakti

1. Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra

Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra was inaugurated recently.

What is it?

A tribute to **Mahatma Gandhi**, the **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK)** was first announced by the **Prime Minister on 10th April 2017**, on the occasion of the **centenary celebrations of Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha**.

- It is an **interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- **The installations at RSK will include** audio visual immersive shows, interactive LED panels, hologram boxes, interactive games etc.

Roles and functions of RSK:

1. It will introduce future generations to its successful journey as the world's largest behaviour change campaign.
2. It will showcase the core elements of the mission and anecdotes on the journey of the country from Satyagraha to Swachhagrah.
3. It will impart information, awareness and education on Swachhata (sanitation) and related aspects.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. National Digital Health Mission

In his address to the nation on Independence Day, the PM has launched **the National Digital Health Mission** which rolls out **a national health ID** for every Indian.

- The scheme will be rolled out through **a pilot launch in the Union Territories** of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

What is the National Digital Health Mission?

It is a digital health ecosystem under which every Indian citizen will now have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.

- The Mission is expected to **bring efficiency and transparency in healthcare services in the country**.
- The new scheme will come under **the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.

Key features:

1. **It comprises six key building blocks** -- HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy and Telemedicine.
2. **The National Health Authority** has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the mission in the country.
3. **The core building blocks** of the mission is that **the health ID, DigiDoctor and Health Facility Registry shall be owned, operated and maintained by the Government of India**.

4. **Private stakeholders** will have an equal opportunity to integrate and create their own products for the market. **The core activities and verifications**, however, remain with the government.
5. Under the Mission, every Indian will get a **Health ID card** that will store all medical details of the person including prescriptions, treatment, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries.
6. The citizens will be able to give their doctors and health providers **one-time access to this data** during visits to the hospital for consultation.

Background:

The ambitious National Digital Health Mission finds its roots in a **2018 Niti Aayog proposal** to create a **centralised mechanism** to uniquely identify every participating user in **the National Health Stack**.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)

1. Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)

PMEGP is a **central sector scheme** administered by **the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**.

Launched in **2008-09**, it is a **credit-linked subsidy scheme** which promotes self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises, where **subsidy up to 35% is provided by the Government through Ministry of MSME** for loans up to ₹25 lakhs in manufacturing and ₹10 lakhs in the service sector.

Implementation:

National Level- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the nodal agency.

State Level- State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.

Eligibility:

- Any individual above 18 years of age, Self Help Groups, Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, Production Co-operative Societies and Charitable Trusts are eligible.
- Existing Units and the units that have already availed Government Subsidy under any other scheme of Government of India or State Government are not eligible.
- Only new projects are considered for sanction under PMEGP.

2. Gramodyog Vikas Yojana

Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of **Agarbatti** under **the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' (As a pilot project)**.

Key points:

1. Initially four Pilot Projects will be started, including one in North Eastern part of the country.
2. Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 Automatic Agarbatti making machines and 10 Mixing machines.
3. **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** will provide training, and assist artisans working in this area.

Ministry of Finance

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Completes six years of successful implementation.

- The number of total PMJDY accounts stand at 40.35 crore.
- Rural PMJDY accounts stand at 63.6 percent.
- Women PMJDY accounts stand at 55.2 percent.

About PMJDY:

Announced on 15th August 2014, PMJDY is **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

Basic tenets of the scheme:

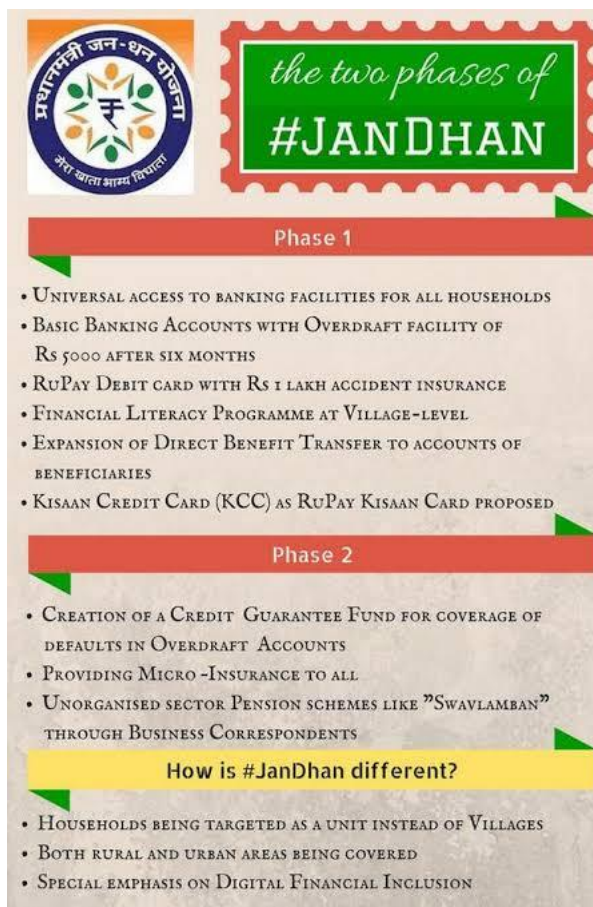
1. **Banking the unbanked** – Opening of basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account with minimal paperwork, relaxed KYC, e-KYC, account opening in camp mode, zero balance & zero charges.
2. **Securing the unsecured** – Issuance of Indigenous Debit cards for cash withdrawals & payments at merchant locations, with free accident insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakhs.
3. **Funding the unfunded** – Other financial products like micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption, micro-pension & micro-credit.

The scheme is Based upon the following 6 pillars:

1. **Universal access to banking services** – Branch and Banking Correspondents.
2. **Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility (OD)** of Rs. 10,000/- to every household.
3. **Financial Literacy Program**– Promoting savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, using basic mobile phones for banking.
4. **Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund** – To provide banks some guarantee against defaults.
5. **Insurance** – Accident cover up to Rs. 1,00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015.
6. **Pension scheme** for Unorganized sector.

Extension of PMJDY with New features:

1. Focus shift from **Every Household to Every Unbanked Adult**.
2. **RuPay Card Insurance** – Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs for PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018.
3. **Enhancement in overdraft facilities** – OD limit doubled from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000; OD upto Rs 2,000 (without conditions). Increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to 65 years.



Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

1. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

The government suspended the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme so that these funds would be available for its COVID-19 management efforts.

About MPLAD scheme:

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.

- The MPLADS is a **Plan Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.**

Special focus:

- MPs are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by S.T. population.
- A ceiling of Rs. 75 lakh is stipulated for building assets by trusts and societies subject to conditions prescribed in the scheme guidelines.

Works under the scheme:

Works, developmental in nature, based on locally felt needs and always available for the use of the public at large, are eligible under the scheme. Preference under the scheme is given to works relating to national priorities, such as provision of drinking water, public health, education, sanitation, roads, etc.

Release of Funds:

- Funds are released in the form of **grants in-aid** directly to the district authorities.
- 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.

Execution of works:

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 authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level.

Recommendation of works:

1. The Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
2. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected.
3. Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

1. Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme

Cabinet approves **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme**.

Key features:

1. The scheme provides for development of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs)**.
2. The Scheme would support setting up of both **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centers (CFCs)**.

Where can these clusters be setup?

1. An **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)** would set up in geographical areas of certain minimum extent, preferably contiguous, where the focus is on development of basic infrastructure, amenities and other common facilities for the ESDM units.
2. **For Common Facility Centre (CFC)**, there should be a significant number of existing ESDM units located in the area and the focus is on upgrading common technical infrastructure and providing common facilities for the ESDM units in such EMCs, Industrial Areas/Parks/Industrial corridors.

Benefits of the scheme:

1. Availability of ready infrastructure and Plug & Play facility for attracting investment in electronics sector.
2. New investment in electronics sector
3. Jobs created by the manufacturing units;
4. Revenue in the form of taxes paid by the manufacturing units

INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

1. Kisan Rath Mobile App

Union Agriculture Ministry had launched **Kisan Rath Mobile App** to facilitate transportation of foodgrains and perishables during lockdown.

- The app is developed by **the National Informatics Centre** to facilitate farmers and traders in searching transport vehicles for movement of Agriculture and Horticulture produce.
- The App will also facilitates traders in transportation of perishable commodities by Refrigerated vehicles.

2. Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan

The **Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan (KKA)** is being implemented in 112 Aspirational districts of the country.

About Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan:

Launched in **2018** under **the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.

Aim: to aid, assist and advise farmers to improve their farming techniques and increase their incomes.

Implementation:

1. Krishi kalyan Abhiyaan will be undertaken in **25 Villages with more than 1000 population each in Aspirational Districts** identified in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development as per directions of NITI Ayog.
2. In districts where number of villages (with more than 1000 population) is less than 25, all villages will be covered.

3. The overall coordination and implementation in the 25 villages of a district is being done by **Krishi Vigyan Kendra** of that district.

Various activities to promote best practices and enhance agriculture income are being undertaken under this plan such as:

1. Distribution of Soil Health Cards to all farmers
2. 100% coverage of bovine vaccination for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in each village
3. 100% coverage of Sheep and Goat for eradication of Peste des Petits ruminants (PPR) also known as sheep and goat plague
4. Distribution of Mini Kits of pulses and oilseeds to all
5. Distribution of Horticulture/Agro Forestry/Bamboo plant @ 5 per family(location appropriate)
6. Making 100 NADAP Pits in each village
7. Artificial insemination saturation
8. Demonstration programmes on Micro- irrigation
9. Demonstrations of integrated cropping practice

3. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

Ministry of Agriculture funding start-ups under the innovation and agripreneurship component of **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in 2020-21.**

Background:

A component, Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development programme has been launched under **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana** in order to promote innovation and agripreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem.

- These start-ups are in various categories such as agro-processing, artificial intelligence, digital agriculture, farm mechanisation, waste to wealth, dairy, fisheries etc.

The following are the components of this scheme:

1. Agripreneurship Orientation.
2. Seed Stage Funding of R-ABI Incubatees.
3. Idea/Pre-Seed Stage Funding of Agripreneurs.

About Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana:

RKVY scheme was initiated in 2007 as an umbrella scheme for ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

The scheme **incentivizes States to increase public investment in Agriculture & allied sectors.**

- The Cabinet has approved (as on 1st November 2017) for the continuation of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (State Plans) – Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR).**

The main objective of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is to develop farming as a main source of economic activity. Some of the objectives also include:

1. Risk mitigation, strengthening the efforts of the farmers along with promoting agri-business entrepreneurship through the creation of agri-infrastructure.
2. Providing all the states with autonomy and flexibility in making plans as per their local needs.
3. Helping farmers in increasing their income by encouraging productivity and promoting value chain addition linked production models.
4. To reduce the risk of farmers by focusing on increasing the income generation through mushroom cultivation, integrated farming, floriculture, etc.
5. Empowering the youth through various skill development, innovation and agri-business models.

Funding:

RKVY-RAFTAAR will continue to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the ratio of 60: 40 (Government of India and State Share respectively) except in the case of northeastern and hilly states where the sharing pattern is 90:10. For UTs the grant is 100% as Central share.

4. Krishi Megh

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare virtually launched **the Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services)**.

What is it?

- Krishi Megh is **the data recovery centre of ICAR** (Indian Council of Agricultural Research).

Details:

- **Krishi Megh** has been set up under **the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)**.
- The data recovery centre has been set up at **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad**.
- Krishi Megh is equipped with the latest artificial intelligence and deep learning software for building and deploying of deep learning-based applications through image analysis, disease identification in livestock, etc.
- It enables the farmers, researchers, students and policymakers to be more equipped with the updated and latest information regarding agriculture and research.

National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):

The project is **funded by both the government of India and the World Bank**.

The overall objective of the project is **to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students** that is in tune with the New Education Policy - 2020.

5. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the financing facility of Rs 1 lakh crore under **the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund** via video conferencing.

- The fund has been launched as part of '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' (self-reliant India) to make farmers self-reliant.

About the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

It is a new **pan India Central Sector Scheme**.

- **The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility** for investment in viable **projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets** through interest subvention and financial support.
- The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).

Eligibility:

Under the scheme, **Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans** to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), SHGs, Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Startups etc.

Interest subvention:

All loans under this financing facility will have **interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore**. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.

Credit guarantee:

- Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore.
 - The fee for this coverage will be paid by the Government.
- In case of FPOs the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility created under FPO promotion scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DACFW).

Management of the fund:

- It will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform.
- The National, State and District level Monitoring Committees will be set up to ensure real-time monitoring and effective feed-back.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

1. National Food Security Act 2013

Department of Food & Public Distribution issues directions to States/UTs **to include all eligible disabled persons under the National Food Security Act 2013.**

- It has also asked the states to ensure that they get their entitled quota of food grains under NFSA & Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

Enabling provisions:

Section 38 of the Act mandates that the Central Government may from time to time give directions to the State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.

The Section 10 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of persons under the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana** in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the remaining households as priority households in accordance with such guidelines as the States Government may specify.

- **Disability** is one of the criteria for inclusion of beneficiaries under AAY households

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:

The objective is to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to **adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.**

Key features:

1. **Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):** The TPDS covers 50% of the urban population and 75% of the rural population, with **uniform entitlement of 5 kg per person per month.** However, **the poorest of the poor households will continue to receive 35 kg per household per month under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).**
2. **Subsidised prices under TPDS and their revision:** For a period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act, Food grains under TPDS will be made available at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains. Thereafter prices will be suitably linked to Minimum Support Price (MSP).
3. **Identification of Households:** The identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs under TPDS determined for each State.
4. **Nutritional Support to women and children:** Children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes.** Malnourished children up to the age of 6 have been prescribed for higher nutritional norms.

5. **Maternity Benefit:** Pregnant women and lactating mothers will also be receiving maternity benefit of Rs. 6,000.
6. **Women Empowerment:** For the purpose of issuing of ration cards, eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is to be the head of the household.
7. **Grievance Redressal Mechanism:** Grievance redressal mechanism available at the District and State levels.
8. **Cost of transportation & handling of food grains and FPS Dealers' margin :** the expenditure incurred by the state on transportation of food grains within the State, its handling and FPS dealers' margin as per norms to be devised for this purpose and assistance to states will be provided by the Central Government to meet the above expenditure.
9. **Transparency and Accountability:** In order to ensure transparency and accountability, provisions have been made for disclosure of records relating to PDS, **social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees.**
10. **Food Security Allowance:** In case of non-supply of entitled food grains or meals, there is a provision for food security allowance to entitled beneficiaries.
11. **Penalty:** If the public servant or authority fails to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer, penalty will be imposed by the State Food Commission according to the provision.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

1. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

Key features:

- PMMSY is a scheme **to bring about Blue Revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India under two components namely, **Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- The Scheme will be **implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Implementation:

Central Sector Scheme (CS) – The entire project/unit cost will be borne by the Central government (i.e. 100% central funding).

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Component is further segregated into **Non-beneficiary oriented and Beneficiary orientated sub-components/activities** under the following three broad heads:

1. Enhancement of Production and Productivity.
2. Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Management.
3. Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

1. Swamitva Yojana

On **Panchayati Raj Diwas (April 24th)**, the Prime Minister of India launched '**Swamitva Yojana**' or **Ownership Scheme** to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like the use of drones.

The scheme **aims to revolutionise property record maintenance in India**.

Overview and key features of the ‘Swamitva Yojana’:

- The scheme is **piloted by the Panchayati Raj ministry**.
- The residential land in villages will be measured using drones **to create a non-disputable record**.
- **Property card for every property in the village** will be **prepared by states** using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping. These cards will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.

Ministry of Rural Development

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushlya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

It is a placement linked skill development program which **allows skilling in a PPP mode** and assured placements in regular jobs in an organization not owned by the skilled person.

DDU-GKY is being **undertaken as PPP Project all over the country through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)** registered with the Ministry of Rural Development.

- Further, Guidelines of the scheme mandate State Governments to take up skill training projects with Corporate Social Responsibility funding.
- DDU-GKY Guidelines provide for setting apart 15% of the funds of the funds at for national level beneficiaries from among minority groups.

Beneficiary Eligibility:

- Rural Youth: 15 - 35 Yrs
- SC/ST/Women/PVTG/PWD: upto 45 Yrs

2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)

The scheme was introduced as a social measure that guarantees **“the right to work”**.

The key tenet is that the local government will have to **legally provide at least 100 days of wage employment in rural India to enhance their quality of life**.

Key objectives:

1. Generation of paid rural employment of not less than 100 days for each worker who volunteers for unskilled labour.
2. Proactively ensuring social inclusion by strengthening livelihood base of rural poor.
3. Creation of durable assets in rural areas such as wells, ponds, roads and canals.
4. Reduce urban migration from rural areas.
5. Create rural infrastructure by using untapped rural labour.

The following are the eligibility criteria for receiving the benefits under MGNREGA scheme:

1. Must be Citizen of India to seek NREGA benefits.
2. Job seeker has completed 18 years of age at the time of application.
3. The applicant must be part of a local household (i.e. application must be made with local Gram Panchayat).
4. Applicant must volunteer for unskilled labour.

Key facts related to the scheme:

1. The **Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)**, Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.

2. **Individual beneficiary oriented works** can be taken up on the cards of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, small or marginal farmers or beneficiaries of land reforms or beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of the Government of India.
3. Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, **wage employment will be provided to the applicant.**
4. **Right to get unemployment allowance** in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.
5. **Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory**, which lends to accountability and transparency.
6. The Gram Sabha is the principal forum for wage seekers to raise their voices and make demands.
7. It is the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat which approves the shelf of works under MGNREGA and fix their priority.

Role of Gram Sabha:

1. It determines the order of priority of works in the meetings of the Gram Sabha keeping in view potential of the local area, its needs, local resources.
2. Monitor the execution of works within the GP.

Roles of Gram Panchayat:

1. Receiving applications for registration
2. Verifying registration applications
3. Registering households
4. Issuing Job Cards (JCs)
5. Receiving applications for work
6. Issuing dated receipts for these applications for work
7. Allotting work within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought in the case of an advance application.
8. Identification and planning of works, developing shelf of projects including determination of the order of their priority.

Responsibilities of State Government in MGNREGA:

1. Frame Rules on matters pertaining to State responsibilities under Section 32 of the Act ii) Develop and notify the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for the State.
2. Set up the State Employment Guarantee Council (SEGC).
3. Set up a State level MGNREGA implementation agency/ mission with adequate number of high calibre professionals.
4. Set up a State level MGNREGA social audit agency/directorate with adequate number of people with knowledge on MGNREGA processes and demonstrated commitment to social audit.
5. Establish and operate a State Employment Guarantee Fund (SEGF).

3. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G)

1.10 crore houses completed under **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin.**

About PMAY- G:

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- The erstwhile rural housing scheme **Indira Awaas yojana (IAY) has been restructured into Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana –Gramin (PMAY-G)** from 01.04.2016.
- **PMAY-G aims** at providing a pucca house, with basic amenities, to all houseless householder and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated house, by 2022.
- **Target:** Construction of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022.

Cost sharing:

- The cost of unit assistance in this scheme is shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 60:40 in plain areas and 90: 10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States.
- **The scheme envisages training of Rural Masons** with the objective of improving workmanship and quality of construction of houses while at the same time, increasing availability of skilled masons and enhancing employability of such masons.

Selection of beneficiaries:

Based on housing deprivation parameters of Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011, subject to 13 point exclusion criteria, followed by Gram Sabha verification.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

1. Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020 and revised LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020

Ministry of Corporate Affairs introduces the “Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020” and revised the “LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020” to provide relief to law abiding companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) in the wake of COVID 19.

What is a LLP?

A Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is a **partnership in which some or all partners have limited liability**. It therefore exhibits elements of partnerships and corporations.

In an LLP, **one partner is not responsible or liable for another partner's misconduct or negligence**.

Salient features of an LLP:

An LLP is a **body corporate and legal entity** separate from its partners. It has **perpetual succession**.

Being the separate legislation (i.e. LLP Act, 2008), **the provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932 are not applicable to an LLP and it is regulated by the contractual agreement between the partners**.

Every Limited Liability Partnership shall use the words "**Limited Liability Partnership**" or its acronym "**LLP**" as the last words of its name.

Composition:

- Every LLP shall have at least two designated partners being individuals, at least one of them being resident in India and all the partners shall be the agent of the Limited Liability Partnership but not of other partners.

Ministry of Labour & Employment

1. National Career Service (NCS) project

- It is one of **the mission mode projects** under the umbrella of E-Governance Plan.
- It works towards bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance and agencies providing training and career counselling by transforming the National Employment Service.
- NCS provides a host of career-related services such as dynamic job matching, career counselling, job notifications, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, internships and alike.

Ministry of Labour and Employment under its **National Career Service (NCS)** project has now started offering free online Career Skills Training for its registered job-seekers.

Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)

1. Solar Charkha Mission

1. Launched in 2018.
2. It is a **Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** initiative launched during June 2018.
3. **The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** would implement the programme.
4. It seeks to generate employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy.

The objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

1. To ensure inclusive growth by generation of employment, especially for women and youth, and sustainable development through solar charkha clusters in rural areas.
2. To boost rural economy and help in arresting migration from rural to urban areas.
3. To leverage low-cost, innovative technologies and processes for sustenance.

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1. Scheme for promotion of Bulk Drug Parks

Launched by the **Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** in line with the vision and clarion call for making India **Atma Nirbhar in the pharma sector**.

Scheme for promotion of Bulk Drug Parks:

- The scheme envisages **creation of 3 bulk drug parks in the country**.
- The grant-in-aid will be 90% of the project cost in case of North-East and hilly States and 70% in case of other States.
- **Funding:** Maximum grant-in-aid for one bulk drug park is limited to Rs.1000 crore.

Despite being **3rd largest in the world by volume the Indian pharmaceutical industry** is significantly dependent on import of basic raw materials.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (Now Ministry of Education)

1. Samadhan challenge

- The Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Human Resources Development and All India Council for Technical Education in collaboration with Forge and InnovatioCuris launched a **mega online challenge - SAMADHAN - to test the ability of students to innovate**.
- The students participating in this challenge will search and develop such measures that can be made available to the government agencies, health services, hospitals and other services for quick solutions to the Coronavirus epidemic and other such calamities.

2. Bharat Padhe online

Bharat Padhe Online' campaign launched to invite ideas to improve online education ecosystem.

- The campaign aims to invite the best brains in the country to share suggestions/solutions directly with the HRD Ministry to overcome constraints of online education.
- Further educators across the country can also come forward to contribute with their expertise and experience in the field of education.

3. YUKTI portal

YUKTI stands for **Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation**. The portal aims to monitor and record the efforts and initiatives of MHRD which have been taken in the wake of COVID-19.

YUKTI 2.0: It is an initiative **to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in our higher education institutions.**

4. Prime Minister's Research Fellows Scheme

Union HRD Minister announces modifications in **PMRF Scheme** to boost research in the country. The modifications will enable more students to avail of the benefit under **PMRF scheme**.

Changes and Implications:

1. Now for the students from any recognised institute/ university (other than IISc/ IITs/NITs/IISERs/IIEST/CF IITs), the requirement of GATE Score is reduced to 650 from 750 apart from minimum CGPA of 8 or equivalent.
 2. Now, there will be two channels of entries, direct entry and lateral entry.
 3. Under the lateral entry, candidates pursuing PhD in any PMRF granting institution can apply for the PMRF scheme if he/she satisfies certain conditions, as prescribed.
- To boost research a dedicated Division is being created in the ministry with the name of "Research and Innovation Division". This division will be headed by a director who will be coordinating research work of various institutions coming under MHRD (Now Ministry of Education).

About PMRF:

The scheme was announced in the Budget 2018-19. The institutes which can offer PMRF include all the IITs, all the IISERs, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and some of the top Central Universities/NITs that offer science and/or technology degrees.

Aim: To attract the talent pool of the country to doctoral (Ph.D.) programs of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for carrying out research in cutting edge science and technology domains, with focus on national priorities.

5. Scheme for Promotion of academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras are collaborating with their counterparts in Germany to develop new materials for green energy solutions.

- This project has been taken up under **the Scheme for Promotion of academic and Research Collaboration or SPARC.**

What is SPARC?

- The scheme aims at **improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions** by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.
- Under this Scheme, **600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years** to facilitate strong research collaboration between Indian research groups with the best in class faculty and renowned research groups in the leading universities of the world, in areas that are at the cutting edge of science or with direct social relevance to the mankind, specifically India.

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.

6. Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)

- HEFA incorporated on 31st May 2017, is a joint venture of Ministry of HRD (Now Ministry of Education), GOI and Canara Bank with an agreed equity participation in the ratio of 90.91% and 09.09% respectively.
- HEFA is registered under the Companies Act 2013 as a Union Govt company and as Non-deposit taking NBFC with RBI.
- **VISION:** To enable India's premier educational institutions to excel and reach the top in global rankings by financing building world class infrastructure including R&D Infra.

Functions:

- It will mobilize resources from the market by way of equity from individuals / corporates and by issue of bonds to finance the requirement.
- It provides financial assistance for creation of educational infrastructure and R&D in India's premier educational Institutions.
- Encourages scientific and technological developments by supporting R&D facilities for conducting high-quality research.
- Channelises CSR contributions from companies and donations for various schemes in uplifting higher education.

How HEFA works? What are the advantages?

The funding under HEFA will replace the current grant assistance by GOI for infrastructure projects in premier educational institutions.

All the Educational Institutions set up/funded referred by concerned ministries would be eligible for financing their capital expenditure from HEFA.

- HEFA would be able to fund larger basket of institutions as compared to grants approach.
- Top class infrastructure can be created in quick time so that the country realises the potential of its demographic dividend in a faster time frame.

RISE 2022:

“Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022”, is a major initiative launched by GOI in the FY 2018-19 budget.

- HEFA's scope under RISE has been greatly expanded from initial objective of financing infrastructural needs of select Higher Educational Institutions in India to the extent of Rs. 20,000 crores.
- It is proposed to accelerate the investment in these institutions to Rs.1,00,000 crores over the next 4 years as under

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1. Tech For Tribals

TRIFED Launches transformational “Tech For Tribals” program in partnership with Institutes of National Importance (INIs) to develop Tribal entrepreneurship.

Key features of the program:

- **Aim:** To transform 5 crore Tribal Entrepreneurs.
- It is supported by Ministry of MSME.
- It also aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY).

- The trainees will undergo a 30 days program over six weeks comprising 120 sessions.
- The Partners will develop course contents relevant to Entrepreneurship in Value Addition and Processing of Forest Produces.
- **The course curriculum will include** Achievement Motivation and positive psychology, Entrepreneurial Competencies, Identification of locally available NTFP based Business Opportunities.

2. MSP for MFP

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has announced inclusion of **23 additional Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items in Minimum Support Price (MSP) list.**

They include Van Tulsi seeds, Van Jeera, Mushroom, Black Rice and Johar Rice among others.

Significance:

This enhances the coverage from 50 to 73 items. This comes in view of the COVID-19 pandemic so that much needed support could be provided to the tribal MFP gatherers.

Background:

The Union Cabinet, in 2013, approved a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for marketing of non-nationalized / non monopolized Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and development of a value chain for **MFP through Minimum Support Price (MSP).**

- This was a **measure towards social safety for MFP gatherers**, who are primarily members of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) most of them in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas.

Implementation:

The responsibility of purchasing MFP on MSP will be with State designated agencies.

1. To ascertain market price, services of market correspondents would be availed by the designated agencies particularly for major markets trading in MFP.
2. The scheme supports primary value addition as well as provides for supply chain infrastructure like cold storage, warehouses etc.
3. **The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for implementation** and monitoring of the scheme. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the Ministry with technical help of TRIFED.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER)

1. North East Venture Fund (NEVF)

- Launched in **September 2017.**
- Set up by **North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi)** in association with **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER).**
- It is a **close ended fund** with capital commitment of Rs 100 crore.
- It is **the first dedicated venture capital fund for the North Eastern Region.**
- **Objective:** to contribute to the entrepreneurship development of the NER and achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns through long term capital appreciation by way of investments in privately negotiated equity/ equity related investments.
- The investment under this scheme **ranges from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs.10 crore per venture, which is long term in nature with investment horizon of 4-5 years.**

Ministry of Science and Technology

1. Technology Development Board

Technology Development Board under DST invites technology proposals for fighting COVID 19. **The proposal may include** technologically innovative solutions like low-cost masks, cost-effective scanning devices, technologies for sanitization of large areas as well as for contactless entry, rapid diagnostic kits and oxygenators, and ventilators.

About Technology Development Board:

It is a **statutory body** established by **Technology Development Board Act, 1995**.

Objective: To promote development and commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for much wider application.

Roles and functions of the board:

1. Encourage enterprises to take up technology-oriented products.
2. Provide equity capital or loans to industrial concerns and financial assistance to research and development institutions.

Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA):

In order to stimulate private sector's investment in R&D, TDB has established **Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA)**.

It is a **joint venture between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and TDB with an equity contribution of 51:49 respectively**.

The GITA will assist Department of Science & Technology (DST) in implementing industrial research and development programme with different countries under bilateral and multilateral science and technology cooperation agreements.

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

1. IFLOWS-Mumbai

It is an **Integrated Flood Warning System** and is a **joint initiative between** the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

- **Mumbai is only the second city** in the country after Chennai to get this system.

How it works?

The warning system will be able to **relay alerts of possible flood-prone areas anywhere between six to 72 hours in advance**.

- The system can provide all information regarding possible flood-prone areas, likely height the floodwater could attain, location-wise problem areas across all 24 wards and calculate the vulnerability and risk of elements exposed to flood.
- The primary source for the system is the amount of rainfall, but with Mumbai being a coastal city, the system also factors in tidal waves and storm tides for its flood assessments.

Schemes/policies for minorities in various States

1. **Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme** - Provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance.
2. **Naya Savera** - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme - The Scheme aims to provide free coaching to students/candidates belonging to minority communities for qualifying in entrance examinations of technical/ professional courses and Competitive examinations.
3. **Padho Pardesh** - Scheme of interest subsidy to students of minority communities on educational loans for overseas higher studies.
4. **Nai Udaan** - Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commission (PSC) Staff Selection Commission (SSC) etc.
5. **Nai Roshni** - Leadership development of women belonging to minority communities.
6. **Seekho Aur Kamao** - Skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group and aiming at improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
7. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)** restructured in May 2018 earlier known as MsDP – Implemented for the benefit of the people from all sections of the society in identified Minority Concentration Areas for creation of assets in education, skill and health sectors.
8. **Jiyo Parsi** - Scheme for containing population decline of Parsis in India.
9. **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)** launched in May 2015.
10. **Nai Manzil** - A scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts launched in Aug. 2015.
11. **Hamari Dharohar**- A scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority communities of India under the overall concept of Indian culture implemented since 2014-15.

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

Initiatives to boost Education Sector

Union Finance Minister announces several initiatives to boost Education Sector.

Measures announced:

1. A comprehensive initiative called **PM e-VIDYA** was launched which unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education. This will enable multi-mode access to education, and includes:
 - a) **DIKSHA** (one nation-one digital platform).
 - b) **TV (one class-one channel)** where one dedicated channel per grade for each of the classes 1 to 12 will provide access to quality educational material.
 - c) **SWAYAM online courses** in MOOCS format for school and higher education.
 - d) **IITPAL** for IITJEE/NEET preparation.
 - e) **Air through Community radio and CBSE Shiksha Vani podcast.**
 - f) Study material for the differently abled developed on **Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY)** and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.
2. The **Manodarpan initiative** is being launched to provide such support through a website, a toll-free helpline, national directory of counselors, interactive chat platform, etc. This initiative will benefit all school going children in the country, along with their parents, teachers and the community of stakeholders in school education.
3. **Expanding e-learning in higher education** – by liberalizing open, distance and online education regulatory framework.

4. A **new National Curriculum and Pedagogical Framework** for school education, teacher education and early childhood stage to prepare students and future teachers as per global benchmarks.
5. A **National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission** was launched, for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy in Grade 3. For this, teacher capacity building, a robust curricular framework, engaging learning material – both online and offline, learning outcomes and their measurement indices, assessment techniques, tracking of learning progress, etc. will be designed to take it forward in a systematic fashion. This mission will cover the learning needs of nearly 4 crore children in the age group of 3 to 11 years.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

1. Categorisation of industries

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has developed the criteria of categorization of industrial sectors based on **the Pollution Index** which is a function of the emissions (air pollutants), effluents (water pollutants), hazardous wastes generated and consumption of resources.

Categories:

1. **Red category:** Includes Cement industry, Petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, sugar, paper and pulp, nuclear power plants, organic chemicals, fertilizers, fire crackers.
2. **Orange category:** Includes coal washeries, glass manufacturing, paints, stone crushers, and aluminium and copper extraction from scrap.
3. **Green category:** Includes aluminium utensils, steel furniture, soap manufacturing and tea processing.
4. **White category:** Includes the industries that are “practically non-polluting”. These industries, like air cooler or air conditioning units, chalk factories, biscuit tray units, won’t need a green clearance enabling easier financing.

Industries scoring 60 and above on a scale of 1 to 100 have been rated red. An index between 41 and 59 earns an orange category, while a score between 21 and 40 gets a green. Pollution index lower than 20 have been rated white.

Ministry of Defence

1. Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)

To give a boost to **domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing**, the government has approved the launch of **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)** with an outlay of Rs 400 crore for creating state of the art testing infrastructure for this sector.

Key facts:

- It envisages to setup **six to eight new test facilities in partnership with private industry**.
- The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to **75% government funding in the form of ‘Grant-in-Aid’**.
- The remaining 25% of the project cost will have to be borne by **the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** whose constituents will be Indian private entities and State Governments. The SPVs under the Scheme will be registered under **Companies Act 2013** and shall also operate and maintain all assets under the Scheme, in a self-sustainable manner by collecting user charges.
- While majority of test facilities are expected to come up in the two **Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs)**, the Scheme is not limited to setting up Test Facilities in the DICs only.

Ministry of Civil Aviation

1. Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules of 2020

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules of 2020 notified by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.

These rules seek to **regulate the production, import, trade, ownership and operation of unmanned aircraft systems or drones**. They also create a framework for their use by businesses.

Overview:

Who can sell drones? Only authorised entities.

Who can own or operate? Entities authorised by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

Permits for flying these also have to be sought online and a log has to be shared after the flight.

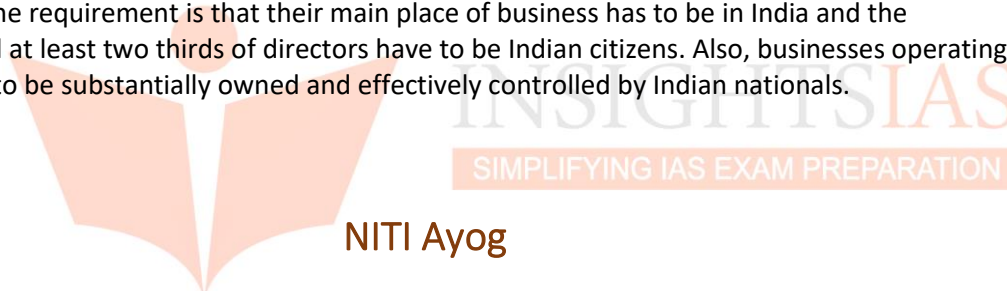
Applicability: The norms apply to all existing drones as well.

Exception: Nano-drones weighing 250 grams or less can be operated without a drone pilot license.

Insurance: No unmanned aircraft (UA) system shall be operated in India unless there is in existence a valid third-party insurance policy to cover the liability that may arise on account of a mishap.

Rule number 36 and 38 in the Ministry's draft state that no unmanned aircraft shall carry any payload, unless specified by the Director General of DGCA. Neither shall a person "drop or project or cause or permit to be dropped or projected from a UAS (unmanned aircraft system) in motion anything," except when specified.

Eligibility: For owning and using a drone, one has to be at least 18 years old. In the case of companies, the requirement is that their main place of business has to be in India and the chairman and at least two thirds of directors have to be Indian citizens. Also, businesses operating drones have to be substantially owned and effectively controlled by Indian nationals.



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

NITI Aayog

1. Women Transforming India Awards

- **NITI Aayog** organizes the Fourth Edition of **the Women Transforming India Awards**.
- WTI Awards are **NITI Aayog's initiative to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavours of India's women leaders and changemakers**.
- Since 2018, the Awards have been hosted under the aegis of **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform** with a special focus on entrepreneurship.

What is Women Entrepreneurship Platform?

- Launched in 8th March 2018, it is the first of its kind facilitation platform which is **mandated to work in collaboration with public as well as private sector organizations and bring them on a single platform** by listing their women focused entrepreneurship schemes, initiatives and programmes on WEP website.
- It also enables sharing of best practices amongst women entrepreneurs and partner organizations and promote evidence based policy making.

Bills / Acts / Policies

1. Essential Commodities Act

Government had bought masks and hand sanitizers under **the Essential Commodities Act**. Under the EC Act, **powers of the Central Government have already been delegated to the States** by way of orders during 1972 to 1978. The States/UTs, therefore may take action against the offenders.

Cabinet also approved historic **amendment to the Essential Commodities Act**.

Under the proposed amendments, essentials like **cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes have been excluded from the Essential Commodities Act**.

What is Essential Commodities Act?

- The ECA was **enacted way back in 1955**.
- It has since been used by the Government **to regulate the production, supply and distribution** of a whole host of commodities it declares 'essential' in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.
- **The list of items under the Act include** drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.
- **The Centre can include new commodities** as and when the need arises, **and take them off the list** once the situation improves.
- Under the Act, **the government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an "essential commodity"**.

How it works?

1. If the Centre finds that a certain commodity is in short supply and its price is spiking, it can notify stock-holding limits on it for a specified period.
2. The States act on this notification to specify limits and take steps to ensure that these are adhered to.
3. Anybody trading or dealing in a commodity, be it wholesalers, retailers or even importers are prevented from stockpiling it beyond a certain quantity.
4. A State can, however, choose not to impose any restrictions. But once it does, traders have to immediately sell into the market any stocks held beyond the mandated quantity.

Why is it important?

- The ECA gives consumers protection against irrational spikes in prices of essential commodities.
- The Government has invoked the Act umpteen times to ensure adequate supplies.
- It cracks down on hoarders and black-marketeers of such commodities.
- State agencies conduct raids to get everyone to toe the line and the errant are punished.

2. Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020

The Lok Sabha has given its nod to **the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill**.

The Bill amends **the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 (CMSP Act)**.

New mining target:

In 2018, the government allowed commercial mining by private entities and set a mining target of 1.5 billion tonnes by 2020. Out of this, 1 billion tonnes was set to be from Coal India, while 500 million tonnes was to be from non-Coal India entities. This target has now been revised to 1 billion tonnes by 223-24.

Who grants permission for mining?

- The state governments grant permission for mining, known as mineral concessions, for all the minerals located within the boundary of the state, under the provisions of **the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.**
- However, for **minerals specified in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Central government approval is necessary before granting the mineral concession.**
- **Minerals specified under the First Schedule include** hydrocarbons, atomic minerals and metallic minerals such as iron ore, bauxite copper ore, lead precious stones, zinc and gold.

3. Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020

Major Port Authorities Bill 2020 was Introduced in The Lok Sabha.

Aims and objectives:

1. Decentralise decision making and infuse professionalism in governance of major ports.
2. Reorient the governance model in central ports to **landlord port model** in line with the successful global practice.

Implications:

The bill will **replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.**

This will **empower the Major Ports to perform with greater efficiency on account of full autonomy** in decision making and by modernizing the institutional framework of Major Ports.

What is landlord model?

1. In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities.
2. Here, the port authority maintains ownership of the port while the infrastructure is leased to private firms that provide and maintain their own superstructure and install own equipment to handle cargo.
3. In return, the landlord port gets a share of the revenue from the private entity.
4. The role of the landlord port authority would be to carry out all public sector services and operations such as the award of bids for cargo terminals and dredging.

4. Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM Act), 2003, establishes financial discipline to reduce fiscal deficit.

What are the objectives of the FRBM Act?

1. The FRBM Act aims to introduce transparency in India's fiscal management systems.
2. The Act's long-term objective is for India to achieve fiscal stability and to give the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) flexibility to deal with inflation in India.
3. The Act was enacted to introduce more equitable distribution of India's debt over the years.

Key features of the FRBM Act:

The FRBM Act made it mandatory for the government to place the following along with the Union Budget documents in Parliament annually:

1. Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.
2. Macroeconomic Framework Statement.
3. Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement.

The FRBM Act proposed that revenue deficit, fiscal deficit, tax revenue and the total outstanding liabilities be projected as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) in the medium-term fiscal policy statement.

How does a relaxation of the FRBM work?

The law does contain what is commonly referred to as an 'escape clause'.

Under Section 4(2) of the Act, the Centre can exceed the annual fiscal deficit target citing grounds that include national security, war, national calamity, collapse of agriculture, structural reforms and decline in real output growth of a quarter by at least three percentage points below the average of the previous four quarters.

Amendments:

The Act has been amended several times.

In 2013, the government introduced a change and introduced **the concept of effective revenue deficit**. This implies that effective revenue deficit would be equal to revenue deficit minus grants to states for the creation of capital assets.

In 2016, a **committee under N K Singh** was set up to suggest changes to the Act. According to the government, the targets set under FRBM Act previously were too rigid.

N K Singh Committee's recommendations were as follows:

Targets: The committee suggested using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy and that the target must be achieved by 2023.

Fiscal Council: The committee proposed to create an autonomous Fiscal Council with a chairperson and two members appointed by the Centre (not employees of the government at the time of appointment).

Deviations: The committee suggested that the grounds for the government to deviate from the FRBM Act targets should be clearly specified

Borrowings: According to the suggestions of the committee, the government must not borrow from the RBI, except when:

1. The Centre has to meet a temporary shortfall in receipts.
2. RBI subscribes to government securities to finance any deviations.
3. RBI purchases government securities from the secondary market.

5. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005

1. It is an act to provide for more effective protection of the rights of Women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
2. Domestic Violence Act 2005 is the first significant attempt in India to recognise domestic abuse as a punishable offence, to extend its provisions to those in live-in relationships, and to provide for emergency relief for the victims, in addition to legal recourse.
3. It aims to protect women from physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse at home.

It is a civil law meant primarily for protection orders and not meant to be enforced criminally.

6. PCPNDT Act

- Due of COVID19 pandemic, the Health Ministry had issued a Notification dated April 4, 2020 to defer/suspend certain provisions under the PC&PNDT Rules 1996.
- These Rules pertain to applying for renewal of registration if falling due in this period, submission of reports by diagnostics centres by 5th day of the following month and submission of quarterly progress report (QPR) by the States/UTs.

About PCPNDT Act:

The **Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostics Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act, 1994** was enacted in response to the decline in Sex ratio in India, which deteriorated from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991.

Amendments:

1. The act was amended in 2003 to improve the regulation of the technology used in sex selection.
2. The Act was amended to bring the technique of pre conception sex selection and ultrasound technique within the ambit of the act.
3. The amendment also empowered the central supervisory board and state level supervisory board was constituted.

Main provisions in the act are:

1. The Act provides for the **prohibition of sex selection, before or after conception.**
2. It **regulates the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques**, like ultrasound and amniocentesis by allowing them their use only to detect few cases.
3. No laboratory or centre or clinic will conduct any test including ultrasonography for the purpose of determining the sex of the foetus.
4. No person, including the one who is conducting the procedure as per the law, will communicate the sex of the foetus to the pregnant woman or her relatives by words, signs or any other method.
5. Any person who puts an advertisement for pre-natal and pre-conception sex determination facilities in the form of a notice, circular, label, wrapper or any document, or advertises through interior or other media in electronic or print form or engages in any visible representation made by means of hoarding, wall painting, signal, light, sound, smoke or gas, can be imprisoned for up to three years and fined Rs. 10,000.
6. The Act mandates **compulsory registration of all diagnostic laboratories**, all genetic counselling centres, genetic laboratories, genetic clinics and ultrasound clinics.

7. Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979

Key provisions of the Act:

1. The Act seeks to **regulate the employment of inter-State migrants and their conditions of service.**
2. It envisages a **system of registration** of such establishments.
3. The **principal employer is prohibited from employing inter-State workmen without a certificate of registration** from the relevant authority.
4. The law also lays down that **every contractor who recruits workmen from one State for deployment in another State should obtain a licence to do so.**
5. **Contractors are bound by certain conditions.** These include committing them to providing terms and conditions of the agreement or any other arrangement on the basis of which they recruit workers.

Applicability of the law:

- It is applicable to every establishment that employs five or more migrant workmen from other States; or if it had employed five or more such workmen on any day in the preceding 12 months.
- It is also applicable to contractors who employed a similar number of inter-State workmen.
- The Act would apply regardless of whether the five or more workmen were in addition to others employed in the establishment or by the contractors.

8. General Financial Rules

The government has notified amendments to **General Financial Rules (GFR)** to ensure that **goods and services valued less than Rs 200 crore are being procured from domestic firms**, a move which will benefit MSMEs.

Implications:

The amendments ensure that henceforth global tenders will be disallowed in government procurement up to Rs 200 crore, as announced in **the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package**.

What are GFRs?

The General Financial Rules (GFRs) are set of rules that deal with matters that involve public finances. They were first issued in 1947 bringing together all the existing orders. They are instructions that pertain to financial matters.

They lay down **the general rules applicable to Ministries / Departments, and detailed instructions relating to procurement of goods are issued by the procuring departments** broadly in conformity with the general rules, while maintaining flexibility to deal with varied situations.

9. Domicile rules for J&K

The MHA amended a 2010 legislation, **the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment Act)**, by substituting the term “**permanent residents**” with “**domiciles of UT [Union Territory] of J&K.**”

It has redefined domicile through **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Adaption of state laws) order, 2020** issued under **section 96 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**.

What did the 2010 Act say?

The 2010 Act pertained to **employment in the Civil Services comprising “district, divisional and State” cadre posts**. Earlier, **only permanent residents of J&K were eligible to apply for gazetted and non-gazetted posts**.

The changes:

The **domicile rules** as defined under the amended order will determine recruitment to all government posts in J&K from now on.

The power to issue domicile certificates has been vested in the tehsildar (revenue officer).

Definition of domiciles:

1. The order defines domiciles as anyone “who has resided for a period of 15 years in the UT of J&K or has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in Class 10th/12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K or who is registered as a migrant by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants)”.
2. It said that children of central government officials including the all India services, public sector units, autonomous body of Centre, Public Sector Banks, officials of statutory bodies, central universities and recognised research institutes of the Centre who have served in J&K for a “total period of 10 years” will be domiciles.
3. The domicile status also applies to “children of such residents of J&K who reside outside J&K in connection with their employment or business or other professional or vocational reasons but their parents should fulfil any of the conditions provided”.

What are the rules for grant of domicile certificate?

- The certificate has to be **issued within 15 days**. The officer not able to do so will be penalised ₹50,000 of his or her salary.
- **Residents of J&K who live outside the erstwhile State** can get domicile certificates by simply producing their Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC), ration card copy, voter card or any other valid document.

- Those migrants not registered with the Relief and Rehabilitation department can do so by providing documents such as electoral rolls of 1988, proof of registration as a migrant in any State in the country or any other valid document.
- There is a provision to get the certificate online too.

10. Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954

Advertisements of drugs including Ayurvedic medicines are regulated under **the provisions of Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder and the directives issued by the Central Government in the wake of COVID outbreak.**

Overview of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954:

- It **prohibits advertisements of drugs and remedies that claim to have magical properties, and makes doing so a cognizable offence.**
- **The penalty** carries a maximum sentence of 6 months imprisonment with or without fine on first conviction. In case of any subsequent conviction, the term may be up to a year.
- **If the convicted party is a company,** all members of the company will be deemed guilty.

The law prohibits advertising of drugs and remedies for:

1. inducing miscarriage or preventing conception in women
2. improving or maintaining the capacity for sexual pleasure
3. correction of menstrual disorders
4. curing, diagnosing or preventing any disease or condition mentioned in an included schedule

Definition:

The act defines "magic remedy" as any talisman, mantra, amulet or any other object which is claimed to have miraculous powers to cure, diagnose, prevent or mitigate a disease in humans or animal. It also includes such devices that are claimed to have power to influence structure or function of an organ in humans or animals.

11. Power of states under the Disaster Management Act

The Supreme Court has held that **States are empowered under the Disaster Management Act to override University Grants Commission (UGC) exam guidelines** in order to protect human lives amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Powers of states under the DM Act:

- In case of a disaster, **the priority of all authorities under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 is to immediately combat the disaster and contain it to save human life.**
- Therefore, under the DM Act, **states can countermand the revised UGC guidelines.**
- However, the powers of the States under the Disaster Management Act **do not extend to promoting students on the sole basis of their internal assessment without taking exams.**

Relevance of DM Act in this pandemic:

Under the Act, **the States and district authorities can frame their own rules on the basis of broad guidelines issued by the Home Ministry.**

1. The legal basis of the DM Act, is **Entry 23, Concurrent List of the Constitution** "Social security and social insurance".
2. **Entry 29, Concurrent List** "Prevention of the extension from one State to another of infectious or contagious diseases or pests affecting men, animals or plants," can also be used for specific law making.

About the Disaster Management Act, 2005 is already covered

Government Departments / Organisations

1. Enforcement Directorate

Enforcement Directorate is a Multi-Disciplinary Organization **mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).**

Historical background:

- The origin of this Directorate goes back to **1st May, 1956, when an 'Enforcement Unit'** was formed, in Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA '47).**
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as **'Enforcement Directorate'**. The **administrative control of the Directorate was transferred from Department of Economic Affairs to Department of Revenue in 1960.**
- For a short period of 04 years (1973 – 1977), **the Directorate also remained under the administrative jurisdiction of Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms.**

Powers:

The Directorate enforces two laws;

1. **FEMA, a Civil Law having quasi judicial powers,** for investigating suspected contraventions of the Exchange Control Laws and Regulations with the powers to impose penalties on those adjudged guilty.
2. **PMLA, a Criminal Law,** whereby the Officers are empowered to conduct enquiries to locate, provisionally attach/confiscate assets derived from acts of Schedules Offences besides arresting and prosecuting the Money Launderers.

Composition:

Besides directly recruiting personnel, the Directorate also draws officers from different Investigating Agencies, viz., Customs & Central Excise, Income Tax, Police, etc. on deputation.

Other functions:

- Processing cases of fugitive/s from India under **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.**
- Sponsor cases of preventive detention under **Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974(COFEPOSA)** in regard to contraventions of FEMA.

Special courts:

For the trial of an offence punishable under section 4 of PMLA, **the Central Government (in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court), designates one or more Sessions Court as Special Court(s).** The court is also called "**PMLA Court**".

Any appeal against any order passed by PMLA court can directly be filed in the High Court for that jurisdiction.

2. Consumer disputes redressal forum

Dispute redressal under Consumer Protection Act, 1986:

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for a **3-tier structure of the National and State Commissions and District Forums for speedy resolution of consumer disputes. They are quasi- judicial bodies.**
- **Composition:** Each District Forum is headed by a person who is or has been or is eligible to be appointed as a District Judge and each State Commission is headed by a person who is or has been a Judge of High Court.

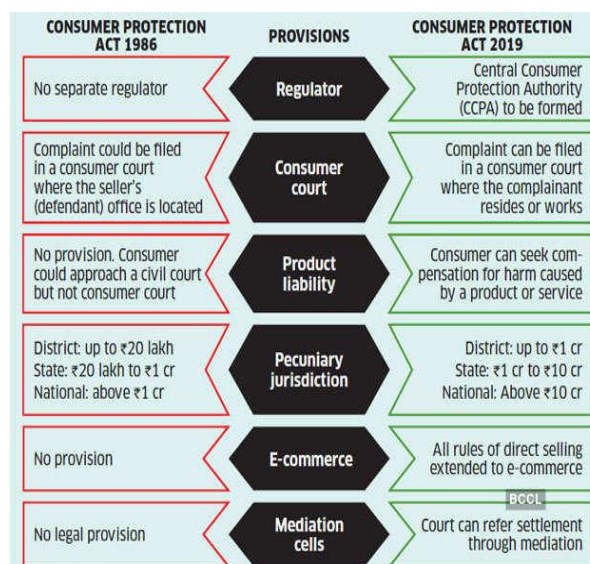
Ambit:

The provisions of this Act cover ‘goods’ as well as ‘services’.

How Grievance redressal is carried out?

A written complaint, can be filed before the District Consumer Forum for pecuniary value of upto **Rupees twenty lakh**, State Commission for value upto **Rupees one crore** and the National Commission for value above **Rupees one crore**, in respect of defects in goods and or deficiency in service.

- However, **no complaint can be filed for alleged deficiency in any service that is rendered free of charge or under a contract of personal service.**
- The **remedy under the Consumer Protection Act is an alternative in addition** to that already available to the aggrieved persons/consumers by way of **civil suit.**
- In the complaint/appeal/petition submitted under the Act, a consumer is **not required to pay any court fees but only a nominal fee.**



Appeals:

1. If a consumer is not satisfied by the decision of a District Forum, he can appeal to the State Commission. Against the order of the State Commission a consumer can come to the National Commission.
2. The National Commission has also been conferred with the powers of administrative control over all the State Commissions by calling for periodical returns regarding the institution, disposal and pendency of cases.

As per the latest **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, dispute redressal Commissions will be set up at District, State and National level, with pecuniary jurisdiction up to Rs one crore, Rs one crore to Rs 10 crore, and above Rs 10 crore, respectively. In case of unfair contracts, the State Commissions will hear complaints where the value is up to Rs 10 crore, and National Commissions will hear complaints above that value. These Commissions can declare unfair terms of such contracts to be null and void.

3. Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization

- It is a department under Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is a regulatory authority with **autonomous status.**
- It was established during the British India in 1890s as **Department of Explosives** and later expanded to various other activities.
- As a statutory authority, PESO is entrusted with the responsibilities under the Explosives Act, 1884; Petroleum Act, 1934; Inflammable Substances Act, 1952, Environment (Protection Act), 1986.

Why in News? Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization takes various measures to address the problems faced by Petroleum, Explosives, Oxygen and Industrial Gas Industries.

4. National Testing Agency (NTA)

- In pursuance of the Budget Announcement 2017-18, the Union Cabinet, in November 2017, approved creation of the National Testing Agency (NTA) as an **autonomous and self-sustained**

premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.

- NTA is responsible for conducting the Joint Entrance Examination – Main (JEE Main), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET UG), National Eligibility Test (NET), Common Management Admission Test (CMAT) and Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test (GPAT).
- NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD (Now Ministry of Education).

5. CERT-In

- CERT-In (**the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team**) is a government-mandated information technology (IT) security organization. CERT-In was **created by the Indian Department of Information Technology in 2004 and operates under the auspices of that department.**
- **It's purpose:** The purpose of CERT-In is to respond to computer security incidents, report on vulnerabilities and promote effective IT security practices throughout the country. According to the provisions of the Information Technology Amendment Act 2008, CERT-In is responsible for overseeing administration of the Act.

6. Civil Services Board

To insulate the bureaucracy from political interference and to put an end to frequent transfers of civil servants by political bosses, **the Supreme Court had in 2013 directed the Centre and the states to set up a civil services board** to consider transfers and postings of bureaucrats among others.

As per rules, all states should have a civil services board to decide on transfers and postings of the bureaucrats.

Functions:

- The board is mandated to decide on the transfer of a civil servant before completion of his or her fixed tenure.
- The rules mandate the civil services board to submit an annual report on January 1 to the central government about the date of the meetings held by them.

Composition:

The civil services board is **headed by chief secretary of a state.**

- It has senior most additional chief secretary or chairman, Board of Revenue, Financial Commissioner or an officer of equivalent rank and status as member.
- In addition, it will have Principal Secretary or Secretary, Department of Personnel in the state government as member secretary.

7. ICAR and NICRA

Indian Council of agricultural research (ICAR) is **an autonomous body** Responsible for coordinating agricultural education and research in India.

- It reports to **the Department of agricultural research and education, Ministry of agriculture.**
- The **union minister of agriculture serves as its president.**
- It is **the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.**
- **National innovations of climate resilient agriculture (NICRA)** has been launched by ICAR in 2011.

8. Krishi Vigyan Kendra

The name means “farm science Centre”.

The Centre serves as **the ultimate link between the Indian Council of agricultural research and farmers.**

- The Centre is usually associated with a **local agricultural University.**
- It aims to apply agricultural research and practical localised setting.
- As of January 2020, **there were approximately 716 KVKs throughout India.**

9. National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)

- Established in 1956 as **the National Atlas Organisation.**
- It was renamed in 1978 to give it a broad-based responsibility in the field of thematic cartography and geographical research.
- It is under the administrative control of the **Department of Science & Technology** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in Kolkata.

Important functions:

1. Compilation of the National Atlas of India.
2. Preparation of the National Atlas maps in regional languages.
3. Preparation of thematic maps based on research studies on environmental and associated aspects and their impact on social and economic development.

10. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

It is **the national level cooperative body** mandated to bring about socio-economic development of tribals of the country by institutionalising the trade of **Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP)** collected/cultivated by them.

- It was **established in 1987.**
- It is **under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**

Important Functions:

- It plays the dual role of both a market developer and a service provider, empowering the tribals with knowledge and tools to better their operations in a systematic, scientific manner and also assist them in developing their marketing approach.
- It is involved actively in capacity building of the tribal people through sensitization and the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The organisation also assists them in exploring and creating opportunities to market the developed products in national and international markets on a sustainable basis.

Recent initiatives by TRIFED:

1. Launched **Van Dhan Samajik Doori Jagrookta Abhiyaan**, which is aimed at educating Tribals engaged in gathering NTFPs in forest areas, on covid-19 response, key preventive behaviour like social distancing, home quarantine, hygiene tips.
2. Initiated steps to provide **the Van Dhan Self Help Groups (SHGs)** with protective masks and hygiene products (Soaps, Disinfectants, etc.) that are necessary for carrying out their operations in a safe manner.
3. Focus on revamping **the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for MFP** to enhance tribal livelihood in these testing times and to ensure that they get the benefit of an equitable market price for their produce.
4. **TRIFOOD Scheme** is a joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
5. **Tech for Tribals**, an initiative of TRIFED supported by Ministry of MSME, aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under **the Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY).**

11. National Recruitment Agency (NRA)

The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of **National Recruitment Agency**, an independent body to conduct examination for government jobs.

- Initially, it will organise a **CET to screen/shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non - technical) posts**, which are now being conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railways Recruitment Board (RRBs) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). Later on, more exams may be brought under it.

Composition:

It will be **headed by a Chairman of the rank of the Secretary to the Government of India**. It will have **representatives of the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS**.

Functions of the proposed NRA:

It will conduct a **common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the central government**.

Based on **the common eligibility test (CET) score** a candidate can apply for a vacancy with the respective agency.

How the test will be conducted?

The Common Eligibility Test will be held twice a year.

- The test will be conducted for three levels:** graduate, higher secondary (12th pass) and the matriculate (10th pass) candidates.
- However, **the present recruitment agencies– IBPS, RRB and SCC — will remain in place.**
- Based on the screening done at the CET score level, **final selection for recruitment shall be made through separate specialised Tiers (II, III, etc.)** of examination which shall be conducted by the respective recruitment agencies.

Other details:

- The **CET score of a candidate shall be valid for a period of three years** from the date of declaration of the result.
- To make it easier for candidates, **examination centres would be set up in every district of the country.**
- While there will be **no restriction on the number of attempts** to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET, **it will be subject to the upper age limit.**
- The **examinations will be conducted in 12 languages.**

Miscellaneous

1. CRIME MULTI AGENCY CENTRE (Cri-MAC)

Union Home Minister launched **Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC)**.

- Cri-MAC aims to share information between various police forces on heinous crimes.
- It is meant to share information on heinous crimes and other issues related to inter-state coordination.

2. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- To counter corruption and speed up decision- making in military procurement, the government of India in 2001 decided to set up an integrated DAC. It is headed by the Defence Minister.

- **Objective:** The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces, in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- **Functions:** The DAC is responsible to give policy guidelines to acquisitions, based on long-term procurement plans. It also clears all acquisitions, which includes both imported and those produced indigenously or under a foreign license.

3. Operation Namaste

- Indian Army launched “Operation Namaste” to contain the spread of Corona Virus in the country.
- Under the operation, the army will help the Government of India fight against the deadly disease.
- Facilities for the families of the army men have been arranged to visit nearest camps in case of emergency while they are away serving the country.

4. Operation Sanjeevani

An Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J transport aircraft recently delivered 6.2 tonne of essential medicines and hospital consumables to Maldives under **Operation Sanjeevani**.

5. Operation Samudra Setu

Indian Navy launched Operation **Samudra Setu - meaning Sea Bridge**, as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.

6. Vande Bharat Mission

- It is **the biggest evacuation exercise** to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions.

The mission gave priority to Indian citizens with “**compelling reasons to return**” – like those whose employment have been terminated, those whose visas have expired and not expected to be renewed under the present circumstances and those who have lost family members in recent times.

7. SWADES: Skill Mapping Exercise for Returning Citizens

The initiative, undertaken as part of **the Vande Bharat Mission**, aims at **empowering the returning citizens with relevant employment opportunities**.

Key features:

1. It is a **joint initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs**.
2. The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is supporting the implementation of the project.
3. It aims **to create a database of qualified citizens** based on their skill sets and experience to tap into and fulfil demand of Indian and foreign companies.
4. The collected **information will be shared with the companies for suitable placement opportunities in the country**.

Implementation:

The returning citizens are required to fill up an **online SWADES Skills Card**.

The card will facilitate a strategic framework to provide the returning citizens with suitable employment opportunities through discussions with key stakeholders including state governments, industry associations and employers.

8. Chakmas and Hajongs

- **Chakmas and Hajongs** were originally residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the erstwhile East Pakistan. They left their homeland when it was submerged by the Kaptai dam project in the 1960s.
- **The Chakmas, who are Buddhists, and the Hajongs, who are Hindus,** also allegedly faced religious persecution and entered India through the then Lushai Hills district of Assam (now Mizoram). The Centre moved the majority of them to the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), which is now Arunachal Pradesh.
- Their numbers have gone up from about 5,000 in 1964-69 to one lakh. At present, they don't have citizenship and land rights but are provided basic amenities by the state government.

9. Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan

- Launched in 2018, the scheme **aims to deepen water bodies in the state to increase storage of rainwater to be used during times of scarcity.**
- It involves cleaning and desilting of riverfronts, sprucing up of Irrigation canals. It also involves deepening of lakes, tanks and reservoirs.
- The drive runs on a Public Private Partnership mode and contribution from the government shall remain 60% of the expenditure of the work while 40% share will be from people's contribution.

10. National Cadet Corps

It is a youth development movement. It came into existence under the **National Cadet Corps Act XXXI of 1948.**

It is a **Tri-Services Organization**, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force, engaged in grooming the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens.

- The NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of activities., with a distinct emphasis on Social Services, Discipline and Adventure Training. The NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis. The students have no liability for active military service.

Why in News?

National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered a helping hand to civilian authorities in the country's fight against COVID-19 by extending the services of cadets under '**Exercise NCC Yogdan**'.

11. AarogyaSetu

- It is mobile app developed in public-private partnership to bring the people of India together in a resolute fight against COVID-19.
The App joins Digital India for the health and well-being of every Indian.
- It will enable people to assess themselves the risk for their catching the Corona Virus infection.
- It will calculate this based on their interaction with others, using cutting edge Bluetooth technology, algorithms and artificial intelligence.

How does Aarogya Setu work?

Aarogya Setu uses contact tracing to record details of all the people you may have come in contact with, as you go about your normal activities. If any one of them, at a later point in time, tests positive for COVID-19, you are immediately informed and proactive medical intervention is arranged for you.

12. IAS, IPS officers' associations form 'Caruna', an initiative to fight Coronavirus

- Associations representing officers of Central Civil Services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), have formed an initiative called '**Caruna**' to **support and supplement the government's efforts in fighting coronavirus**.
- The acronym '**Caruna**' stands for **Civil Services Associations Reach to Support in Natural Disasters and represents a collaborative platform**, on which civil servants, industry leaders, NGO professionals and IT professionals among others have come together to contribute their time and abilities.

13. Vizag Gas Leak: 'Strict Liability' Or 'Absolute Liability'?

The **National Green Tribunal's** order in the Visakhapatnam gas tragedy found LG Polymers prima facie liable under the 19th century English law, **Principle of "strict liability"**, which was **made redundant in India by the Supreme Court in 1986**.

But some some lawyers are of the opinion that the term **absolute liability principle** should have been used instead.

What is Strict liability principle?

Evolved in the year **1868** in the case of **Rylands v. Fletcher**. It has become obsolete now with the evolution of "**absolute liability**" principle.

As per this principle, **any person who indulges in "non-natural" use of land and who keeps "hazardous substances" on his premises will be held "strictly liable"** if such substances "escapes" the premises and causes any "damage".

However, this principle allows for **exception from liability** if such damage has been caused by!

1. the Plaintiff's own fault;
2. an Act of God;
3. act of a Third Party; or
4. if the hazardous activity was being carried out with the consent of the Plaintiff (violenti non fit injuria).

What is Absolute Liability Principle?

Evolution:

The **Supreme Court**, while deciding the **Oleum gas leak case of Delhi in 1986**, found strict liability woefully inadequate to protect citizens' rights in an industrialised economy like India and replaced it with the '**absolute liability principle**'.

What is it?

Under the absolute liability principle, the apex court held that a company in a hazardous industry cannot claim any exemption.

1. It has to mandatorily pay compensation, whether or not the disaster was caused by its negligence. The court said a hazardous enterprise has an "absolute non-delegable duty to the community".
2. The principle of absolute liability is **part of Article 21 (right to life)**.

Difference between Absolute & Strict Liability:

1. **Payment of compensation:** Under strict liability, compensation is payable as per the nature and quantum of damages caused but in cases of absolute liability, damages to be paid are exemplary in nature, and depend upon the magnitude and financial capability of the enterprise.
2. **The element of "escape"** is not an essential under the doctrine of Absolute Liability. This means that even if any hazardous substance does not leak from the premises of the industry but causes harm to the workers inside, the enterprise may be held absolutely liable.

3. Absolute Liability **can be upheld by the courts** even in those cases where a single death is reported and there is no mass destruction of property or pollution of the environment.

14. Govt notifies BS-VI emission norms for quadricycles

The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has issued notification regarding the emission norms for **L7 (quadricycle) category** for BS-VI. This notification **completes the process of BS-VI for all category vehicles in India.**

The emission norms are on the lines of **the European Union's World Motorcycle Test Cycle (WMTC).**

What is the WMTC cycle?

It is a system of driving cycles used to measure fuel consumption and emissions in motorcycles. The methods are stipulated as part of **the Global Technical Regulation** established under **the UN World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, also known as WP.29.**

What is a quadricycle?

It is the size of a three-wheeler but with four tyres and is fully covered like a car. It has an engine like that of a three-wheeler.

Dimensions: A quadricycle cannot be more than 3.6 metres long, should have an engine smaller than 800cc, and should not weigh more than 475 kilograms.



Regulation of quadricycles in India:

In 2018, the government had introduced the quadricycle segment with necessary standards to produce the vehicle. It had approved the vehicle for **both commercial and private use.**

15. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for **the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** for MSMEs and MUDRA borrowers.

Key features:

1. Under the Scheme, **100% guarantee coverage to be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)** for additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers.
2. The credit will be provided in the form of a **Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.**
3. The Scheme would be **applicable to all loans sanctioned under GECL Facility during the period from the date of announcement of the Scheme to 31.10.2020.**
4. **Tenor of the loan under Scheme shall be four years** with a moratorium period of one year on the principal amount.
5. **No Guarantee Fee** shall be charged by NCGTC from the Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under the Scheme.
6. **Interest rates under the Scheme shall be capped at 9.25% for banks and FIs, and at 14% for NBFCs.**

16. BharatMarket

Traders' body **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** had announced to launch a **national e-commerce marketplace 'bharatmarket'** for all retail traders in collaboration with several technology partners.

About BharatMarket:

- The marketplace will **integrate capabilities of various technology companies to provide end-to-end services** in the logistics and supply chains from manufacturers to end consumers, including deliveries at home.

- The e-commerce portal will **include a nationwide participation by retailers.**
- This endeavour aims to bring 95 per cent of retail traders onboard the platform, who will be the shareholders and the portal will be run exclusively by the traders.

17. Scheme for formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME)

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme – “Scheme for Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)”** for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis.

Objectives:

1. Increase in access to finance by micro food processing units.
2. Increase in revenues of target enterprises.
3. Enhanced compliance with food quality and safety standards.
4. Strengthening capacities of support systems.
5. Transition from the unorganized sector to the formal sector.
6. Special focus on women entrepreneurs and Aspirational districts.
7. Encourage Waste to Wealth activities.
8. Focus on minor forest produce in Tribal Districts.

Salient features:

- **Centrally Sponsored** Scheme. Expenditure to be shared by Government of India and States at **60:40.**
- 2,00,000 micro-enterprises are to be assisted with **credit linked subsidy. Micro enterprises will get credit linked subsidy at 35 per cent of the eligible project cost with ceiling of Rs. 10 lakh.**
- **Beneficiary contribution will be minimum 10 per cent and balance from loan.** Seed capital will be given to SHGs (Rs. four lakh per SHG) for loan to members for working capital and small tools.
- Scheme will be **implemented over a 5-year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.**
- **Cluster approach.**
- Focus on **perishables.**

Administrative and Implementation Mechanisms:

The Scheme would be monitored at Centre by an **Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee (IMEC)** under the **Chairmanship of Minister, FPI.**

A **State/ UT Level Committee (SLC)** chaired by the **Chief Secretary** will monitor and sanction/ recommend proposals for expansion of micro units and setting up of new units by the SHGs/ FPOs/ Cooperatives.

The **States/ UTs will prepare Annual Action Plans** covering various activities for implementation of the scheme, which will be **approved by Government of India.**

A **third-party evaluation and mid-term review mechanism would be built in the programme.**

National level portal would be set-up wherein the applicants/ individual enterprise could apply to participate in the Scheme. All the scheme activities would be undertaken on the National portal.

18. Saras Collection

It is **an initiative of the GeM, the DAY-NRLM and the Ministry of Rural Development.**

- It showcases daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs) and aims to provide SHGs in rural areas with market access to Central and State Government buyers.

Under this initiative, the SHG sellers will be able to list their products in 5 product categories, namely (i) handicrafts, (ii) handloom and textiles, (iii) office accessories, (iv) grocery and pantry, and (v) personal care and hygiene.

19. GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)” programme

Launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with Facebook.

Aims to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.

Under this, **5,000 young tribal entrepreneurs, professionals, artisans and artists will be trained by experts from different disciplines on digital skills under digital entrepreneurship program.**

20. Hanko

- It is a **personal stamp generally made from wood or plastic.**
- Small-sized and circular or square-shaped, the stamp is wet by an ink pad called ‘**shuniku**’, and the mark that it leaves on a document is called ‘**inkan**’.
- It is **used for authorising official documents** ranging from contracts, marriage registrations and even delivery slips.



21. Electronics incentive schemes

The government has launched **three incentive schemes** with a total outlay of about ₹48,000 crore **to boost large-scale manufacturing of electronics in the country.**

The schemes are:

1. Production Linked Incentive:

Targeted at mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components.

The government initially plans to **incentivise 10 firms — five global and five local.**

This Scheme **shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segments**, to eligible companies, **for a period of five years subsequent to the base year.**

2. Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS):

It shall provide **financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for the identified list of electronic goods.**

3. Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme:

It shall provide support for creation of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities, including Ready Built Factory (RBF) sheds / Plug and Play facilities for attracting major global electronics manufacturers, along with their supply chains.

22. World Bank's STARS project

STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS).

It is a project **to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states.**

Six states are- Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

Reform initiatives under the project include:

1. **Focusing more directly on the delivery of education services at the state, district and sub district levels** by providing customized local-level solutions towards school improvement.
2. **Addressing demands from stakeholders, especially parents, for greater accountability and inclusion** by producing better data to assess the quality of learning; giving special attention to students from vulnerable section.
3. **Equipping teachers to manage this transformation** by recognizing that teachers are central to achieving better learning outcomes.
4. **Investing more in developing India’s human capital needs** by strengthening foundational learning for children in classes 1 to 3 and preparing them with the cognitive, socio-behavioural and language skills to meet future labour market needs.

23. TULIP - Urban Learning Internship Program

TULIP - Urban Learning Internship Program for providing opportunities to fresh Graduates in all ULBs & Smart Cities launched.

TULIP has been conceived pursuant to the **Budget 2020-21 announcement** by the Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman under the theme 'Aspirational India'.

Key features:

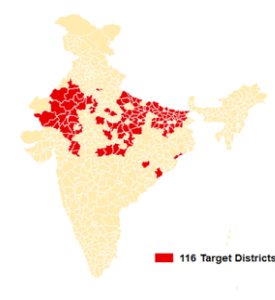
1. **TULIP** is a program for providing fresh graduates experiential learning opportunities in the urban sector.
2. It would help enhance the value-to-market of India's graduates and help create a potential talent pool in diverse fields like urban planning, transport engineering, environment, municipal finance etc.
3. It will lead to infusion of fresh ideas and energy with engagement of youth in co-creation of solutions for solving India's urban challenges.
4. This launch is also an important stepping stone for fulfilment of MHRD (Now Ministry of Education) and AICTE's goal of 1 crore successful internships by the year 2025.

24. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the mega 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' aimed to boost livelihood opportunities in rural India amid the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

Highlights of the scheme:

- The first priority of the scheme is to meet the immediate requirement of workers who have gone back to their districts by providing them with livelihood opportunities.
- The focus is also on rural citizens.
- It is a focused campaign of 125 days across 116 districts in six states to work in mission mode.
- Public works worth 50,000 crore rupees to be carried out under the scheme.
- It includes focused implementation of 25 different types of work to provide employment and to create durable infrastructure.
- The villages will join this programme through the common service centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.



116 Districts account for ~67 Lakh migrant workers (approx. 2/3 of returnee migrants)

S.No.	State Name	Districts	Aspirational Districts
1	Bihar	32	12
2	Uttar Pradesh	31	5
3	Madhya Pradesh	24	4
4	Rajasthan	22	2
5	Odisha	4	1
6	Jharkhand	3	3
Total Districts		116	27

Implementation of the scheme:

The scheme will be a coordinated effort by 12 different ministries including rural development, Panchayati Raj, Road transport and highways, mines, drinking water and sanitation, environment, railways, petroleum and natural gas, new and renewable energy, border Roads, Telecom and agriculture.

Why these 6 districts were chosen?

Post-COVID-19 lockdown, maximum migrant workers have returned to these six states.

- These districts are estimated to cover about 2/3 of such migrant workers.
- The chosen districts include 27 aspirational districts.

25. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till November-end.

What is Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana?

1. Considered as world's largest food security scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana aims at **ensuring sufficient food for the poor and needy during the coronavirus crisis.**
2. It was **announced as part of the first relief package during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
3. Part of the scheme, the food needs to be provided to all the beneficiaries under **public distribution system (TPDS) for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority household (PHH) ration cardholders.**
4. As per updates, **the eligible beneficiaries will receive 5kg of foodgrains and 1 kg Gram per month.**

26. Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

Approved by Cabinet in pursuance of **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package.**

Overview:

- Size of the fund is **Rs. 15000 crore.**
- This Fund will **incentivise infrastructure investments in dairy, meat processing and animal feed plants.**

Eligibility, funding and implementation:

- **Who is eligible?** Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), MSMEs, Section 8 Companies, Private Companies and individual entrepreneur with only 10% margin money contribution by them.
- **Rest of the Funds:** The balance 90% would be the loan component to be made available to them by scheduled banks.
- GOI will provide 3% **interest subvention** to eligible beneficiaries.
- There will be **2 years moratorium period for repayment of the loan** with 6 years repayment period thereafter.

Credit Guarantee Fund:

- A Credit Guarantee Fund of Rs. 750 crore will also be set up.
- It is to be **managed by NABARD** which would provide credit guarantee to the projects which are covered under the MSME defined ceilings.
- Guarantee Coverage would be up to **25% of the Credit facility of the borrower.**

27. Kolkata Port Trust renamed as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Trust

Cabinet approves renaming of Kolkata Port Trust as **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Trust.**

The decision was previously announced on January 12 at the inaugural ceremony of **the 150th anniversary celebrations of the port.**

Key facts:

- In the early 16th century, **the Portuguese first used the present location of the port to anchor their ships.**
- After the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833, **this port was used to ship lakhs of Indians as 'indentured labourers' to far-flung territories throughout the Empire.**
- The Kolkata port is **the only riverine port in the country, situated 203 km from the sea.** The river Hooghly, on which it is located, has many sharp bends, and is considered a difficult navigational channel.
- **The Farakka Barrage**, built in 1975, reduced some of the port's woes as Ganga waters were diverted into the Bhagirathi-Hooghly system.

28. Deccan Queen

It runs between **Mumbai and Pune**.

- Its birthday was celebrated on June 1st. It began operations on 1st June 1930.
- This **train holds many a record, including that of being** India's first superfast train, first long-distance electric-hauled train, first vestibuled train, the first train to have a 'women-only' car, and the first train to feature a dining car.
- It was started by **the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (GIPR)**, the forerunner of the Central Railway. This was the first deluxe train introduced to serve the two important cities of the region, and was named after **Pune – also known as the "Queen of Deccan" ("Dakkhan ki Rani" in Hindi)**.

29. Athirappilly hydroelectric project

The **Kerala government has issued a fresh no-objection certificate (NOC)** for the state electricity board to proceed with the implementation of the proposed **Athirapally hydro-electric project**, which had been shelved several times in the past due to protests by green activists.

Key facts:

- The project will have an installed capacity of 163 mw.
- Under the project, a dam is proposed to be constructed on **the Chalakudy River**.
- The Chalakudy River is **a tributary of the Periyar River** and originates in the Anamalai region of Tamil Nadu.

30. Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Program

It is **an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for empowerment of potters' community in the remotest of locations in the country.

The program reaches out to the potters in many **states including** U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, J&K, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Bihar.

This program provides the following support to potters.

1. Training for advanced pottery products
2. Latest, new technology pottery equipments like the electric Chaak
3. Market linkages and visibility through KVIC exhibitions

31. Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020 (DDH2020)

It is first of its kind National initiative for supporting drug discovery process.

It is **a joint initiative and the participants** are:

1. MHRD's Innovation Cell (MIC).
2. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
3. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
4. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).
5. MyGov as well as private players.

Details:

The Hackathon consists of **challenges that are posted as problem statements** and, are based on specific drug discovery topics which, are open to the participants to solve.

What is in silico drug design?

- Silico drug design is a term that means '**computer-aided molecular design**'.
- In other words, it is **the rational design or discovery of drugs using a wide variety of computational methods**.
- It is thus the identification of the drug target molecule by employing **bioinformatics tools**.

32. Pragyata guidelines

PRAGYATA guidelines on digital education released.

- The guidelines include **eight steps of digital learning that is, Plan- Review- Arrange- Guide- Yak (talk)- Assign- Track- Appreciate.**

These steps guide **the planning and implementation of digital education** step by step with examples.

These are **only advisory in nature** and state governments can formulate their own rules, based on local needs.

33. National Biopharma Mission (NBM)

BIRAC has announced that **ZyCoV-D, the plasmid DNA vaccine** designed and developed by **Zydu**s and partially funded by **the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** has initiated Phase I/Phase II clinical trials in healthy subjects, making it **the first indigenously developed vaccine for COVID-19 to be administered in humans in India.**

- DBT has partnered with Zydus to address rapid development of an indigenous vaccine for COVID-19 under **the National Biopharma Mission.**

About National Biopharma Mission (NBM):

It is an **industry-academia collaborative mission** for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.

It was **launched in 2017** and is **50% co-funded by World Bank loan.**

It is being **implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**

- Under this Mission, the Government has launched **Innovate in India (i3) programme** to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

It has a focus on following four verticals:

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

34. 'Accelerate Vigyan' Scheme

Launched by **Scientific and Engineering Research Board (SERB).**

- It seeks to provide **a single platform for capacity building programs, research internships, and workshops across the country.**
- The primary objective of this scheme is **to give more thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and preparing scientific manpower**, which can lead to research careers and knowledge-based economy.

Components:

ABHYAAS: To boost research and development in the country by enabling and grooming potential PG/PhD students by means of developing their research skills in selected areas across different disciplines or fields.

- **It has two components:** High-End Workshops ('KARYASHALA') and Research Internships ('VRITIKA').

Mission SAMOOHAN: Marks the beginning of Accelerate Vigyan.

It aims to encourage, aggregate and consolidate all scientific interactions in the country under one common roof.

It has been sub-divided into:

1. **SAYONJIKA** is an open-ended program to catalogue the capacity building activities in science and technology supported by all government funding agencies in the country.
2. **SANGOSHTI** is a pre-existing program of SERB.

35. Prerak Dauur Samman

It is a **new category of awards announced as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021**.

It has a total of **five additional subcategories** – Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze), Aarohi (Aspiring) – with top three cities being recognized in each.

Implications:

In a departure **from the present criteria of evaluating cities on ‘population category’**, this new category will categorize cities on the basis of **six select indicator-wise performance criteria which are as follows:**

1. Segregation of waste into Wet, Dry and Hazard categories
2. Processing capacity against wet waste generated
3. Processing and recycling of wet and dry waste
4. Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing
5. Percentage of waste going to landfills
6. Sanitation status of cities

36. Vriksharopan Abhiyan

- Organised by **the Coal Ministry**.
- It is a **large-scale plantation drive involving all coal/lignite PSUs**.
- Under this, **large scale plantation will be carried out in colonies, offices, and mines and in other suitable areas of coal and lignite PSUs**.

37. ‘Dare to Dream 2.0’ contest

It is **an open challenge to promote the innovators and startups of the country**.

- Launched by **the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- On the 5th death anniversary of former President and noted scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

38. National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025 (NSFE)

The **Reserve Bank of India** has released a **national strategy for financial education** to be implemented in **the next five years**.

- The multi-stakeholder led approach is aimed at creating a financially aware and empowered India.
- **It is the second NSFE**, the first one being released in 2013.

Basic objectives:

The objectives include managing risk at various life stages through relevant and suitable insurance cover besides planning for old age and retirement through coverage of suitable pension products.

Who prepared it?

The NSFE has been **put together by the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE)** in consultation with **the four financial sector regulators** (Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) and other relevant stakeholders.

About NCFE:

National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) is a **Not for Profit Company promoted by** Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and

Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

NOTES



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION