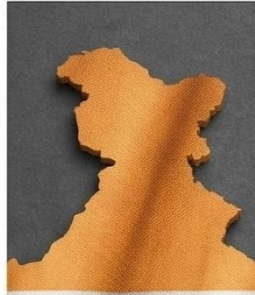




INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSIGHTS PT 2026



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2025-JANUARY 2026



DELHI



BENGALURU



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HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO UPSC CSE 2025 TOPPERS FROM FROM INSIGHTS IAS

 ANUJ AGNIHOTRI AIR - 1 STEP UP FREE MAINS TEST SERIES 2024	 AKANSH DHULL AIR - 3 INSTA PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2022	 RACHAV JHUNJHUNWALA AIR - 4 STEP UP FREE MAINS TEST SERIES 2024, IGP 2024	 ZINNIA AURORA AIR - 6 UPSC PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2024, I-WIN	 A R RAJAH MOHAIDEEEN AIR - 7 STEP UP PRELIMS 2024	 PAKSHAL SECRETORY AIR - 8 IGP 2023	 ASTHA JAIN AIR - 9 IPM 3.0, APEC-2022
 SURABHI YADAV AIR - 14 SUBJECTWISE PRELIMS 2024, STEP UP FREE MAINS	 SIMRANDEEP KAUR AIR - 15 ESSAY EDGE COURSE, I-AMM 2023, I-WL 2024, IGP 2025	 NISAR DISHANT AIR - 19 IGP 2024, PDIR TEST SERIES & MENTORSHIP FOR MAINS	 GEETIKA ARORA AIR - 22 I-WL 2023, INSTA SECURE, IGP 2023	 JASWANTH CHANDRA AIR - 23 MINI IPM 2021, ESSAY & ETHICS, CORE BATCH 2021, IGP 2022	 DEEKSHA CHOURASIYA AIR - 44 I-WL 2023, STEP UP FREE MAINS 2025	 SHAMBHAVI TIWARI AIR - 46 IGP 2024
 KIRAN KAMATE AIR - 53 IGP 2024, STEP UP PRELIMS 2024, STEP UP FREE MAINS	 GUDELLI SRUJAMA AIR - 55 STEP UP PRELIMS & MAINS 2024	 JAYANT GARG AIR - 64 IGP 2021	 VISHWAJEET GUPTA AIR - 67 STEP UP PRELIMS 2024	 ADITYA NARAYAN H AIR - 68 IGP 2024	 AAKASH OM TRIVEDI AIR - 73 IGP 2024	 HARSH NEHARA AIR - 74 STEP UP PRELIMS 2025
 SUNAWARDEEP AIR - 76 PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2024 - I-WIN	 PRIYANKA CHOUDHARY AIR - 79 MINI IPM 2021, IGP 2022, PDIR CRASH COURSE 2023	 PIYUSH JAIN AIR - 80 STEP UP PRELIMS, MAINS 2024, IGP	 SANDEEP BADAD AIR - 82 IPB 2021	 SAYALI BHIKA AIR - 87 STEP UP PRELIMS 2025	 SONALI JHA AIR - 89 INSTA GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL 2022, APEC-2022	 TWINKLE ARORA AIR - 91 IPM TEST SERIES 2023, INSTA SECURE 2023
 KASHISH KALRA AIR - 96 STEP UP PRELIMS 2024	 ARYAH KUMAR AIR - 104 SUPER OOP 2024, APEC 2024, I-WL 2024	 GAIKWAD AIR - 106 STEP UP PRELIMS 2024, PDIR CRASH COURSE 2023	 AJAY R RAJ AIR - 109 IGP 2021	 AAKRITI SINGLA AIR - 122 IGP 2021	 SRIGIRIRAJU AIR - 125 IGP 2022, STEP UP PRELIMS 2025	 MANIKA GUPTA AIR - 127 CORE BATCH 2024, INSTA PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2024

OUR PROUD OGP STUDENTS (FOUNDATION COURSE)

 AKSHAT BALDWA AIR - 173 FOUNDATION COURSE OOP 2021 BATCH 2	 ABHISHEK SINGH AIR - 308 FOUNDATION COURSE OOP 2021 BATCH 2	 NIVEDITA C BHAVIMANI AIR - 469 FOUNDATION COURSE OOP 2021	 THOUSIF ULLA KHAN AIR - 741 FOUNDATION COURSE OOP 2023	 AMIRUDH KATTIMANI AIR - 786 FOUNDATION COURSE OOP 2023, IGP	 LIANGOUSANG VUALLNAM AIR - 868 FOUNDATION COURSE SUPER OOP (DELHI)
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**180+
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Ministry of Education

1. PM SHRI scheme

- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched to upgrade 14,500 schools into model institutions that demonstrate best practices under the [National Education Policy](#) (NEP) 2020, integrating technology, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Launched in: September 2022 by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Implemented by: Jointly by the Department of School Education & Literacy (MoE) with participation from States/UTs, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

Objective:

- To provide high-quality, holistic, and [skill-based education](#) through experiential learning; align school infrastructure and pedagogy with NEP 2020 and serve as “lighthouse schools” for others to emulate.

Funding Pattern:

- **Centre–State Share:** 60:40 (General States/UTs with legislature); 90:10 (NE & Himalayan States, J&K); 100% Central for UTs without legislature

Key Features:

- **Infrastructure Upgrade:** Smart classrooms, computer labs, integrated science labs, skill labs, and [Atal Tinkering Labs](#).
- **Green Initiatives:** Emphasis on solar power, rainwater harvesting, and waste management for eco-friendly campuses.
- **Competency-Based Learning:** Shift from rote methods to inquiry-driven, experiential pedagogy.
- **Holistic Assessment:** Continuous, competency-linked evaluation instead of exam-centric grading.
- **Teacher Empowerment:** Dedicated modules for digital pedagogy and professional growth.
- **Inclusive Education:** Special facilities for barrier-free access, [gender equity](#), and multilingual learning.
- **Selection Process:** Competitive challenge-mode through UDISE+ data, field verification, and expert committee approval.

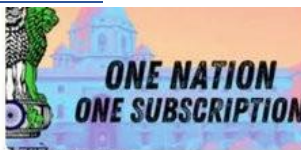
2. India Rankings 2025

- India Rankings is the annual ranking of higher education institutions based on the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**, introduced in 2015. It covers universities, colleges, and specialized institutions across disciplines.
- **Published by:** The **Ministry of Education, Government of India**, with data support from agencies like Scopus, Web of Science, and Derwent Innovation.
- **Aim:**
 - To promote **accountability, transparency, and quality benchmarking** among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
 - To guide students, parents, and policymakers with credible performance indicators.
 - To align higher education with **NEP 2020 goals** and India’s vision of becoming a knowledge superpower by 2047.
- **Criteria Used (5 Parameters & Weightage):**
 - **Teaching, Learning & Resources (30%)** – faculty quality, student strength, financial resources.
 - **Research & Professional Practice (30%)** – publications, citations, patents.
 - **Graduation Outcomes (20%)** – placement, higher studies, median salary.
 - **Outreach & Inclusivity (10%)** – gender balance, regional diversity, inclusivity.
 - **Perception (10%)** – academic and public reputation.

3. 'One Nation, One Subscription' Scheme

Why in news?

The Union Cabinet has approved the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme to provide universal access to international scholarly research articles and journals.



About One Nation One Subscription:

- **Ministry:** Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- **Central Sector Scheme:** ₹6,000 crore allocated for 2025–2027.
- **Aim:** To provide access to top-quality international research journals to government higher education institutions (HEIs) and central government R&D institutions.
- **Key Features:**
 - Coverage of 30 major international publishers and nearly 13,000 e-journals.
 - Access for 6,300 government HEIs and R&D institutions benefiting 8 crore students, faculty, and researchers.
 - Entirely digital process coordinated by INFLIBNET under UGC.
 - Promotes interdisciplinary and core research, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
 - Aligned with NEP 2020 and supported by Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

1. AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy

- **AMRIT** (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy is a government initiative providing life-saving medicines, implants, and medical consumables at 50–90% discounted rates.

Launched in: 2015, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to expand affordable access to critical medicines across India.

Organisation Involved: Implemented nationwide by **HLL Lifecare Limited**, a Central Public Sector Enterprise under MoHFW.

Aim: To ensure that quality branded and branded-**generic medicines**, surgical implants, and critical care products are accessible and affordable, especially for low-income and high-burden patients.

Key Features:

- **Pan-India Network:** Over 255 operational outlets, now expanding to 500—targeted for every medical college and district hospital.
- **Deep Discounts:** Offers **50–90%** reduction on essential medicines, oncology drugs, cardiac implants, and surgical consumables.
- **Digital Upgradation:** Launch of AMRIT ITes Eco-Green Version 2.0 to improve transparency, efficiency, and **environmental sustainability**.
- **Enhanced Services:**
 - Mobile Pharmacy Van for rural outreach
 - 24x7 National Contact Centre
 - My Stamp release & Coffee Table Book
 - Integration of Ayurvedic medicines in multi-disciplinary institute.
- **Skilled Workforce:** Employs certified pharmacy professionals (D.Pharm, B.Pharm).

2. [National Action Plan On Antimicrobial Resistance 2.0 \(NAP-AMR 2.0\)](#)

- NAP-AMR 2.0 is India's updated **five-year strategic framework (2025–29)** to combat rising antimicrobial resistance through a **One Health approach** covering human, animal, agriculture, and environmental sectors.
- It replaces and expands the earlier [NAP-AMR 2017–21](#), incorporating gaps identified during its implementation.

Launched by: Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Aim:

- To create a coordinated, multi-sectoral national response to AMR using a [One Health](#) framework.
- To reduce misuse/overuse of antimicrobials and strengthen laboratory surveillance, stewardship, and infection control.

Key Features of NAP-AMR 2.0:

- **One Health Integration:** Brings together human health, animal husbandry, agriculture, food safety, environment, and research sectors under a unified national framework.
- **Ministry-Specific Action Plans:** Each of the 20+ ministries (Health, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, MoEFCC, DST, Chemicals, Jal Shakti, etc.) has its **own action plan**, budget, goals, and timelines.
- **Strengthened Surveillance & Laboratory Capacity:** Focus on expanding diagnostic networks, AMR labs, pathogen tracking, and infection prevention and control (IPC) across hospitals.
- **Antibiotic Stewardship & Regulatory Measures:** Controls irrational antibiotic use; promotes prescription auditing; supports state actions like **Kerala & Gujarat banning OTC antibiotic sales**.
- **Public & Professional Awareness:** Nationwide awareness campaigns, medical curriculum integration, and training programs for healthcare providers, veterinarians & pharmacists.
- **Environment & Agriculture Measures:** Regulates antimicrobial/pesticide usage in crops; monitors pharmaceutical waste; promotes safe livestock practices.
- **Innovation & Research Push:** Strengthens the **India AMR Innovation Hub** to develop new diagnostics, technologies, and collaborative R&D models.

3. [Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana \(PM-JAY\)](#)

- PM-JAY, a component of **Ayushman Bharat**, is one of the **world's largest government-funded health assurance scheme**, providing free secondary and tertiary healthcare to India's poorest families.
- **Launch:** Launched on **23rd September 2018** in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- **2025 Best State Implementation:** **Chhattisgarh** topped national rankings with 97% empanelled hospitals active, 32,000+ audits for fraud control.
- **Aim:**
 - To provide **cashless and paperless access** to quality healthcare for **12 crore vulnerable families** covering the bottom 40% of the Indian population, and to **prevent catastrophic medical expenditure** that pushes millions into **poverty** annually.
- **Key Features:**
 - ₹5 lakh annual health cover per family on a **family floater basis** (no limit on family size, age, or gender).
 - **Cashless treatment** across public and private empanelled hospitals nationwide.
 - Covers **1,929 medical procedures**, including diagnostics, surgery, implants, ICU, and medicines.
 - Includes **3 days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation care**.

- **Portability:** Benefits can be availed in any empanelled hospital across India.
- **Pre-existing diseases** covered from day one.
- Fully funded by Government — cost shared between **Centre and States**.
- **PM-JAY Beneficiaries:**
 - Eligibility under **PM-JAY** is primarily based on **SECC-2011 data**, expanded to include **senior citizens aged 70+ years**.

4. PM-ABHIM

- The Pradhan Mantri–Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) is a pan-India health infrastructure programme aimed at creating a resilient, accessible, and self-reliant public health system.
- It focuses on pandemic preparedness, [disease surveillance](#), and comprehensive healthcare delivery from primary to tertiary levels.

Launched in: October 25, 2021 by the Prime Minister of India under the broader Ayushman Bharat initiative.

Implemented by: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

Objectives:

- To build robust public health infrastructure capable of managing pandemics and health emergencies.
- To develop an IT-enabled disease surveillance system integrated across national, regional, and local levels.
- To contribute to [Universal Health Coverage](#) (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal-3 (SDG-3).

Key Features:

- **Financial Outlay:** ₹64,180 crore for 2021–26.
 - It has both Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector components (Hybrid model).
- **Surveillance Network:** A real-time, IT-enabled National Disease Surveillance Platform linking local, state, and central labs.
- **Integration with National Health Frameworks:** Builds upon the National Health Policy 2017, [National Health Mission](#) (NHM), and [Ayushman Bharat](#) Scheme for a unified healthcare model.
- **Focus Areas:** Rural and urban health centres, research on infectious diseases, and community health capacity building.



5. CoWIN Portal

- **CoWIN (COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network)** is a government digital platform for registration, scheduling, tracking, and certification of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- It serves as an **end-to-end public health management tool** from the national to the vaccinator level.
- Built on earlier eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network)
- **Launched in:** January 2021, during India's COVID-19 vaccination drive.
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- **Aim:**
 - To provide a **transparent, efficient, and real-time system** for vaccination delivery.
 - To ensure **equitable access, identity verification, tracking of doses, and certification** for every beneficiary.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Five Modules:**
 - Orchestration module (overall management).
 - Vaccination cold-chain module (vaccine logistics).
 - Citizen registration module (self and bulk registration).
 - Vaccinator module (session management).
 - Certificate, feedback & adverse-event reporting module.
 - **Integration:** Accessible through CoWIN website, [Aarogya Setu app](#), UMANG app, and DigiLocker.
 - **Authentication Methods:** OTP, biometric, and demographic authentication.
 - **Real-Time Tracking:** Monitors beneficiaries, vaccine doses, wastage, and coverage at national, state, district, and sub-district levels.

6. PM National Dialysis Programme

- A flagship scheme under [National Health Mission](#) (NHM) launched to provide free dialysis services to economically vulnerable patients suffering from end-stage [renal disease](#) (ESRD).
- **Launched In:**
 - Initiated in April 2016 under Union Budget 2016–17
 - Implemented via Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and hybrid models
- **Ministry:** Implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- **Objectives:**
 - Provide **equitable, affordable dialysis care** across India
 - Reduce **financial burden** on Below Poverty Line (BPL) families
 - Strengthen **renal-care infrastructure** in district hospitals and beyond
- **Coverage and Reach:**
 - Functional in **751 districts** across **36 States/UTs**
 - **1,704 dialysis centres** operational as of June 2025
 - Services extended to **Community Health Centres** in tribal and remote areas
- **Key Features:**
 - **Types of Dialysis Offered:**
 - **Haemodialysis (HD)** and **Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)** services covered
 - **Implementation Models:**
 - **PPP mode** in 14 States/UTs
 - **In-house model** in 16 States/UTs
 - **Hybrid model** in 6 States/UTs
 - **PMNDP IT Portal:**
 - Launched in **May 2022** for real-time integration of dialysis centres
 - Enables **One Nation–One Dialysis** portability with real-time slot availability
 - **ABHA Number Integration:**
 - **14-digit Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** ensures seamless patient data linkage and identification

- Facilitates **Personal Health Record (PHR)** access and insurance scheme integration
- **Health Facility Registry (HFR):**
 - National repository of public and private health institutions
 - Enables transparent, searchable database to **improve healthcare access**
- **Target Group:**
 - Primarily caters to **BPL patients**, but infrastructure benefits all ESRD patients

7. National Polio Surveillance Network (NPSN)

- The **National Polio Surveillance Network** is India's key disease surveillance mechanism for detecting and controlling polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **When was it established?**
 - **Year:** 1997
 - **Initiative:** Originally called the National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP)
- **Organizations Involved:**
 - World Health Organization (WHO)
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India
- **Objective:**
 - To support **polio eradication** by identifying and investigating cases of **Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)**.
 - To **monitor immunisation campaigns** and ensure **zero transmission** of wild polio virus.
- **Key Functions:**
 - **Disease Surveillance:** Tracks AFP cases and conducts lab-confirmed verification.
 - **Vaccination Support:** Assists in pulse polio campaigns and routine immunisation.
 - **Capacity Building:** Trains state and district health officials on surveillance protocols.
 - **Integrated Health Role:** Now supports **measles-rubella elimination** and control of other Vaccine-Preventable Diseases.
 - **Staff Deployment:** Over 200 field units led by Surveillance Medical Officers (SMOs) spread across all states and union territories.
- This will eventually integrate with the **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)**.

8. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- PMSMA is a flagship maternal health programme of the Government of India.
- Launched in **June 2016** by the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, it provides free and **quality antenatal care (ANC)** to pregnant women on the 9th of every month.
- **Objectives of PMSMA:**
 - Ensure **at least one ANC check-up** in the 2nd or 3rd trimester by a trained specialist.
 - Promote **early detection and management** of high-risk pregnancies (**HRPs**).
 - Improve quality of care through diagnostics, counselling, and risk stratification.
 - Identify and track HRPs through a **name-based monitoring system**.
 - Raise awareness and **mobilize private sector participation** to supplement public services.
- **Key Features of PMSMA:**
 - **Fixed ANC Days:** Pregnant women receive a standard package of ANC services every 9th of the month at government health facilities.
 - **Specialist-Driven:** Services provided by OB-GYNs, radiologists, and physicians, including private doctors volunteering in public hospitals.

- **Single Window Service:** Provides investigations (e.g., ultrasound), IFA/calcium supplements, and counselling in one visit.
- **Risk Tagging:** Use of green stickers (no risk) and red stickers (HRP) on MCP cards to classify pregnancies.
- **Digital Monitoring:** Operates through a national portal and mobile app, ensuring transparency and follow-up.
- **About [Extended Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan \(e-PMSMA\)](#):**
 - **Launched in:** January 2022, the initiative strengthens maternal health surveillance by ensuring continuous monitoring of high-risk pregnancies up to **45 days** after delivery.
- **Features:**
 - It enables a **digital follow-up mechanism** through **automated SMS alerts** sent to both pregnant women and ASHAs for timely check-ups.
 - **Financial incentives** are provided to pregnant women and [ASHAs](#) who successfully complete three additional antenatal care visits beyond the standard coverage.
 - The programme allows **up to four antenatal care sessions per month** in vulnerable or underserved areas to ensure better coverage and timely intervention.

9. [National Medical Register](#)

- The **National Medical Register (NMR)** is a **centralised digital database** of all licensed **allopathic (MBBS) doctors** in India.
- It is designed to bring transparency, authenticity, and accountability to the medical profession.
- **Established Under:** Section 31 of the [National Medical Commission \(NMC\) Act, 2019](#)
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- **Objectives:**
 - Create a **comprehensive, digital registry** of all allopathic doctors across India.
 - Enhance **public trust and governance** in the healthcare system.
 - Facilitate better **credential verification and policy planning**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Mandatory Enrolment:** All registered medical practitioners (RMPs) must register in the NMR.
 - **Aadhaar Linkage:** Each doctor's record is linked to their **Aadhaar ID** to verify authenticity.
 - **Public & Private Data Access:** Some data is public-facing; sensitive data remains secure for use by EMRB, SMCs, NBE, and institutions.
 - **Real-Time Updates:** The portal will be **dynamically updated** for transparency and governance.
 - **Central + State Collaboration:** [State Medical Councils](#) (SMCs) are responsible for verifying degrees and facilitating the process.
- **Functions:**
 - Serve as the **single source of verified data** on licensed doctors.
 - Enable **policy planners**, regulators, and medical institutions to access accurate and timely data.
 - Strengthen **digital health infrastructure** in line with India's broader Digital Health Mission.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

1. [Niveshak Shivar Initiative](#)

- A nationwide investor assistance and outreach program to help investors reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares with ease.

- **Launched by:** Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority ([IEPFA](#)) under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, in collaboration with **SEBI**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Investor Helpdesks:** On-ground support for investors to directly interact with company representatives and RTAs.
 - **Digital Search Tool:** IEPFA provides a portal to track share status and file claims (Form IEPF-5).
 - **Streamlined Claim Process:** Guidance for shareholders in demat and physical form to recover unclaimed assets.

About **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA):**

- **What it is:** A statutory authority established under Section 125 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Ministry:** Functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, Government of India.
- **Functions:**
 - Protects interests of investors.
 - Promotes financial literacy and education.
 - Facilitates refund of unclaimed dividends, matured deposits, and shares.
 - Manages the IEPF corpus comprising unclaimed amounts transferred by companies.

Ministry of Heavy Industries

1. Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) – Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

- The ACC-PLI scheme is a central sector incentive programme to promote domestic manufacturing of advanced battery cells (such as [lithium-ion cells](#)) used in electric vehicles (EVs) and grid-scale energy storage, reducing India's dependence on imports.

Announced in: October 2021

Implementing Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries

Aim and objectives:

- Create 50 GWh of domestic ACC manufacturing capacity.
- Build a local battery supply chain (cells, components, materials).
- Reduce strategic dependence on imported batteries (especially from China).

Key features of ACC-PLI Scheme (Concise)

- **Total outlay (₹18,100 crore):** Government financial commitment to scale up domestic advanced battery manufacturing.
- **Performance-linked incentive:** Subsidy linked to **actual battery cells sold**, ensuring output-based support.
- **Incentive cap (~₹2,000/kWh):** Sets an upper limit on per-unit support to control fiscal cost.
- **Minimum investment (₹1,100 crore):** Ensures only **serious, large-scale manufacturers**
- **Domestic value addition mandate:** Compels creation of a **local battery supply chain**.
 - **25% in 2 years:** Early localisation push.
 - **60% in 5 years:** Deep [manufacturing ecosystem](#) over time.
- **Target technology:** Focuses on **Advanced Chemistry Cells** (like lithium-ion) critical for EVs and energy storage, excluding conventional lead-acid batteries.
- **Selected beneficiaries:**
 - **Ola Electric, Reliance New Energy, Rajesh Exports** chosen via competitive bidding.
 - **Hyundai Global exited**, reducing effective allocated capacity.

2. PM E-Drive Subsidy Scheme

- A national incentive programme to promote [electric vehicle](#) (EV) adoption, manufacturing, and charging infrastructure, with a special focus on electric buses and heavy EVs.
- **Launched In:** 1 October 2024, replacing the [Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme](#) (EMPS-2024).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries
- **Period:** Till March 31, 2028 or until funds are exhausted.
- **Objective:**
 - Accelerate EV penetration in public transport and logistics.
 - Reduce upfront cost of EVs for consumers.
 - Strengthen charging network to address range anxiety.
 - Support domestic manufacturing under [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#).
- **Key Features:**
 - **Demand Incentives:**
 - **2-wheelers:** ₹5,000/kWh in FY25 (max ₹10,000/vehicle), halved in FY26.
 - **E-rickshaws & passenger/cargo e-autos:** ₹5,000/kWh in FY25 (max ₹25,000–₹50,000), halved in FY26.
 - **Electric trucks (3.5–55 tonnes):** ₹5,000/kWh or 10% of ex-factory price.
 - **Electric ambulances:** ₹500 crore allocation, guidelines by 2026.
 - **Focus on E-Buses:** Deployment in **9 cities** with over **40 lakh population**.
 - **Charging Infrastructure:**
 - 22,100 fast chargers for four-wheelers.
 - 1,800 for buses.
 - 48,400 for two- and three-wheelers.
 - Backed by ₹2,000 crore funding.
 - **Testing Upgrades** – Strengthening EV testing and certification facilities.
 - **Integration with EV Policy** – Complements [GST cuts](#), income tax benefits under Sec 80EEB, and [PLI schemes](#) for batteries and EV manufacturing.
- **Coverage:**
 - Electric 2-wheelers, 3-wheelers, trucks, ambulances, and buses.
 - Charging infrastructure in **urban areas and highways**.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

1. e-Jagriti Platform

- e-Jagriti is a unified, AI-enabled digital grievance-redressal platform of the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, designed to integrate all consumer dispute-resolution systems into one seamless portal.

Organisation Involved: Developed and operated by the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, Government of India.

Aim: To ensure faster, transparent, accessible, and paperless consumer justice across India and abroad, especially empowering [MSME consumers](#), households, and NRIs with real-time, tech-enabled grievance redressal.

Key Features of e-Jagriti:

- **Unified, Paperless Consumer Courts:** Integrates all legacy systems into one portal, enabling e-filing, [digital scrutiny](#), electronic notices, virtual hearings, secure documents, and role-based dashboards for judges, advocates, and litigants.
- **Global Accessibility for NRIs:** Allows Indian citizens abroad to file, track, and participate in hearings remotely through secure OTP login, encrypted document exchange, virtual courts, and integrated payment gateways.

- **AI-Powered, Multilingual Interface:** Provides chatbot assistance, voice-to-text tools, real-time tracking, smart case routing, and accessibility support for elderly and visually impaired users.
- **High Disposal Efficiency:** In 2025, disposal exceeded filing in many states (e.g., 27,545 cases disposed vs. 27,080 filed in July–August), demonstrating backlog reduction and faster turnaround time.
- **Integrated Communication System:** Over 2 lakh SMS alerts and 12 lakh emails auto-sent for case updates, notice issuance, OTP verification, and deadlines to ensure procedural transparency.
- **Secure Fee Payments:** Supports PayGov and Bharat Kosh, ensuring safe, traceable, and convenient online payments.

2. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

- A **free foodgrain distribution scheme** under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**.
- Provides rice/wheat free of cost to eligible households through the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.

Launched in:

- **March 2020**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a relief measure for vulnerable populations.

Ministry:

- Implemented by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

Aim:

- To ensure **food and nutritional security** of the poor and vulnerable.
- To **mitigate hardships** during crises like the pandemic and economic shocks.
- To uphold the principle of **equity and inclusion** under NFSA.

Components:

- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** households – 35 kg foodgrains per family per month.
- **Priority Households (PHH)** – 5 kg rice/wheat per person per month.
- Distribution through ~5.4 lakh **fair price shops (FPSs)** across India.

Features:

- Covers **~81.35 crore beneficiaries** (75% rural + 50% urban).
- Provides **56–58 million tonnes** of foodgrains annually.
- Entirely **free of cost** since January 2023 (earlier **NFSA** required nominal payment).
- e-KYC and Aadhaar seeding of ration cards for transparency – **83% verified**.
- Budgeted **₹2.03 lakh crore food subsidy for FY26**.
- Re-verification drive underway to weed out **ineligible beneficiaries** (e.g., taxpayers, vehicle owners, non-users).

3. Depot Darpan Portal

- **Depot Darpan** is a **digital monitoring portal and mobile app** that enables real-time oversight of food grain depots using **geo-tagged data, IoT, and AI technologies**.
- **Launched By:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- **Objective:**
 - To **digitize and modernize** India's food storage infrastructure through **scientific warehousing**, enhancing **efficiency, transparency, and food safety**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Real-Time Monitoring:** Tracks infrastructure, operational efficiency, and financial metrics through IoT sensors and CCTV surveillance.
 - **Geo-Tagged Auditing:** Depot managers upload geo-tagged infrastructure data validated by supervisory officers and third-party audits.
 - **Automated Ratings & Feedback:** Warehouses receive **star ratings** based on infrastructure and operational performance using a composite scoring model.

- **Smart Tech Integration:** Includes **CO₂ and phosphine gas monitoring, humidity and temperature sensors, and fire hazard detection.**
- **AI-Based Tools:** Pilots include **bag counting, Face Recognition Systems (FRS), and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** for tracking vehicle and personnel movements.
- **Wide Coverage:** Covers **2,278 warehouses**, including those of **FCI, CWC,** and state/private agencies.
- **Mobile App Support:** Enables supervisory officials to conduct **on-the-go performance reviews** and generate **automated reports** for prompt action.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1. TALASH Initiative

- TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills, and Self-Esteem Hub) is a **digital platform** designed to support tribal students' self-discovery, life skills, and career planning. It is the **first national-level initiative focused solely on tribal students' holistic development.**
- **Launched By:** National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) in collaboration with **UNICEF India.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- **Objectives of TALASH:**
 - Promote **self-awareness and personality development** among tribal students.
 - Enable **informed career choices** using aptitude-based assessments.
 - Build critical **life skills** such as emotional intelligence, communication, and decision-making.
 - Equip EMRS teachers to effectively **mentor and guide students.**
- **Key Features:**
 - **Psychometric Testing:**
 - Based on NCERT's [Tamanna model](#).
 - Assesses student aptitude; generates **personalized Career Cards.**
 - **Career Counselling Modules:**
 - Informs students about career paths suited to their skills.
 - Aligns **interest–aptitude–aspiration** for better decision-making.
 - **Life Skills & Self-Esteem Training:**
 - Focuses on **confidence-building, conflict resolution,** and emotional health.
 - Modules promote resilience and value-based growth.
 - **Teacher Training Portal:**
 - 189 teachers from 75 EMRSs already trained.
 - Enables **peer-led capacity building** across schools.
 - **Phased National Rollout:**
 - Covers all **1.38 lakh+ students** across 28 States & 8 UTs by end of 2025.
 - Ensures smooth adoption through city-level pilots.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

1. Village Defence Guards (VDGs)

- Village Defence Guards (VDGs) are armed civilian defence groups constituted in vulnerable areas of Jammu & Kashmir to assist security forces in counter-terrorism, village protection, and intelligence gathering.

Launched in:

- **March 2022**, approved by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**

- Replaced and restructured the earlier **Village Defence Committees (VDCs)** (1995).

Aim:

- To provide localised, immediate defence against militant threats.
- To act as a force multiplier for police and armed forces in remote and border villages.
- To enhance [community participation](#) in internal security.

Key features:

- **Composition:** Mainly ex-servicemen and trained civilians, identified at the panchayat level; group strength up to 15 members.
- **Training & weapons:** Trained by [CRPF](#)/Army; equipped with Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs) instead of older .303 rifles.
- **Operational control:** Function under the District SSP/SP, ensuring integration with the formal security grid.
- **Remuneration:** Group heads receive ₹4,500/month; members receive ₹4,000/month, unlike earlier VDCs where only SPOs were paid.
- **Roles:** Conduct day-night patrols, protect villages, religious places, and public infrastructure, and assist in search and cordon operations.

2. [National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System \(NIDMS\)](#)

- NIDMS is a secure national [digital platform](#) that stores, standardises and analyses all historical IED and bomb-blast related data in India, providing single-click access to investigators across the country.

Organisations involved

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) – Policy oversight
- National Security Guard (NSG) – Host and operational custodian
- National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC), NSG – Technical and forensic backbone
- **User agencies:**
 - State Police Forces
 - Central Armed Police Forces ([CAPFs](#))
 - National Investigation Agency (NIA)
 - Anti-Terrorism Squads (ATS)

Aim: To create “One Nation, One IED Data Repository” that:

- Enables faster and more scientific investigation of terror blasts
- Detects patterns, signatures and inter-linkages between attacks
- Supports predictive and AI-based counter-terror strategies

Key features:

- **Pan-India blast archive:** Records every [IED and bomb](#) blast since 1999
- **Two-way data window:**
 - Agencies can upload new blast data
 - And access historical cases in real time
- **Signature linking:**
 - Links incidents using location, device type, circuit, timer, explosive used
- **AI-enabled analytics:**
 - Finds modus operandi trends
 - Supports predictive threat mapping
- **Inter-operability:**
 - Will integrate with [CCTNS](#), ICJS-2, NAFIS, e-Prisons, e-Prosecution, [Forensics databases](#).
- **Secure and standardised:**
 - Ensures uniform data formats, evidence tagging and secure sharing

3. [National Database for Emergency Management \(NDEM\)](#)

- A geo-spatial platform providing real-time, space-based data for disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation across India.

- **Developed by:** National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, under the guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- **Aim:** To serve as a national repository of GIS-based data for emergency management, helping policymakers, disaster managers, and planners make evidence-based, risk-informed decisions.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Multi-hazard coverage:** Provides data on floods, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, and cyclones.
 - **Digital Elevation Models (DEM):** Enables terrain mapping for slope and drainage assessment.
 - **Land-use and hazard zonation layers:** Identify vulnerable zones and optimise land planning.
 - **Decision Support Tools:** Integrates multi-scale data for real-time risk analysis and emergency response.
 - **Multi-institutional access:** Used by NDRF, SDRF, and State Disaster Management Authorities for planning and rescue operations.

Ministry of Labour and Employment

1. Employee's Enrolment Scheme 2025

- The *Employee's Enrolment Scheme 2025* is a special one-time compliance window under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to allow employers to voluntarily enrol eligible employees who were not covered under the EPF between 1 July 2017 and 31 October 2025.

Organisation Involved: Implemented by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Aim:

- To extend social security coverage to all eligible employees under the EPF Act, 1952.
- To encourage voluntary compliance by employers and improve trust between businesses and regulators.
- To promote formalisation of the workforce and ensure financial protection for unregistered employees.

Features:

- **Operational period:** Six months from **1 November 2025 to 30 April 2026**.
- Employers can enrol workers employed between **July 2017–October 2025** who were left out of EPF coverage.
- **Waiver of employee's contribution** if it was not deducted earlier.
- Only **employer's share of contribution** and a **nominal ₹100 penalty** required for compliance.
- Applicable even to establishments under inquiry under **Section 7A** or **Paragraph 26B** of the EPF Act.
- EPFO will not take suo motu action for past omissions once voluntary compliance is made.

2. Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE) 2025

- A special scheme to bring unregistered employers and employees—especially **contractual and temporary workers**—under the **ESI social security net**.
- **Launched by:** Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Labour and Employment

- **Objective:** To formalize employment by facilitating **voluntary compliance** and expanding ESI coverage to informal workers.
- **Key Features of SPREE 2025:**
 - **Digital Registration:** Registration via ESIC portal, [Shram Suvidha portal](#), and MCA portal.
 - **No Retrospective Penalty:** No contribution, inspection, or legal demand for the pre-registration period.
 - **Declared Validity:** Registration valid from the date declared by the employer.
 - **No Legal Hurdles:** Removes fear of litigation for past non-compliance.
 - **Boost to Informal Sector:** Brings temporary, contractual, and unorganised workers under formal coverage.
 - **One-Time Amnesty:** Encourages large-scale participation without penal action.

3. [PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana \(PM-VBRY\)](#)

- A **national employment-linked incentive scheme** to promote **job creation** in formal sectors, especially **manufacturing**, as part of the [Viksit Bharat initiative](#).
- **Launch Date:** Effective from **1st August 2025**
- **Administered By:** Ministry of Labour and Employment
- **Total Outlay:** ₹99,446 crore
- **Implementation Period:** 2025–2027
- **Target:** Over **3.5 crore new jobs**, including **1.92 crore first-time workers**
- **Objective:**
 - To promote **inclusive and sustainable job creation**.
 - To incentivize employers for hiring new workers, especially in **manufacturing**.
 - To support **first-time employees** entering the formal workforce

Key Features of PM-VBRY:

- **Part A: Incentive for First-Time Employees**
 - **Eligibility:** New [EPFO](#)-registered employees with monthly salaries up to ₹1 lakh.
 - **Incentive:** One-month EPF wage (up to ₹15,000), paid in **two instalments**:
 - **1st instalment:** After 6 months of service
 - **2nd instalment:** After 12 months and completion of financial literacy training
 - **Saving Habit Promotion:** Part of the incentive will be **locked in a deposit account** for future withdrawal.
- **Part B: Incentive for Employers**
 - **Focus Sector:** All sectors, with **special focus on manufacturing**
 - **Employer Eligibility:** EPFO-registered entities hiring:
 - **2 or more** additional employees (if existing staff <50)
 - **5 or more** (if staff ≥50)
 - **Wage-based Incentive (per employee per month):**
 - ₹1,000 for wages ≤ ₹10,000
 - ₹2,000 for ₹10,001–₹20,000
 - ₹3,000 for ₹20,001–₹1,00,000
 - **Tenure:** 2 years for all sectors; extended to **4 years for manufacturing**
- **Payment Mechanism:**
 - **First-Time Employees:** Paid via DBT using [Aadhaar Bridge Payment System](#) (ABPS).
 - **Employers:** Direct payment to PAN-linked bank accounts.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

1. Namo Bharat train

- **Namo Bharat** is a **regional rapid rail system** designed for fast, intercity travel across **NCR cities within 100–250 km range**.
- **Organizations involved:** Implemented by **NCRTC** – a joint venture company of Govt of India and States of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and U.P, under the administrative control of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Objectives:**
 - Enhance **commuter mobility** in NCR.
 - Promote **decongestion, urban integration, and green transit**.
 - Support the **Make in India** initiative through indigenous rail production.
- **Key Features:**
 - **High-speed:** Operates at 160 km/h with average speed ~100 km/h.
 - **Smart Coaches:** Equipped with **Wi-Fi, CCTV, automatic doors**, and dynamic route displays.
 - **Environmentally Friendly:** Regenerative braking, energy-efficient systems.

About National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)

- **What it is?**
 - A **special purpose vehicle (SPV)** tasked with implementing **regional rapid transit systems (RRTS)** in NCR.
- **Established in:** Incorporated on **21st August 2013** under the Companies Act, 1956.
- **Established by:** Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Objectives:** Build a **multi-modal high-speed rail network** across the NCR to boost balanced urban growth and ease pressure on Delhi.
- **Functions:**
 - Plan, finance, construct, operate, and maintain **Namo Bharat corridors**.
 - Ensure **last-mile integration**, station area development, and smart mobility services.

2. PM SVANidhi Scheme

- **PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** is a **micro-credit scheme** for urban street vendors.
- It provides affordable working capital loans to restore livelihoods disrupted during COVID-19.

Launched in

- **June 1, 2020** by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.

Aims and Objectives

1. Provide **collateral-free working capital loans** to street vendors.
2. Promote **digital payments** and financial inclusion.
3. Help vendors **resume businesses** post-pandemic and integrate with the formal economy.
4. Encourage **credit discipline** by incentivising timely repayments.

Nodal Agency

- Implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** with **State/UT governments, Urban Local Bodies, and lending institutions**.

Key Features (Original Framework)

- **Initial Loan:** ₹10,000 collateral-free loan (first tranche).
- **Interest Subsidy:** 7% per annum subsidy on timely repayment.
- **Digital Incentives:** Cashback of up to ₹100 per month for digital transactions.
- **Credit Linkage:** Higher loan tranches available on successful repayment.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Street vendors in statutory towns, including those operating through carts, stalls, and footpaths.

Recent Restructuring (2025)

1. **Extended Lending Period:** Now valid till **31 March 2030** (earlier 31 Dec 2024).
2. **Enhanced Loan Amounts:**
 - 1st tranche: **₹15,000** (earlier ₹10,000).
 - 2nd tranche: **₹25,000** (earlier ₹20,000).
 - 3rd tranche: **₹50,000** (unchanged).
3. **UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card:** For vendors repaying second tranche, providing instant access to credit for business and personal needs.
4. **Cashback Incentives:** Vendors can earn up to **₹1,600 annually** on retail/wholesale digital transactions.
5. **Expanded Coverage:** Beyond statutory towns, now includes **census towns and peri-urban areas**.
6. **Scale of Beneficiaries:** Aims to benefit **1.15 crore vendors**, including **50 lakh new entrants**.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

1. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

- ECMS is a flagship incentive scheme to promote domestic manufacturing of electronic components, sub-assemblies, and capital equipment, reducing [import dependence](#) in India's electronics sector.

Ministry: Implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Launched in: Approved by the Union Cabinet in 2024 with a total outlay of ₹22,919 crore.

Tenure:

- **Turnover-linked incentive:** 6 years (including 1-year gestation period)
- **Capex incentive:** 5 years

Key features:

- **Incentive structure:** Turnover-linked, capex-based, and hybrid incentives to offset cost disabilities
- **Target segments:** [PCBs](#), Camera Modules, Copper-Clad Laminates, Polypropylene Films, and electronics capital equipment
- **Performance-based payouts:** Incentives linked to incremental production and employment, rewarding early movers
- **Strategic targets:** 100% domestic demand for Copper-Clad Laminates, 20% for PCBs, 15% for Camera Modules
- **Ecosystem approach:** Complements [PLI for Electronics](#) and India Semiconductor Mission

2. Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme

- The Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme is a national capacity-building and innovation initiative to develop [industry-ready chip design](#) talent and strengthen India's indigenous semiconductor design ecosystem through hands-on training, R&D, and fabrication exposure.

Launched in: 2022

Implemented by: the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Aim: To create a robust pipeline of skilled chip designers, enable hands-on chip fabrication, foster start-ups and IP creation, and support [technological self-reliance](#) in semiconductors.

Key features:

- **Outlay:** ₹250 crore (5 years)
- **Human resource targets:**
 - 200 PhDs, 7,000 M.Tech (VLSI), 8,800 M.Tech (related streams with VLSI), 69,000 B.Tech students.
- **Infrastructure access:** Shared EDA tools, HPC, FPGA boards, and SMART labs.
- **Hands-on fabrication:** Shared wafer runs via Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali.

- **Chip design enablement:** National ChipIN Centre operated by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Bengaluru.
- **Innovation outcomes:** Start-up incubation, patents, IP cores, ASICs and SoCs.
- **Industry collaboration:** Training with global EDA and semiconductor firms.

3. Internet Governance Internship & Capacity Building Scheme (IGICBS)

- IGICBS is a national internship and capacity-building programme designed to train India's youth in internet governance, enabling informed participation in national and global internet policy, standards, and [technical forums](#).

Launched in: 2025 (completed one year in January 2026)

Organisations involved:

- National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) – Nodal implementing body
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) – Administrative ministry

Aim:

- Build a skilled pool of Indian professionals in internet governance.
- Strengthen India's voice and representation in global internet decision-making platforms.
- Promote a safe, inclusive, resilient, and trustworthy internet ecosystem.

Key features:

- **Structured internships:** 6-month and 3-month terms combining research + practical outreach.
- **Mentorship model:** Each intern mentored by senior experts from government, academia, or global IG bodies.
- **Capacity building & outreach:** Mandatory awareness programmes in colleges, universities, NGOs, and local communities.
- **Global exposure:** Engagement with international internet governance institutions and processes.
- **NIXI Internet Influencer pathway:** High-performing interns certified to act as long-term ambassadors of internet governance.
- **Interdisciplinary focus:** Technology, law, public policy, [cybersecurity](#), digital identity, and Universal Acceptance (UA).

4. YUVA AI for ALL Initiative

- A **free, 4.5-hour self-paced online course** designed to introduce Artificial Intelligence to a broad audience, with content tailored to the Indian context.
- **Organization Involved:** Launched by MeitY under the [IndiaAI Mission](#), developed by AI expert Jaspreet Bindra.
- **Aim:** To empower **1 crore (10 million) Indians** with basic AI knowledge and promote ethical, responsible AI adoption.

Key Features:

- **Completely free** with a **government-certified certificate** upon completion.
- **Available** on platforms like [FutureSkills Prime](#), [iGOT Karmayogi](#), and other ed-tech portals.
- **Six modules** covering AI basics, real-world applications, safety, ethics, and future opportunities.
- **Uses Indian examples** to make learning relatable and practical.
- Designed for **self-paced learning**, accessible to students, professionals, and curious learners.

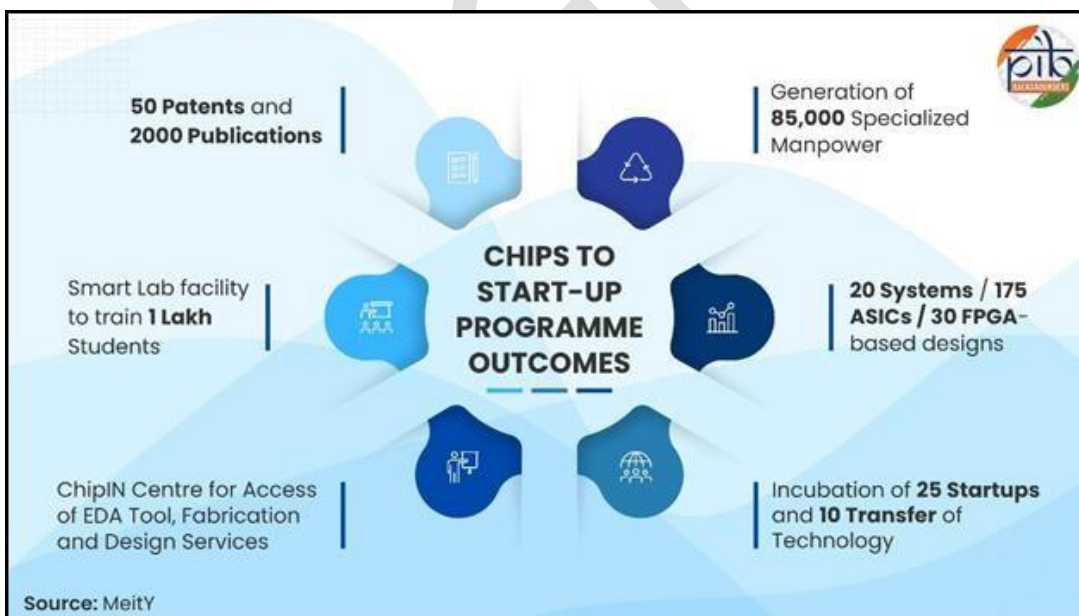
5. Bharat Taxi

- Bharat Taxi is a national ride-hailing platform operated by Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd., envisioned as India's first cooperative-based alternative to global cab aggregators. It aims to offer transparent, inclusive, and citizen-centric mobility services.
- **Lead Institution:** National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Digital India Corporation, MeitY
- **Promoting Agencies:** NCDC, IFFCO, [AMUL](#), KRIBHCO, NAFED, NABARD, NDDB, and NCEL

- **Aim:** To revolutionize India's ride-hailing ecosystem by combining cooperative ownership with digital innovation, ensuring fair income for drivers and secure, seamless mobility for citizens in line with the [Digital India vision](#).
- **Key Features:**
 - **Platform Integration:** Unified access through [DigiLocker](#), UMANG, and API Setu for digital identity and document verification.
 - **Cybersecurity & Compliance:** Adheres to Govt's data protection and privacy standards.
 - **UI/UX Design:** Focus on multilingual accessibility and inclusive interface for diverse users.
 - **Advisory Role:** NeGD to guide on technical architecture, governance, and program management.
 - **Launch Timeline:** Nationwide rollout planned for December 2025.

6. [India Semiconductor Mission \(ISM\)](#)

- A government initiative to develop a robust semiconductor and display [manufacturing ecosystem](#) in India.
- **Launched in:** 2021
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Key Features:**
 - **Vision:** Make India a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing, and innovation.
 - **Investment Incentives:** Financial support for fabs, compound semiconductors, ATMP/OSAT units, and [display fabs](#).
 - **Design Ecosystem Support:** Assistance to startups, [MSMEs](#), and academia in chip design.
 - **Talent Development:** Training over **60,000 skilled professionals**.
 - **Strategic Importance:** Reduces import dependency, supports self-reliance under [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#).



7. [DigiLocker](#)

- A flagship initiative under **Digital India** providing citizens with a secure cloud-based platform to access and share authentic digital documents.
- **Ministry:** Developed by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Aim:** To achieve [digital empowerment](#), [paperless governance](#), and [faster service delivery](#) by ensuring access to legally valid digital documents.

Key Features:

1. **Digital Document Wallet:** Stores Aadhaar, PAN, driving license, educational and caste certificates securely in digital form.
2. **Legally Recognised:** Documents are considered **equivalent to originals** under Rule 9A of IT Rules, 2016.
3. **Citizen-Centric:** Provides access to documents **anytime, anywhere** with user consent for sharing.
4. **Efficiency:** Enables **real-time verification** directly from issuing authorities, cutting delays and reducing fraud.
5. **Paperless Governance:** Lowers administrative overheads and promotes sustainable, eco-friendly record-keeping.

About My UPSC Interview Portal:

- **What it is?**
 - A new initiative launched during UPSC's centenary year inviting **servicing and retired civil servants** to share their **interview experiences**.
- **Aim:** To build a repository of real-life anecdotes for aspirants, enhance **transparency in recruitment**, and **preserve institutional memory**. Selected entries will be published in 2026 as part of the centenary celebrations.

8. The Scheme for Innovation and Technology Association with Aadhaar (SITAA)

- SITAA is an innovation-driven collaboration program by UIDAI that brings together startups, academia, and industry partners to develop cutting-edge technologies to secure and strengthen Aadhaar-based authentication systems against emerging digital threats.
- **Launched By:** The scheme was launched by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- **Aim:**
 - To fortify India's **digital identity ecosystem** against deepfake and presentation attacks.
 - To foster indigenous R&D in biometric, AI, and cybersecurity technologies.
 - To align Aadhaar innovation with the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and global data security standards.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Collaborative Framework:** Integrates efforts of startups, research institutes, and industries to co-develop scalable Aadhaar solutions.
 - **Three Innovation Challenges:**
 - **Face Liveness Detection:** AI-driven software development kit (SDK) SDKs to detect spoofing via photos, videos, or masks.
 - **Presentation Attack Detection (PAD):** **AI/ML-based tools** for real-time detection of fake biometric inputs.
 - **Contactless Fingerprint Authentication:** SDKs enabling secure fingerprint recognition through smartphones or low-cost devices.
- **Functions of SITAA:**
 - **Foster Innovation:** Encourages startups, academia, and industry to co-develop advanced biometric and AI-based solutions for **Aadhaar authentication**.
 - **Enhance Security:** Develops technologies to detect and prevent deepfakes, spoofing, and presentation attacks, ensuring robust identity verification.
 - **Promote Collaboration:** Builds a national innovation ecosystem by linking UIDAI with MeitY Startup Hub and **NASSCOM** for mentorship, funding, and global outreach.
 - **Strengthen Digital Infrastructure:** Supports creation of indigenous, scalable, and privacy-compliant authentication systems, reinforcing India's digital public infrastructure.

9. Bhashini

- Bhashini is the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) — a digital public infrastructure enabling real-time AI-powered language translation across Indian languages.
- **Developed by:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Ministries Involved in MoU:**
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Objective:**
 - To create an inclusive, multilingual e-governance ecosystem for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
 - To bridge language barriers in rural governance and promote participatory democracy.
- **Key Features:**
 - **AI-Driven Translation:** Real-time speech-to-text and text-to-text conversion in major Indian languages.
 - **Integration with MoPR Portals:** Seamless language access for platforms like eGramSwaraj and rural governance tools.
 - **Citizen-Centric:** Enables citizens to interact with services in their local language, improving service delivery.
 - **Promotes Digital Inclusion:** Supports rural digital literacy by making interfaces language-accessible.
 - **Enhances Transparency:** Facilitates better information dissemination and boosts trust in local governance.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

1. Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Scheme

- India has achieved a record-low price of ₹55.75/kg for Green Ammonia in the first SECI auction under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Scheme, marking a major step in the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- **About Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Scheme:** A flagship financial component under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, aimed at catalyzing India's transition to green hydrogen.
- **Ministry:** Implemented by **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** along with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).
- **Objectives:**
 - Scale up Green Hydrogen production and use in India.
 - Make green hydrogen **cost-competitive** with fossil alternatives.
 - Create domestic demand across key sectors.
- **Modes of Implementation:**
 - **Mode 1:** Incentives awarded to lowest incentive seeker.
 - **Mode 2A:** Aggregated demand for Green Ammonia (fixed incentive).
 - **Mode 2B:** Aggregated demand for Green Hydrogen (fixed incentive)
- **Key Features of SIGHT Scheme:**
 - **Outlay:** ₹17,490 crore allocated under SIGHT out of ₹19,744 crore total mission budget, focused on incentives and infrastructure support.
 - **Incentive Rates (Mode 2B):** ₹50/kg (Year 1), ₹40/kg (Year 2), ₹30/kg (Year 3) to promote early adoption and gradual market shift.
 - **Bidding Process:** SECI and Oil PSUs conduct competitive reverse auctions to select lowest bidders and aggregate demand.

- **Standard Compliance:** Only hydrogen meeting notified “Green Hydrogen” standards is eligible for incentives.
- **Monitoring:** A joint MNRE–MoPNG committee oversees implementation, ensures compliance, and resolves issues.
- **What is Green Ammonia?**
 - Green Ammonia is ammonia (NH₃) produced from green hydrogen (via electrolysis using [renewable power](#)), a key derivative used in fertilisers, shipping fuel, and chemical manufacturing.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)

1. [Apna Ghar Initiative](#)

- A **resting infrastructure scheme** for truck drivers, launched to address fatigue, hygiene, and well-being during long-haul journeys.
- Operated at **fuel retail outlets** along **national and state highways** by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies ([OMCs](#)).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- **Launched in:** 2025
- **Aim:**
 - To **enhance road safety**, reduce driver fatigue, and improve **living conditions** for truckers, who are crucial to India’s logistics sector.
 - Supports [inclusive infrastructure development](#) and social welfare in the transport ecosystem.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Widespread Coverage:** 368 rest houses with 4,611 beds operational across major highways.
 - **Facilities Offered:**
 - Dormitories (10–30 beds each)
 - Clean toilets and bathing areas (Houdas)
 - Self-cooking and dining zones
 - Restaurants/Dhabas
 - Purified drinking water access
 - **Tech Integration:** ‘Apna Ghar’ mobile app launched for booking, feedback, and driver engagement.
 - **Public-Private Implementation:** Built and managed by **OMCs** at retail fuel stations.
 - **User-Centric Design:** Customised to **truckers’ needs**, informed by feedback and mobile app data analytics.

2. [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \(PMUY\)](#)

- A flagship social welfare scheme to provide **deposit-free LPG connections** to women from economically weaker households.
- Aims to **replace hazardous [traditional cooking fuels](#)** with clean energy for health, environment, and gender empowerment.

Launched In: May 2016, Ballia (Uttar Pradesh).

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

Objectives:

- Ensure **universal access** to clean cooking fuel.
- Reduce [indoor air pollution](#) and related health hazards.
- Empower rural women by reducing drudgery and improving quality of life.
- Promote environmental conservation by reducing deforestation and carbon emissions.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Adult women from **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** households.
- Identified through **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011** data.
- Special provision for **migrant families** without address proof under PMUY 2.0.

Achievements:

- **PMUY 1.0:** Target of 8 crore connections by March 2020 – achieved ahead of schedule.
- **PMUY 2.0:** Additional 1.6 crore connections for migrant households.
- **Latest Expansion:** Additional 75 lakh connections, taking total target to 10.35 crore beneficiaries.

Key Features of PMUY:

- **Deposit-free LPG connection to eligible households** – Beneficiaries receive an [LPG connection](#) without paying the initial security deposit, reducing entry barriers for poor households.
- **Financial support for stove purchase** – The government provides monetary assistance for buying a cooking stove, ensuring the connection is ready for immediate use.
- **Targeted subsidy of ₹300 per cylinder** – PMUY families get a ₹300 subsidy per 14.2 kg cylinder (proportionately for 5 kg cylinders) for up to nine refills annually, making clean fuel more affordable.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to beneficiaries' accounts** – Subsidy amounts are directly credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts, ensuring transparency and eliminating leakages.
- **Swachh Indhan Behtar Jeevan** – The scheme promotes cleaner fuel to improve women's health, reduce indoor air pollution, and encourage sustainable cooking practices.

Ministry of Jal Shakti

1. [First Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari \(JSJB\) Awards](#)

- A flagship initiative of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & [Ganga Rejuvenation](#) (DoWR, RD & GR) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, instituted in 2018 to recognize outstanding efforts in water conservation and management.
- **Aim:** To promote **community participation**, awareness, and innovation in water resource management, aligning with the vision of “*Jal Samridh Bharat.*”
- **Features:**
 - Awards across **10 categories**, including Best State, District, Village Panchayat, Industry, NGO, and Institution.
 - Evaluation based on **field verification** by CWC and [CGWB](#).
 - **46 winners** selected out of **751 applications** received via the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal.
- **Rankings (Top Performers):**
 - **Best State:** Maharashtra (1st), Gujarat (2nd), Haryana (3rd)
 - **Best Districts:** Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh), Khargone (Madhya Pradesh), Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu), Sepahijala (Tripura)
 - **Best Urban Local Body:** Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

About [First Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari \(JSJB\) Awards:](#)

- A community-driven initiative under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign, launched on 6th September 2024 at Surat, Gujarat, promoting grassroots water stewardship.
- **Aim:** To encourage Jan Bhagidari (public participation) and CSR involvement in constructing, rejuvenating, and maintaining artificial recharge and storage structures, thereby ensuring [long-term water security](#) and resilience.
- **Features:**
 - Guided by the **3Cs mantra — Community, CSR, and Cost.**

- Districts encouraged to build **10,000 recharge structures** (3,000 for hilly/North-Eastern districts).
- Collaboration between **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs** for urban water recharge.
- **Rankings and Recognition:**
 - **100 awardees** selected — including States, 67 Districts, 6 Municipal Corporations, NGOs, industries, and [philanthropists](#).
 - **Top-performing districts** receive ₹2 crore (Category 1), ₹1 crore (Category 2), and ₹25 lakh (Category 3).
- **Ranking:** Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan were ranked the top three states in the JSJB Awards 2025.

2. C-FLOOD App

- C-FLOOD is a **web-based, real-time flood forecasting system** that provides two-day advance inundation forecasts through flood maps and water level predictions.
- **Developed By:**
 - **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune**
 - **Central Water Commission (CWC)**
 - In collaboration with **NRSC**, under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti, MeitY**, and **DST**.
- **Objective:** To provide an **integrated, high-resolution flood forecasting tool** for early warning, disaster risk reduction, and local-level planning.
- **Key Features:**
 - **2-Day Forecasts at Village Level:** Delivers localized flood maps and water levels down to the gram panchayat level.
 - **Hydrodynamic Modelling:** Uses advanced **2-D simulations** powered by High Performance Computing (HPC) under NSM.
 - **Multi-Basin Coverage:** Currently covers **Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi** basins, with more to be added.
 - **Real-Time Data Integration:** Pulls forecast outputs from national and regional models into a unified decision-support portal.
 - **Disaster Portal Integration:** Designed for integration with the National Disaster Management Emergency Response Portal (**NDEM**).

Ministry of Science and Technology

1. Cohort Connect 2025

- A nationwide scientific platform under the **Phenome India programme**, bringing together India's major longitudinal cohort studies to generate large-scale, India-specific health data for precision medicine, disease prediction, and [public health planning](#).

Launched In: 2025, by the Ministry of Science & Technology at CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar.

Aim:

- To examine how genes, lifestyle, behaviour, nutrition, pollution, and environment influence disease patterns in Indian populations.
- To create a massive longitudinal dataset for chronic and emerging diseases like diabetes, cancer, [neurological disorders](#), and infectious disease interactions (e.g., diabetes–TB link).

Key Features:

- Integrates multiple Indian cohort studies under one national framework ("Cohort Connect").
- Focuses on rising **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** including diabetes, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular diseases, and renal complications.

- Uses advanced tools such as **genome sequencing**, biomarkers, digital health monitoring, and lifestyle mapping.
- Builds upon India's existing genomic progress—**10,000 human genomes sequenced**, moving toward **one million genomes**.
- Encourages collaboration between **CSIR labs**, **DBT institutions**, **clinicians**, **epidemiologists**, and **industry partners**.
- Generates long-term datasets involving **diverse Indian populations**, addressing India's unique genetic and cultural diversity.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

1. Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention

- The Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention is a government-backed programme that provides financial and institutional assistance to Indian exporters for accessing and expanding in international markets through curated trade and buyer-engagement activities.
- **Initiative under:**
- Implemented under the **NIRYAT DISHA** sub-scheme
- Part of the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**
- **Jointly implemented by:** The Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME, and Ministry of Finance.

Aim:

- Strengthen global market access for Indian exporters
- Support MSMEs, first-time exporters and priority sectors
- Promote **export diversification** into new and emerging markets
- Enable predictable and outcome-driven export promotion

Key features:

- **Market access activities:** Support for Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs), Mega Reverse BSMs, international trade fairs, exhibitions and trade delegations.
- **Advance planning:** A **3–5 year rolling calendar** of approved market access events to ensure continuity and predictability.
- **MSME focus:** Mandatory **minimum 35% MSME participation** in supported events, with prioritisation of smaller and new exporters.
- **Financial rationalisation:** Revised cost-sharing norms, event-wise financial ceilings and **partial airfare support** for exporters with turnover up to ₹75 lakh.
- **Digital governance:** End-to-end online processes via **trade.gov.in**, including approvals, fund release, monitoring and feedback.
- **Outcome tracking:** Mandatory online feedback on buyer quality, leads generated and market relevance, with data-driven refinement of guidelines.
- **Technology push:** Upcoming component for **Proof-of-Concepts and product demonstrations** in tech-intensive and sunrise sectors.

2. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- **ONDC** is an **open, interoperable digital network** that enables buying and selling of goods and services across platforms using **open protocols**, without platform monopolies.

Launched in: April 2022

Ministry:

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**)
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Aim:

- Democratise digital commerce by breaking platform silos.
- Create a level playing field for sellers (especially MSMEs), buyers, and service providers.

- [Promote inclusivity](#), competition, innovation, and cost efficiency in e-commerce.

How ONDC works?

- ONDC functions as a decentralised digital network, not a central marketplace. It does not own listings, control sellers, or process orders; instead, it connects independent platforms through common digital rules.
- Using open protocols and [standardised APIs](#), any buyer app can discover products or services listed on any seller app across the network, regardless of the company that built the app. Once a buyer places an order, different specialised participants handle each part of the transaction.
 - **Buyer Applications** provide the customer interface for search, price comparison, and ordering.
 - **Seller Applications** manage product catalogues, inventory, pricing, and order confirmation.
 - **Logistics Providers** handle pickup, delivery, and tracking across regions.
 - **Technology Enablers** supply the digital infrastructure, integrations, and tools.
- Because all participants follow the same open standards, any ONDC-compliant app can seamlessly discover, connect, and transact with any other, ensuring interoperability, competition, and freedom of choice for users.

Domains covered so far:

Category Group	Category Group	Category Group
Food & Beverage	Beauty & Personal Care	Mobility (auto, cabs, flights, metro)
Grocery	Health & Wellness	Financial Services (credit, insurance, investments)
Fashion & Footwear	Gift Cards	Services (skilled & subscription-based)
Home & Kitchen	Electronics	Agriculture (inputs, outputs, services)
ONEST – Education & Training	—	—

3. [StartUp India](#)

On [National StartUp Day](#) (16 January 2026), the Prime Minister of India extended greetings as India marked 10 years of the StartUp India initiative.

About [10 years of StartUp India](#):

- A flagship initiative of Government of India to catalyse start up culture and build a strong, inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Implemented through a dedicated StartUp India Team under [DPIIT](#) (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade).
- **Established in:** Launched on 16 January 2016 (National StartUp Day is observed on 16 January).

Aim:

- Shift India towards a [job-creator economy](#) by enabling entrepreneurs to start, sustain, and scale ventures.
- Provide full lifecycle support from ideation → incubation → funding → mentorship → scaling.

Key features of the scheme:

- 19-Point Action Plan framework to improve ease of doing business for startups and reduce friction in compliance.
- Incubation and infrastructure support through incubation centres and ecosystem-building institutions.
- [IPR facilitation](#) with simpler, faster processes for patents and related filings.
- Regulatory and compliance reforms to ease company set-up and enable faster exit mechanisms.
- Tax and policy support to encourage early-stage risk-taking and investment in innovation.
- Funding backbone via [Fund of Funds for Start ups](#) (FFS) with a ₹10,000 crore corpus managed by SIDBI to expand domestic risk capital through AIFs.
- Digital ecosystem enablers through the StartUp India Portal for discovery, networking and resources; plus helpline/email support for quick guidance.
- Mentorship and connections through platforms like MAARG and investor-connect initiatives that link startups to mentors and funders.

4. [Export Promotion Mission \(EPM\)](#)

- The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) is a mission-mode, unified national framework to strengthen India's export competitiveness by integrating financial support, market access, compliance readiness, and [digital governance](#) for exporters.

Established in: Union Budget 2025–26

Mission period: FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31

Implemented by: Directorate General of Foreign Trade ([DGFT](#)) as the nodal implementing agency

Aim:

- To boost India's export competitiveness, especially for MSMEs, first-time exporters, labour-intensive sectors, and non-traditional districts, by ensuring affordable trade finance and global market readiness.

Key features:

- **Unified mission architecture:** Merges multiple fragmented export-support schemes into a single, outcome-linked and digitally driven framework.
- **Two integrated sub-schemes:**
 - **Niryat Protsahan (Financial enablers):** Interest subvention on pre/post-shipment credit, export factoring, deep-tier financing, collateral support, e-commerce exporter credit cards.
 - **Niryat Disha (Non-financial enablers):** Quality certification, branding, trade fairs, logistics & warehousing support, inland transport reimbursement, cluster and district capacity building.
- **Interest subvention under Niryat Protsahan:** RBI-guided interest support on export credit, strictly for eligible exporters, routed through banks and financial institutions.
- **Credit guarantee support:** ₹20,000 crore [Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters](#) (CGSE) via NCGTC, providing 100% government-backed collateral-free credit.
- **Digital implementation:** End-to-end DGFT digital platform aligned with customs and trade systems for transparent, paperless processing.
- **RBI regulatory support:** Extended export credit tenure, moratoriums, asset-classification forbearance, [FEMA relaxations](#) on export realisation.
- **Sectoral & regional focus:** Priority to textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, marine products, and interior/low-export districts.

5. [PLI Scheme for White Goods \(Air Conditioners & LED Lights\)](#)

- The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods is a central sector scheme that provides [performance-linked financial incentives](#) to companies manufacturing key components of Air Conditioners (ACs) and LED lights in India, based on incremental sales.

Launched in: FY 2021–22, with implementation till FY 2028–29.

Nodal organisation:

- **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- **Monitoring authority:** Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary

Target segments (PLI Scheme for White Goods):**Air Conditioners:**

- **High-value intermediates:** Capital- and technology-intensive core inputs like compressors, copper tubes, [aluminium foils](#) that drive value addition and reduce import dependence.
- **Low-value intermediates:** Supporting electronic and mechanical parts such as PCB assemblies, BLDC motors, service valves and cross-flow fans essential for AC functionality.
- **Sub-assemblies (IDUs & ODUs):** Integrated components for Indoor and Outdoor Units, enabling deeper domestic supply-chain integration.

LED Lights:

- **Core components:** Critical electronic elements like LED chip packaging, ICs, resistors and fuses that determine efficiency, lifespan and performance.
- **Other components:** Enabling parts such as LED drivers, engines, modules, mechanicals and [wire-wound inductors](#), supporting end-product manufacturing.

Key features:

- **Financial incentive:** 4%–6% incentive on incremental domestic sales encourages scale-based manufacturing growth.
- **Base year (FY 2019–20):** Serves as the benchmark to measure incremental investment and sales performance.
- **Incentive period:** 5 years + 1-year gestation allows time for capacity creation before reward linkage.
- **Eligibility:** Limited to greenfield or brownfield manufacturing investments to ensure real asset creation.
- **Mandatory thresholds:** Firms must meet both investment and sales targets to qualify, ensuring accountability.
- **Priority criteria:** [Core component manufacturing](#) and large investments are favoured to deepen value chains.
- **Fund-limited design:** Incentives are capped at Cabinet-approved outlay, ensuring fiscal discipline.

6. [Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield \(LEAPS\) 2025](#)

- LEAPS 2025 is a national benchmarking initiative designed to recognize excellence, innovation, and leadership across India's logistics sector, enhancing its [global competitiveness](#).
- **Launched in:** October 2025, during the **4th Anniversary of PM GatiShakti** celebrations in New Delhi.
- **Published by:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- **Aim:** To **benchmark logistics performance**, celebrate sectoral innovation, and align industry practices with the [National Logistics Policy \(2022\)](#) and **PM GatiShakti's vision** of integrated, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure.
- **Criteria:** Applications are invited under **13 categories** covering air, rail, road, and maritime freight operators; warehousing (industrial and agricultural); **MSMEs, Startups, academic institutions**, and [e-commerce logistics providers](#), promoting diversity and inclusion in logistics excellence.
- **Features:**
 - Promotes [ESG compliance](#), **green logistics**, and **sustainability goals**.
 - Encourages **collaboration between Government, Industry, and Academia**.

- Serves as a **national recognition platform** for logistics innovation, efficiency, and technology adoption.
- Strengthens India's efforts toward **Make in India**, **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, and **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- Registration open on the **Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (awards.gov.in)**.

7. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025

- LEADS is a **national index and survey** that ranks and assesses the logistics ecosystem of Indian States and UTs, identifying gaps and best practices to enhance supply chain performance.
- **Ministry:** Released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade ([DPIIT](#)).
- **Aim:**
 - To benchmark logistics performance of States/UTs.
 - To lower logistics costs and improve efficiency.
 - To guide States/UTs in infrastructure planning, policy reforms, and capacity building.
- **Assessment Criteria:**
 - **Infrastructure Quality:** Roads, warehousing, multimodal connectivity.
 - **Services:** Availability, quality, and reliability of logistics services.
 - **Efficiency:** Timeliness, truck turnaround time, ease of clearances.
 - **Policy Support:** State-level facilitation measures, grievance redressal mechanisms.
 - **Stakeholder Perception:** Industry feedback on cost, speed, and reliability.
- **Key Features of LEADS 2025:**
 - **Corridor Performance Tracking:** Assessment of 5–7 [key national corridors](#) using journey time, truck speed, and waiting time.
 - **API-Enabled Data:** Real-time section-wise speed evaluation on major road corridors for sharper analytics.
 - **State Rankings & Categories:** Leaders, Achievers, and Aspirers classification for healthy competition.
 - **Policy Recommendations:** Tailored state-level interventions based on findings.
 - **Digital Dashboard:** Interactive platform for States/UTs to monitor performance continuously.

8. BHARATI initiative

- **BHARATI** stands for Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.
- It is a national startup-support and export-acceleration platform for India's agri-food and agri-tech ecosystem.

Organisation Involved:

- **APEDA** (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), an arm of the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- Supported by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** and aligned with Startup India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Objective:

- Empower 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups.
- Boost exports to **\$50 billion by 2030**.
- Foster innovation in agri-food production, processing, packaging, and logistics.

Features:

- **Startup Cohort:** 100 startups selected via APEDA's website (starting September 2025).
- **Acceleration Programme:** 3-month training on product development, export readiness, compliance, and market access.
- **Innovation Focus:** High-value [GI products](#), organic foods, superfoods, livestock products, AYUSH products.

- **Technology Adoption:** AI-based quality checks, blockchain-enabled traceability, IoT-enabled cold chains, [agri-fintech](#) solutions.
- **Problem Solving:** Addressing export challenges of perishability, wastage, logistics, packaging, and quality assurance.
- **Awareness Campaign:** Nationwide outreach to attract startups and stakeholders.

9. [Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups \(CGSS\)](#)

- A flagship **credit guarantee initiative** aimed at providing collateral-free funding support to DPIIT-recognised startups.
- Designed to enable **term loans, working capital, venture debt**, and other fund-based/non-fund-based instruments.
- **Established In:**
 - **October 2022**, under the Startup India Action Plan.
 - Operationalised by [National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company \(NCGTC\)](#).
- **Ministry:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Objective and Significance:**
 - Lower perceived risk for lenders financing startups.
 - Enable debt-based early-stage funding without collateral.
 - Foster R&D, innovation, and domestic manufacturing in priority sectors.
 - Aligns with the Viksit Bharat vision and Startup India movement.
- **Eligibility Criteria for Startups:**
 - Recognised by DPIIT as per official notifications.
 - Not classified as **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** and not in default to any lender.
 - Eligibility certified by the lending institution.
- **Eligible Lenders:**
 - **Scheduled Commercial Banks**
 - **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** rated BBB and above with ₹100+ crore net worth
 - **SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**
- **Key Features of the Expanded Scheme:**
 - **Guarantee Limit Raised:** From ₹10 crore to **₹20 crore per borrower**.
 - **Guarantee Coverage:**
 - **85%** of amount in default for loans up to ₹10 crore.
 - **75%** for loans exceeding ₹10 crore.
 - **Annual Guarantee Fee (AGF)** reduced to **1% for 27 Champion Sectors** (earlier 2%).
 - **Coverage through Trustee (NCGTC)** for eligible fund instruments (venture debt, subordinated debt, debentures, etc.).
 - **Operational Reforms:** Streamlined process, automatic guarantee issuance via NCGTC portal.
 - **Umbrella-based Guarantee:** Covers pooled investments, up to 5% of investment or ₹20 crore cap, based on actual losses.

Ministry of Finance

1. [Three Jan Suraksha Schemes](#)

The three Jan Suraksha Schemes—PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY—have completed 10 years of providing life [insurance](#), accident insurance, and pension support to India's underprivileged.

[Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana \(PMJJBY\)](#)

- **Launched:** 9th May 2015
- **Aim:** To provide life insurance coverage in case of death from any cause.

- **Key Features:**

- **Eligibility:** Individuals aged 18–50 years with a bank or post office account.
- **Coverage:** ₹2 lakh payable on death from any cause.
- **Premium:** ₹436 per annum.
- **Duration:** 1-year cover from 1st June to 31st May (auto-renewable).
- **Implementing Agencies:** LIC and other approved life insurers via banks/post offices.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

- **Launched:** 9th May 2015
- **Aim:** To offer affordable accident insurance for death or disability.

- **Key Features:**

- **Eligibility:** Individuals aged 18–70 years with a bank or post office account.
- **Coverage:**
 - ₹2 lakh for death or total disability
 - ₹1 lakh for partial disability
- **Premium:** ₹20 per annum.
- **Duration:** 1-year cover from 1st June to 31st May (auto-renewable).
- **Implementing Agencies:** Public and private general insurance companies via banks/post offices.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- **Launched:** 9th May 2015
- **Aim:** To provide guaranteed pension to workers in the unorganised sector.

- **Key Features:**

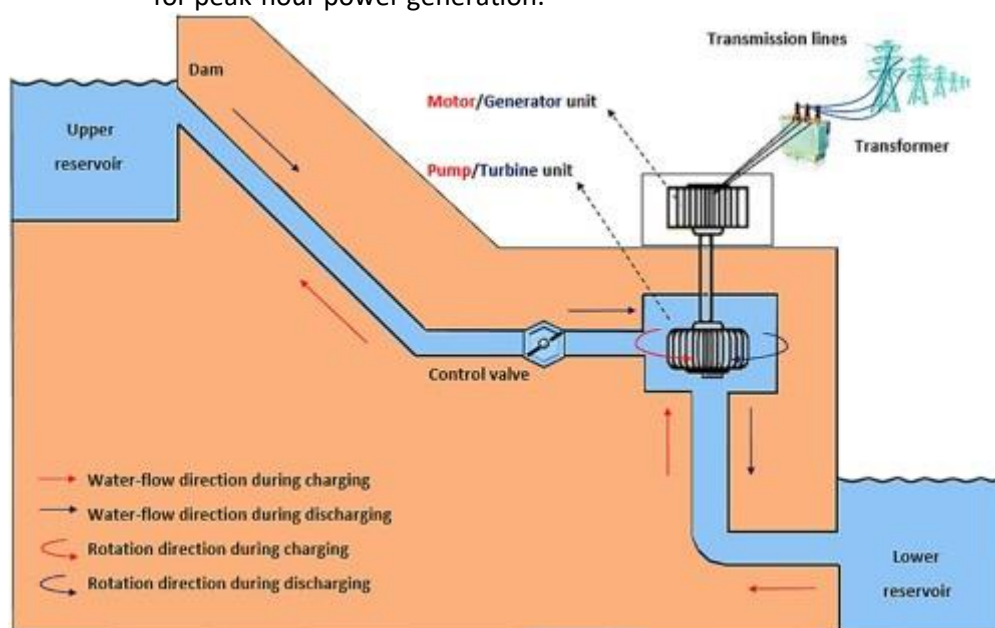
- **Eligibility:** Individuals aged 18–40 years, not paying income tax.
- **Pension Benefits:** ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month after age 60, based on contribution.
- **Contribution Frequency:** Monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly.
- **Implementing Agency:** PFRDA under the National Pension System (NPS).
- **Premature Death:** Spouse can continue contributions till age 60 of the original subscriber.

Ministry of Power

1. **India's first Variable Speed Pumped Storage Plant**

- A **1,000 MW hydropower project** designed to store energy by pumping water to an upper reservoir using surplus power, and releasing it to generate electricity when demand rises.
- **Executed by:** THDC India Limited (THDCIL), under the **Ministry of Power**
- **Technology Partner:** GE Vernova (provided power electronics and 250 MW variable-speed unit)
- **Location:** Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
- **How the Tehri PSP Works?**
 - **Pumping Phase:** Surplus renewable energy (e.g., from solar or wind) is used to pump water from lower to upper reservoir.
 - **Energy Storage:** The water in the upper reservoir **stores potential energy** like a "water battery".
 - **Generation Phase:** When electricity demand rises, **water is released** through turbines to generate power.
 - **Electricity Generation:** Flowing water **spins turbines**, which activate generators to produce electricity.
 - **Variable Speed Operation:** The plant can **adjust turbine speed**, allowing precise control of pumping and generation, improving efficiency and grid support.

- **Grid Synchronization:** The system maintains synchronization with grid frequency, ensuring stable power delivery.
- **Key Features and Advantages:**
 - **First Variable-Speed PSP in India:** This is India's first pumped storage project using variable-speed technology, marking a leap in hydropower innovation.
 - **250 MW Initial Capacity:** The project began with the commissioning of its **first 250 MW unit**, part of the larger 1,000 MW Tehri PSP.
 - **Enhanced Efficiency:** Variable-speed turbines allow **precise control** over pumping and generation, enhancing overall system efficiency.
 - **Improved Grid Stability:** It enables real-time power adjustments, supporting the stability of the grid amid renewable energy fluctuations.
 - **Flexible Operation:** The plant can swiftly switch between pumping and generation, adapting to dynamic grid demands.
 - **Enables Energy Storage:** Functions like a giant water battery, storing surplus energy for peak-hour power generation.



2. ADEETIE Scheme

- **ADEETIE** stands for **Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries & Establishments**.
- It is a flagship scheme to promote low-carbon industrial growth by facilitating adoption of clean, efficient energy technologies.
- **Launched by:** Union Ministry of Power
- **Implemented by:** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency ([BEE](#))
- **Budget & Duration:**
 - **Total Budget:** ₹1000 crore (FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28).
 - ₹875 crore for interest subvention, ₹50 crore for audits, ₹75 crore for handholding support.
- **Core Objectives:**
 - Promote **energy efficiency (EE)** in MSMEs to reduce emissions.
 - Provide **financial assistance and technical support** for technology adoption.
 - Improve power-productivity ratio and support India's **net zero** and **Viksit Bharat goals**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Interest Subvention:**
 - 5% for Micro and Small Enterprises
 - 3% for Medium Enterprises

- **Technical Handholding:**
 - Investment-grade energy audits (IGEA)
 - DPR preparation and tech implementation
 - Monitoring & verification (M&V) post-installation
- **Digital Facilitation:** Dedicated portal to track applications and disbursements.
- **Cluster-Based Rollout:**
 - Phase I: 60 industrial clusters
 - Phase II: 100 additional clusters
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - Up to **50% reduction in energy usage** in some technologies.
 - ₹9000 crore investments catalysed, including ₹6750 crore in MSME loans.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Registered **MSMEs** in identified clusters/sectors.
 - Active participation in energy audits and DPR approval process.
 - Preference to early adopters and [energy-intensive industries](#).

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

1. [Khelo India ASMITA](#)

- A dedicated affirmative action sports initiative under the Khelo India programme to increase [women's participation in sports](#), focusing on grassroots talent development, especially among underrepresented communities.
- **Launched In:** 2025–26, with the inaugural football league in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
- **Ministry:**
 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
 - Supported by the [Sports Authority of India](#) (SAI), All India Football Federation (AIFF), and Western India Football Association (WIFA).
- **Aim:**
 - Provide a dedicated platform for young girls to showcase and develop sporting skills.
 - Address historical gender imbalances in sports participation.
 - Foster [social inclusion](#) by engaging talent from tribal, rural, and minority backgrounds.
 - Contribute to nation-building through women's empowerment in sports.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Target Group** – Girls aged 13 and under, including first-time players and hidden talent.
 - **Affirmative Action** – Special focus on [marginalised communities](#) to ensure inclusivity.
 - **Platform for Exposure** – Competitive leagues to enhance visibility and scouting opportunities.
 - **Integration with Khelo Bharat Niti** – Aligns with India's long-term sports development and empowerment agenda.
 - **Institutional Support** – Backed by national and state sports bodies for structured development.
 - **Breaking Stereotypes** – Encourages girls to challenge societal norms and become role models.

2. [Khelo India Youth Games \(KIYG\)](#)

- The [Khelo India Youth Games](#) is an annual national-level multi-sport event under the [Khelo India scheme](#), aimed at identifying, nurturing, and promoting grassroots sporting talent among India's youth.
 - The previous 6 editions of the Youth Games have been held in Delhi, Pune, Guwahati, Panchkula, Bhopal and Chennai.

- **Launched:** in 2018
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- **Primary Objective:**
 - Promote **mass participation** in sports
 - Foster **excellence** and prepare athletes for international competitions

Key Features

- **Target Group:** Youth athletes under **17 and 21 years** of age.
- **Medal Sports:** 27 disciplines, with **Sepaktakraw** included for the first time.
- **Demonstration Event:** **Esports** introduced to promote digital-era sports.
- Winners receive **scholarships** under the **Khelo India Scheme**.

3. Seva Se Seekhen Campaign

- A **youth engagement and hands-on learning campaign** designed to involve young citizens in public service environments like **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** (JAKs).
- **Launched In:** Introduced in **2025**, as part of India's National Youth Development Framework.
- **Nodal Ministries:**
 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
 - Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- **Objectives:**
 - Foster **experiential learning** by placing youth in service environments.
 - Enhance **public health awareness** and generic medicine outreach.
 - Develop **soft and technical skills** related to inventory, logistics, and community service.
 - Encourage **nation-building values** like discipline, empathy, and grassroots engagement.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Nationwide Deployment:**
 - Five youth volunteers per **district**, embedded in **five Jan Aushadhi Kendras** each.
 - Total outreach expected across **all Indian states and UTs**.
 - **Target Groups:** Volunteers drawn from **MY Bharat, NSS, pharmacy colleges**, and other youth platforms.
 - **Roles and Activities:**
 - Supporting day-to-day operations and customer service.
 - Promoting generic medicine literacy.
 - Learning inventory, stock, and logistics management.
 - Engaging in **community health** awareness campaigns.
 - **Duration:** **15-day structured internship** with guided tasks and observations.

4. MY Bharat Portal

- Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is an **autonomous body** under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- It provides a **tech-driven institutional platform** for **youth development** and **youth-led transformation**.
- **Launched in:** October 31, 2023 on the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Foster **inclusive youth participation** in national development.
 - Prepare youth as **change-makers** for **Amrit Kaal** and **Viksit Bharat@2047**.
 - Provide **equal opportunities** for learning, volunteering, and mentorship.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Volunteer Mobilisation:** Youth are engaged in public welfare, disaster relief, awareness campaigns.

- **Digital Profiles:** Young individuals can list **skills, interests, and activities** to connect with opportunities.
- **Experiential Learning:** Hands-on exposure through projects with **local bodies, businesses,** and **NGOs.**
- **Mentorship & Networking:** Facilitates access to **mentors** and peer networks across the country.
- **Govt Scheme Dissemination:** Youth act as **grassroots ambassadors** to spread awareness about govt schemes.

Ministry of Minority Affairs

1. UMEED Portal

- **UMEED** stands for Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development. It is a **centralized digital platform** for registering and regulating Waqf properties across India.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Minority Affairs, in coordination with State **Waqf Boards** and judicial authorities.
- **Objectives of the Portal:**
 - Ensure **transparent and time-bound registration** of Waqf properties.
 - Empower beneficiaries with **digital access to rights, obligations, and legal safeguards.**
 - Resolve **long-standing property disputes** and **enhance accountability.**
 - Facilitate **policy-level insights** through real-time data and geotagged mapping.
- **Key Features of UMEED Portal:**
 - **Time-Bound Registration:** All Waqf properties must be registered within 6 months of launch.
 - **Geotagging and Digitization:** Properties must include precise measurements and geolocation data during registration.
 - **Dispute Resolution Trigger:** Unregistered properties after deadline will be declared disputed and sent to Waqf Tribunal.
 - **User Support Services:** Provides legal awareness tools and clarifies rights under amended law.
 - **Women-Centric Provision:** Properties under women's names cannot be designated as Waqf, but women, children, and EWS will remain eligible beneficiaries.
- **Legal Basis:**
 - Rule **8(2)** of the **Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Rules, 2025.**
 - Section **3(r)(iv)** of the **Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995.**
- **Waqf-alal-aulad:**
 - A special category of Waqf endowment created primarily for the benefit of family members and other deserving individuals.
 - Income generated is used for maintenance of widows, divorced women, and orphans.

Key Features of the New Module

1. **Aadhaar-based authentication** – ensures beneficiary verification.
2. **Online application & approval process** – managed by State/UT Waqf Boards.
3. **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** – financial support directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts.
4. **Transparency & Accountability** – reduces administrative delays and leakages.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

1. PANCHAM Digital Chatbot

- **PANCHAM** (Panchayat Assistance and Messaging Chatbot) is a WhatsApp-based AI tool designed as a **digital companion** for rural local bodies.
- It eliminates the need for complex apps or middlemen, allowing Sarpanches and ward members to access government data through the familiar interface of WhatsApp.

Ministry & Collaboration:

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- **Knowledge Partner:** [UNICEF](#) (United Nations Children's Fund).

Aim & Objectives:

- **Direct Connectivity:** Linking the Government of India directly with village-level decision-makers.
- **Information Saturation:** Ensuring 100% awareness of central and state welfare schemes.
- **Feedback Loops:** Creating a real-time channel for field-level issues to reach senior policymakers.

Key Features of PANCHAM:

Multilingual Support (22 Languages):

- Integrated with the AI-powered [BHASHINI engine](#), PANCHAM speaks and understands **22 official Indian languages**. Whether a representative is in Kerala or Mizoram, they can interact in their local dialect.

Voice-Based Assistance:

- To bridge the literacy gap, the chatbot supports **voice notes**. Users can record a question in their language, and the AI will respond with a voice message, making it accessible for everyone.

WhatsApp Integration:

- PANCHAM works directly through WhatsApp. No separate storage-heavy mobile applications are required. Representatives simply scan a **QR code** or save the official number to start the conversation.

Real-Time Data & Training:

- **Scheme Updates:** Instant access to FAQs on e-GramSwaraj, [SVAMITVA](#), and Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- **Bite-Sized Training:** Dissemination of 30–50 second video modules on leadership, financial management, and social justice.
- **Geo-Tagging Support:** Guidance on mandatory tasks like geo-tagging of Panchayat Bhawans.

2. Model Youth Gram Sabha Initiative

- The **Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS)** is a nationwide initiative aimed at providing students hands-on experience in [grassroots democracy](#) by simulating the functioning of real **Gram Sabhas**. It encourages civic awareness, leadership, and participatory governance among youth.

Organisation:

- Jointly launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy)**, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Supported by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), [Eklavya Model Residential Schools](#) (EMRSs), and State Government Schools.

Aim:

- To nurture democratic leadership among students through experiential and activity-based learning.
- To align with the [National Education Policy](#) (NEP) 2020 in fostering responsible, participative, and community-oriented citizens.

Key Features:

- Implementation across **1,000+ schools** nationwide.
- Integration of **training modules** and a dedicated **MYGS digital portal**.
- Promotes **learning by doing**, teamwork, transparency, and decision-making through mock [Gram Sabha](#) sessions.
- Plans to extend the model to urban areas through **Model Ward Sabhas** for city students.

3. Training of Trainers (ToT) programme

- A new training initiative to strengthen the financial autonomy of Panchayats by enhancing their capability to generate [Own Source Revenue](#) (OSR).
- **Ministry:**
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)
 - In collaboration with **IIM Ahmedabad** and **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)**
- **Objective:**
 - Empower Panchayats to become financially self-reliant.
 - Equip trainers with strategies for sustainable OSR generation.
 - Promote leadership, innovation, and accountability at the Panchayat level.
- **Key Features:**
 - Implemented under [Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan \(RGSA\)](#).
 - Focus on behavioural insights, strategic revenue planning, and local innovation.
 - Trains **Master Trainers** from 16 States/UTs, with future sessions planned.
 - Lays the groundwork for a **Model OSR Rules Framework** and **Digital Tax Collection Portal**.

About [Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan \(RGSA\)](#):

- An umbrella **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** to develop and strengthen the **Panchayati Raj System** across rural India.
- **Launched in:** Originally launched in **2018** and revamped for the period **2022-23 to 2025-26**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Build governance capacity of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** to achieve **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
 - Empower Panchayat representatives for effective leadership roles.
 - Enhance OSR generation and financial planning capacity of Panchayats.
 - Promote **inclusive local governance** through optimum resource utilisation and convergence of schemes.
 - Strengthen **Gram Sabhas** as forums of citizen participation.
- **Key Features:**
 - Focus on capacity-building for elected representatives.
 - Encourages decentralisation and devolution of powers in line with [PESA Act 1996](#).
 - Integrates technology-driven solutions for good governance.
 - Recognises and rewards best-performing Panchayats.
 - Promotes exchange of ideas through partnerships with international and national bodies.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)**1. [Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan \(NMBA\)](#)**

- A nationwide [anti-drug initiative](#) aimed at reducing substance abuse through prevention, awareness, treatment, and rehabilitation, focusing on India's most vulnerable districts.
- **Launched in:** 15 August 2020

- **Organisation:** Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE).
- **Objectives:**
 - **Curb Drug Demand:** Reduce substance use through prevention, education, and outreach.
 - **Strengthen Community Response:** Involve youth, women, and local institutions in anti-drug campaigns.
 - **Rehabilitation & Treatment:** Ensure timely support for victims of addiction.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Targeted Districts:** Implementation in **272 high-risk districts** identified via national surveys and NCB data.
 - **Three-Pronged Approach:** Supply reduction (**NCB**), demand reduction (MoSJE outreach), and treatment (Health Department).
 - **Community-Based Implementation:** District and state-level committees headed by senior officials.
 - **Technology Integration:** NMBA app, website, and active social media campaigns for outreach.
 - **Mass Mobilisation:** Partnerships with organisations like Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris, and **ISKCON** for public awareness.

2. National Overseas Scholarship Scheme

- A Central Sector Scheme that enables students from **marginalised communities** to pursue higher education abroad (Master's or Ph.D.) by offering **financial assistance** for tuition, living expenses, and other costs.
- **Launched By:**
 - **Ministry:** Social Justice and Empowerment
 - **Target Groups:**
 - Scheduled Castes (SCs)
 - Denotified, Nomadic & **Semi-Nomadic Tribes**
 - Landless Agricultural Labourers
 - Traditional Artisans
- **Objective:**
 - To uplift low-income students from socially and economically disadvantaged groups by helping them access **quality education abroad** and thereby **improve their economic and social mobility**.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - **Academic Qualification:**
 - For Master's – Bachelor's degree with $\geq 60\%$
 - For Ph.D. – Master's degree with $\geq 60\%$
 - **Age Limit:** Not more than **35 years** as on April 1 of selection year.
 - **Income Ceiling:** Annual family income should not exceed **₹8 lakh**.
 - **University Requirement:** Unconditional admission in **Top 500 QS-ranked institutions**.
 - **Others:**
 - Not already studying/settled abroad
 - Max **2 children per family** eligible (second only if seats remain)
- **Key Features:**
 - **Annual Slots:** 125 scholarships per year (115 for SCs, 6 for **De-notified Tribes**, 4 for Labourers/Artisans).
 - **Gender Quota:** 30% of total awards reserved for women candidates.
 - **Two-Phase Selection:**
 - **First round:** QS Top 500 admission required.
 - **Second round:** Broader eligibility including QS-ranked and other recognised institutions.

- **Cap per State:** No more than 10% of total slots per state to ensure wider geographic distribution.
- **Conditional Awarding:** If funds fall short, only part of selected candidates may receive awards.

Ministry of Communications

1. Sanchar Saathi App

- Sanchar Saathi is a telecom security and citizen-protection platform offering tools to report fraud, check SIM misuse, and block stolen devices.
- **Developed by:** Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India.
- **Aim:** To safeguard mobile users by enabling identity management, fraud reporting, device verification, and enhancing awareness on telecom and cyber risks.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Fraud & Scam Reporting:** Chakshu tool enables reporting of fake KYC alerts, impersonation scams, phishing links and suspicious WhatsApp/SMS messages.
 - **SIM & Identity Protection:** Users can check **all SIMs/ mobile connections** linked to their identity to detect unauthorised usage.
 - **Lost/Stolen Phone Blocking:** Allows **IMEI blocking** of lost or stolen devices; more than **7 lakh devices** recovered since launch.
 - **Device Authenticity Verification:** Helps confirm whether a handset's **IMEI is genuine or blacklisted**, crucial for India's large second-hand phone market.
 - **Reporting Illegally Masked International Calls:** Users can report cases where foreign calls appear as **+91 numbers**, aiding anti-fraud investigations.
 - **Reporting Spam & Malicious Links:** Enables reporting of telemarketing spam, unsafe APKs, phishing websites and fraudulent apps.
 - **Additional Utilities:** Local ISP locator, trusted helpline directory, updated awareness material on telecom security.

2. PM-WANI Scheme

- PM-WANI (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) is a national public Wi-Fi framework enabling affordable, widespread broadband access through decentralized Wi-Fi hotspots operated by small entrepreneurs.

Ministry: Implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications.

Launched in: Approved by the Union Cabinet on **9 December 2020**.

Aim:

- To democratize internet access, promote digital inclusion, and create a nationwide network of public Wi-Fi hotspots—supporting the goals of the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018.

Key Features of PM-WANI:

- **No License Required:** PM-WANI allows small shops and local businesses to operate Wi-Fi hotspots without needing any licence, fee, or formal registration, making broadband delivery easy and low-cost.
- **Four-tier Architecture:** The system works through four components—PDOs providing Wi-Fi, PDOAs handling authentication and accounting, App Providers enabling user access, and a Central Registry (C-DoT) that records all entities.
- **FTTH Support:** PDOs are now permitted to use regular fibre-to-the-home broadband connections, reducing their operational costs and making hotspot deployment more viable.

- **Roaming Between PDOAs:** Users can seamlessly switch between hotspots operated by different PDO Aggregators, ensuring continuous connectivity similar to mobile network roaming.
- **Mobile Data Offload:** PDOs can partner with telecom operators to divert mobile data traffic onto Wi-Fi networks, improving network quality and reducing mobile congestion.
- **User-Based Promotions:** App Providers and PDOAs may send promotional messages or content to users, but only after obtaining explicit user consent to ensure privacy protection.
- **Affordable Bandwidth (TRAI Rule):** TRAI requires that all retail fibre broadband plans up to 200 Mbps be sold to PDOs at no more than twice the consumer tariff, ensuring that public Wi-Fi remains affordable.

3. Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA)

- DHRUVA is a national Digital Address Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) that standardises, digitises and virtualises physical addresses through secure, consent-driven sharing using UPI-like address labels.
- It builds on the [DIGIPIN system](#) to offer geocoded precision and interoperability across platforms.

Launched by: Draft policy introduced by the Department of Posts in **2025** for public consultation.

Aim:

- To create a unified, interoperable, secure, and user-controlled digital address ecosystem.
- To treat address-data management as a core public infrastructure similar to Aadhaar, UPI, and [DigiLocker](#).
- To enable Address-as-a-Service (AaaS) for government, businesses, and citizens.

Key Features:

- **UPI-like Address Labels:** Users get a virtual address such as “**name@entity**”, which acts as a proxy for their physical address—reducing the need to fill address forms repeatedly.
- **Consent-Based Access:** Companies can access the user’s geocoded or textual address only with **time-bound authorisation**, ensuring strong [privacy protection](#).
- **DIGIPIN Backbone:**
 - DIGIPIN = a **10-character alphanumeric geocode** representing **latitude–longitude**.
 - Maps every **14 sq m patch** of Indian territory (~228 billion unique pins).
 - Open-sourced and precise, especially for rural and hard-to-map areas.
- **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS) Framework:** Provides secure APIs for integrating address data across government agencies, logistics firms, fintech, e-commerce, etc.
- **Institutional Architecture:**
 - A Section 8 not-for-profit entity (NPCI-like) will administer the ecosystem.
 - Address Service Providers (ASPs) issue labels; Address Information Agents (AIAs) manage consent workflows.
- **Interoperability & Private-Sector Participation:** The system is voluntary—designed to attract e-commerce, gig platforms, financial services, and logistics companies.

4. The Sanchar Mitra Scheme

- The **Sanchar Mitra Scheme** is a **volunteer-based digital outreach initiative** launched by the **Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**.
- It leverages university students as “Sanchar Mitras” to create awareness on telecom safety, **cyber fraud prevention**, and **digital responsibility**.
- **Aim of the Scheme:**
 - Promote **digital literacy** and **cyber hygiene**
 - Bridge the gap between **citizens and government telecom services**
 - Empower youth to become **telecom ambassadors** in their communities
- **Key Features:**

- **Volunteer Engagement:** University students from telecom, electronics, computer science, and cybersecurity streams are nominated as Sanchar Mitras.
- **Advanced Training:** Volunteers receive training from **National Communications Academy–Technology (NCA-T)** and DoT Media Wing in **5G, 6G, AI, cybersecurity, and EMF radiation safety.**
- **Community Outreach:** Sanchar Mitras organize **awareness campaigns**, collaborate with NGOs, and educate the public about safe and responsible telecom usage.
- **Recognition & Incentives:** Exceptional volunteers may get internship opportunities, attend India Mobile Congress, or participate in ITU global forums.
- **Nationwide Participation:** Already active in Assam, partnering with top engineering institutes like IIT, IIIT, and NIT, with plans for further pan-India expansion.

5. Gyan Post Service

- Gyan Post is a postal delivery service introduced by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications to deliver non-commercial educational and socio-cultural material at subsidized rates.
- **Objectives:**
 - Promote **inclusive access** to educational content across rural and urban India.
 - Support students and competitive exam aspirants by ensuring **low-cost, last-mile connectivity.**
 - Encourage dissemination of **cultural and religious literature** aligned with Indian laws.
- **How It Works?**
 - Operates through **surface transport** (road or rail) to keep costs minimal.
 - Parcels must be marked “**Gyan Post**” and are **subject to inspection** by postal officials.
 - Items are booked at **post office counters only** (retail, not bulk).
 - Tracking is enabled, with optional add-ons like **Proof of Delivery** and **Insurance.**
- **Key Features:**
 - Only printed educational, social, religious, or cultural content is permitted.
 - **Magazines, advertisements, or commercial publications are excluded.**
 - Each book must carry the **printer/publisher’s name** and be free of promotional content.
 - **Packaging** must allow for easy inspection (unsealed envelopes or open wrapping).
 - No personal communication or handwritten letters are allowed inside.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Materials must be from recognized boards, universities, or statutory institutions.
 - Content should be legally compliant and used for academic or cultural purposes only.
 - Sender must mention the receiver’s and sender’s full address with PIN codes.
 - Books should not be periodically issued like journals or weeklies.
- **Weight & Dimension Limits:**
 - **Minimum Weight:** 300 grams
 - **Maximum Weight:** 5 kilograms
 - Allowed in both **roll and non-roll formats** within defined dimension tolerances.
- **Pricing:** The pricing structure used in Gyan Post is called a **slab-based pricing** model or weight-based tiered pricing.

Ministry of Textiles

1. Haat on Wheels Initiative

- A mobile retail platform designed to take authentic [handloom products](#) directly to urban consumers, launched as part of a national campaign to promote handloom heritage.
- **Ministry Involved:** Ministry of Textiles
 - Implemented in partnership with the **National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)**
- **Aim:**
 - To promote indigenous handlooms, improve market accessibility for weavers, and bring sustainable fashion to mainstream retail channels.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Showcases 116 weaves** from different Indian regions.
 - **Mobile vans** travel across [Delhi NCR](#), visiting markets, residential zones, and cultural spaces.
 - Promotes “[My Handloom, My Pride; My Product, My Pride](#)” theme.
 - **Direct-to-consumer model** connects weavers with urban buyers.

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

1. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana ([PMGSY](#)) completed 25 years in December 2025, marking a major milestone in India’s rural infrastructure journey.

- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a **centrally sponsored scheme** aimed at providing **all-weather road connectivity** to eligible, previously unconnected rural habitations, thereby integrating villages with markets, schools, and healthcare facilities.

Launched in:

- **Year:** 25 December 2000
- **Occasion:** Birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

Implementing ministry: Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India

Key features:

- **Phased implementation:**
 - [PMGSY-I](#): Universal rural connectivity to unconnected habitations.
 - **PMGSY-II**: Upgradation and consolidation of existing rural road networks.
 - **PMGSY-III**: Strengthening through routes and major rural links connecting markets, schools, and health facilities.
 - **PMGSY-IV (2024–29)**: Connectivity to 25,000 habitations via 62,500 km of roads.
- **Large-scale coverage:** Over 8.25 lakh km of roads sanctioned, with nearly 95% completed by December 2025.
- **Technology-driven monitoring:** Use of OMMAS, [e-MARG](#), GPS-based tracking, and geo-tagged inspections for real-time monitoring and transparency.
- **Quality assurance:** Institutionalised three-tier quality monitoring system involving executing agencies, State Quality Monitors, and National Quality Monitors.
- **Sustainability focus:** Adoption of eco-friendly materials like waste plastic, fly ash, bio-bitumen, and [climate-resilient construction](#) techniques.

2. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

- DAY-NRLM is India's **flagship poverty alleviation and women's empowerment programme** under the **Ministry of Rural Development**, focusing on sustainable livelihoods, financial inclusion, and social mobilization through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Launched in: 2011 as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) by restructuring the Swarnajayanti Grameen Swarozgar Yojana ([SGSY](#)).

- It has been renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – NRLM (DAY-NRLM) in 2016.

Aim: To reduce rural poverty by enabling poor households, especially women, to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage opportunities through community institutions, skill training, and access to credit.

History:

- The mission represents a paradigm shift from subsidy-driven programmes to **self-reliance through institution-building**.
- It is jointly funded by the **Centre and States** and is among the **world's largest [community-mobilisation programmes](#)**, aligning with SDGs 1 (No Poverty) and 5 (Gender Equality).

Key Features:

1. **Social Mobilization & SHG Formation:** Over 10.05 crore rural women organized into 90.9 lakh SHGs across 28 States and 6 UTs.
2. **Community Resource Persons:** Deployment of Bank Sakhis, Krishi Sakhis, and Pashu Sakhis to deliver last-mile financial, agricultural, and livestock services.
3. **Financial Inclusion:** Over ₹11 lakh crore in collateral-free credit disbursed to SHGs with a 98% repayment rate, making it a global model of credit discipline.
4. **Livelihood Diversification:** Promotion of farm and [non-farm activities](#), including 4.62 crore Mahila Kisans, 1.95 lakh producer groups, and 3.74 lakh rural enterprises supported under SVEP.
5. **Skill Development:** Implementation of **DDU-GKY** (placement-linked training for youth) and **RSETIs** (entrepreneurship training), training over **74 lakh youth** cumulatively by mid-2025.
6. **Sustainable Agriculture:** Creation of 6,000 integrated farming clusters and scaling of agro-ecological practices to improve rural resilience.
7. **Digital Inclusion:** Integration with [Direct Benefit Transfer](#) (DBT) and Digital Public Infrastructure to ensure transparency and last-mile delivery.

3. NAKSHA Capacity Building Programme

- NAKSHA (National Geospatial Knowledge-Based Land Survey of Urban Habitations) is a **technology-driven initiative** to modernise **urban land records** using **geospatial tools** and digital platforms.
- **Developed By:** [Department of Land Resources](#) (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development
- **In collaboration with:** Survey of India (technical partner), MPSeDC (Web-GIS development), and NICSI (Data storage and platform support).
- **Launched In:**
 - Pilot initiated in **2024** across 157 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in 27 States and 3 Union Territories.
 - Official inauguration in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Objectives:**
 - [Digitally map](#), record, and update land parcels in urban and semi-urban areas.
 - Improve ease of living by providing reliable and accurate land ownership data.
 - Promote transparency, dispute resolution, and urban planning through verified land documentation.
- **Key Features:**
 - **End-to-end Web-GIS system** for land data mapping and storage.

- Use of **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)** and **Electronic Total Station (ETS)** for precision surveying.
- Aerial imagery provided through **orthorectified drone surveys** by third-party vendors.
- Capacity building of **Urban Local Body (ULB) officers** at four National Centres of Excellence.
- Training covers legal frameworks, land mapping, and geospatial applications.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

1. PM-SETU Scheme

- PM-SETU (Prime Minister's Scheme for Empowerment through Technology Upgradation) is a centrally sponsored flagship initiative aimed at transforming India's skill ecosystem through modernized, industry-driven [ITIs](#).
- It envisions a "Government-owned, Industry-managed" model for vocational training to make India's workforce globally competitive.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

Aim:

- To upgrade 1,000 government ITI's nationwide and align them with current and future skill needs of industries.
- To bridge the gap between classroom learning and global employability, enabling India's youth to meet [international skill demands](#).

Key Features:

- **Hub-and-Spoke Model:** 200 ITI's designated as **Hubs**, each connected to four **Spokes** (total 800).
- **Modern Infrastructure:** Advanced machinery, digital learning systems, smart classrooms, and innovation centres.
- **Industry Partnership:** Each cluster will be **anchored by an industry partner** (CII, [FICCI](#), local associations) for training, placements, and production units.
- **Skill Innovation Ecosystem:** Hubs to serve as centers for trainer training, R&D, production, and start-up incubation.
- **Sectoral Focus:** Targeted sectors include manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality, and new-age technologies.
- **Funding:** ₹60,000 crore total project cost over **2025–28**, jointly supported by the Centre and States.

2. SOAR Program

- A flagship initiative under the [Skill India Mission](#), designed to strengthen **AI literacy and competency** among students (Classes 6–12) and educators. The programme includes structured AI modules, hands-on learning, and ethics-based training to prepare India's youth for AI-driven careers.

Implemented by: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in coordination with the Ministry of Education.

Aim:

- To create AI awareness among school students and educators.
- To equip India's youth with industry-relevant AI skills for self-reliance under [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#).
- To bridge the digital skill gap between urban and rural learners.

Key Features:

- **Structured Learning Modules:** Three 15-hour AI modules for students and one 45-hour advanced module for educators.

- **Ethical AI Training:** Emphasis on responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence.
- **Centre of Excellence in AI:** ₹500 crore allocated in **Union Budget 2025–26** to establish a dedicated **Centre of Excellence for AI in Education**.
- **Industry Integration:** Collaboration with IITs, AICTE, and private sector partners to offer specialised AI and ML courses.
- **Digital Access:** Integration with the **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** to ensure accessibility for students across rural and urban areas.
- **Apprenticeship Support:** Under **NAPS-2**, 1,480 apprentices trained between FY 2022–26 in AI-related roles such as **AI Data Engineer** and **Machine Learning Engineer**.

3. PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana)

- PMKVY is a **flagship skill development scheme** of the Government of India to train youth in **industry-relevant job skills** and improve their employability.
- **Launched By:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- First launched in **2015** under the **Skill India Mission (SIM)**
- **Core Objective:** To **bridge the skill gap** between youth capabilities and industry demands by providing short-term training, recognition of prior skills, and placement support.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Short-Term Training (STT):** Offers 3–6-month training to fresh entrants across 30+ sectors.
 - **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** Certifies informal workers like artisans, weavers, and craftsmen, validating their existing skills.
 - **Digital Integration:** PMKVY 4.0 integrates AI-based analytics, Academic Bank of Credits, and a unified **Skill India Digital Hub**.
 - **Inclusivity Focus:** Nearly **45% of trained beneficiaries are women**, with strong representation from SC, ST, and OBC communities.
 - **Global & Emerging Skills:** Training extended to areas like **AI, IoT, mechatronics, drones**, along with support for **traditional crafts**.
 - **Skill Hub Initiative & COVID Warriors Training:** Integrated vocational training in schools and trained 1.2 lakh youth for COVID-related roles.

4. NAVYA Initiative

- NAVYA stands for “**Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls**.” It is a new government pilot programme focused on skilling girls aged 16–18 years through vocational training.
- **Ministries Involved:**
 - Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)
 - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- **Objectives:**
 - Empower adolescent girls with market-relevant vocational skills.
 - Focus on **non-traditional job roles** to promote gender parity in new sectors.
 - Build self-confidence, career aspirations, and economic independence among girls.
- **Key Features:**
 - Targets girls aged 16–18 with at least Class 10 qualification.
 - Will be implemented in **27 districts** (including Aspirational Districts and North-Eastern States) across **19 States**.
 - Leverages existing skill platforms like **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** and **PM Vishwakarma Yojana**.
 - Institutionalised convergence between MWCD and MSDE for coordinated skilling efforts.
 - Certification under **PMKVY** to enhance employability.
 - Pilot launch event includes interactions with trainees and certificate distribution.

Ministry of Ayush

1. DRAVYA Portal

- DRAVYA is an AI-ready digital knowledge repository that consolidates information on Ayush medicinal substances drawn from both classical Ayurvedic texts and modern scientific research.
- It serves as a dynamic, open-access platform designed to make authentic, evidence-based data on Ayurveda and related systems easily searchable and globally accessible.
- **Organisation Involved:** Developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences ([CCRAS](#)) under the Ministry of Ayush.

Aim:

- To digitise and unify classical and modern knowledge on Ayush substances for evidence-based research and innovation.
- To promote cross-disciplinary collaboration between Ayurveda, botany, chemistry, and pharmacology.
- To ensure authenticity, accessibility, and scientific validation of traditional medicinal data.

Key Features:

- **Comprehensive Catalogue:** Covers 100 key medicinal substances in its first phase, expanding continuously.
- **AI-ready architecture:** Enables data analytics, research mapping, and integration with future [digital health tools](#).
- **QR code integration:** For use in medicinal plant gardens and drug repositories, ensuring standardised display of verified data.
- **Multi-dimensional data:** Includes pharmacotherapeutics, botany, chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, and safety information.
- **User-friendly interface:** Facilitates easy search, retrieval, and comparison of data across Ayush systems.
- **Interlinking with [Ayush Grid](#):** Enhances interoperability with other digital initiatives and research databases.

2. SPARK– 4.0

- SPARK–4.0 (Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken) is the **fourth edition** of CCRAS's flagship initiative to encourage **research orientation** among BAMS undergraduates.
- **Organisation involved:** Implemented by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.
- **Aim:** To cultivate scientific curiosity and develop a research mindset in young Ayurveda scholars while bridging classical knowledge with modern scientific methods.
- **Key features:**
 - **300 BAMS students** to be awarded **₹50,000 studentships** (₹25,000 per month for two months).
 - Open to students from [National Commission for Indian System of Medicine NCISM-recognized colleges](#) across India.
 - Involves **faculty-guided, short-term independent research projects**.
 - Students receive a **certificate** after successful completion.

3. Ayush Nivesh Saarthi Portal

- A dedicated digital platform for investors to explore and invest in India's Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) sector.
- **Ministry Involved:**
 - **Ministry of Ayush** (Lead Ministry)

- Developed in partnership with **Invest India**
- **Objective:**
 - To **ease investment** in Ayush-based ventures.
 - To promote **FDI and private participation** in traditional medicine.
 - To integrate **policy, incentives, and market access** in one portal.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Investor-Centric Design:** Simplified navigation and support.
 - **Unified Interface:** Combines policies, incentives, and investment-ready projects.
 - **Real-time Facilitation:** Dynamic dashboard for guidance and approvals.
 - **Global Outreach:** Targets domestic and international stakeholders.
 - **Ease of Doing Business:** Aligned with **100% FDI via automatic route** in the Ayush sector.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)

1. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

- NeVA is a **digital platform** that enables **paperless conduct** of legislative business across India's State and UT legislatures.
- It embodies the vision of **'One Nation – One Application'** by integrating all houses on a single interface.
- **Developed and Implemented By:**
 - Developed by the **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)**.
 - Supported by MeitY and powered by BHASHINI for AI-based translation.
- **Established in:** Approved by the **Public Investment Board** on **15 January 2020**.
- **Total project cost:** ₹673.94 crore, under a **centrally sponsored model** for equitable state support.
- **Aim of NeVA:**
 - To digitize legislative proceedings and make Houses paperless.
 - To create a unified national repository of all legislative data on one platform.
- **Key Features of NeVA:**
 - **End-to-End Paperless Functioning:** NeVA enables complete digitization of legislative business including uploading of agenda, bills, speeches, and responses.
 - **AI/ML-Powered Real-Time Translation via BHASHINI:** Integrated with BHASHINI, NeVA provides instant translation of speeches and documents into multiple Indian languages.
 - **Unified Digital Workspace:** NeVA creates a single digital platform for legislators, government departments, and Assembly secretariats.
 - **Secure Document Management & Searchable Archives:** All records are digitally stored with multi-layered security and role-based access control.
 - **Training Modules & Simplified Workflows:** The application includes hands-on training for MLAs and staff to ensure smooth adoption.

Ministry of Textiles

1. Shilp Didi Programme

- A government initiative to **economically empower women artisans** ("Shilp Didis") by providing training, digital skills, and market access, including e-commerce platforms and physical exhibitions.
- **Launched In: 2024** (100-day pilot phase began in June 2024).

- **Implemented By:** Ministry of Textiles, through the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).
- **Aim:** To make women artisans **financially independent**, [improve design](#) and business skills, and help them leverage modern marketing and entrepreneurship tools.
- **Key Features:**
 - **E-training modules** ([entrepreneurship](#), regulatory compliance, social media, e-commerce onboarding).
 - **Marketing opportunities** via Dilli Haat, craft fairs, and curated events.
 - **E-commerce integration** for nationwide and global visibility.
 - **Baseline inclusion of 100 women artisans** from 72 districts across 23 states.
 - Covers **30 diverse handicrafts** (textiles, pottery, metal crafts, embroidery, etc.).
 - Capacity-building through [National Handicrafts Development Programme](#) (NHDP) clusters.

2. [District-Led Textiles Transformation \(DLTT\) Plan](#)

- A sector-specific, district-level transformation strategy that uses data-driven categorisation to strengthen India's textile ecosystem—ranging from advanced export clusters to foundation-stage districts—through tailored interventions.
- **Ministry involved:** Ministry of Textiles
- **Aim:** To drive **inclusive, sustainable, and [export-oriented growth](#)** in textiles by decentralising policy execution to districts, strengthening MSMEs, formalising the workforce, and creating globally competitive clusters.

Key features:

- **Data-driven district scoring:** Based on Export Performance, MSME ecosystem, and Workforce presence.
- **Two-pronged district strategy:**
 - **Champion Districts (Scale & Sophistication):** Mega Common Facility Centres (CFCs), Industry 4.0 adoption, advanced logistics, and direct export market linkages.
 - **Aspirational Districts (Foundation & Formalisation):** Basic skilling & certification, Raw Material Banks, promotion of SHGs, cooperatives, and micro-enterprises.
- **Purvodaya convergence:** Special focus on Eastern & North-Eastern India—tribal belt development, connectivity, and GI tagging of unique handicrafts.
- **Collaborative model:** Convergence of government schemes with industry and academia to scale proven [cluster models](#).

3. [Tex-Ramps Scheme](#)

- A Central Sector Scheme focused on research, assessment, monitoring, planning, and start-up support for the textiles sector.
- **Ministry:** Implemented fully by the **Ministry of Textiles**, Government of India.
- **Aim:** To future-proof India's textiles and apparel ecosystem through innovation, data systems, capacity building and start-up support.
- **Key Components:**
 - **Research & Innovation:** Supports [advanced R&D](#) in smart textiles, sustainability, process efficiency and emerging textile technologies.
 - **Data, Analytics & Diagnostics:** Builds strong data systems including employment mapping, supply chain studies and the India-Size project.
 - **Integrated Textiles Statistical System (ITSS):** A real-time analytics platform enabling structured monitoring and evidence-based decisions.
 - **Capacity Development:** Enhances State-level planning, best-practice sharing, workshops and creation of a strong knowledge ecosystem.
 - **Start-up & Innovation Support:** Funds incubators, hackathons and academia–industry partnerships to boost textile entrepreneurship

- **Key Features:**
 - **₹305 crore outlay for 2025–31:** Co-terminus with next Finance Commission cycle for long-term continuity.
 - **Central Sector Scheme:** Fully funded by the Ministry for uniform nationwide implementation.
 - **Focus on smart, sustainable textiles:** Aligns India's textile sector with global technology and green manufacturing trends.
 - **Structured monitoring:** ITSS ensures real-time visibility into sector performance.

4. Haat on Wheels Initiative

- A mobile retail platform designed to take authentic handloom products directly to urban consumers, launched as part of a national campaign to promote handloom heritage.
- **Ministry Involved:** Ministry of Textiles
 - Implemented in partnership with the **National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)**
- **Aim:**
 - To promote indigenous handlooms, improve market accessibility for weavers, and bring sustainable fashion to mainstream retail channels.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Showcases 116 weaves** from different Indian regions.
 - **Mobile vans** travel across Delhi NCR, visiting markets, residential zones, and cultural spaces.
 - Promotes "My Handloom, My Pride; My Product, My Pride" theme.
 - **Direct-to-consumer model** connects weavers with urban buyers.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

1. Aabhar Online Store

- The '**Aabhar**' online store showcases a range of **gift items** manufactured by **indigenous tribes, handloom weavers, and artisans** under the **One District One Product (ODOP)** and **Geographical Indication (GI)** categories.
- The store is hosted by **GeM** and sources products **exclusively from:**
 - **Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE)**
 - **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**
 - Various **Central and State Handicraft and Handloom Emporiums**
- Promoted under the '**Vocal for Local**' campaign.
- The gift articles and hampers will be used in **official events, ceremonies, and functions** of the Railways.
- The initiative aims to **promote India's rich heritage** through **handlooms, handicrafts, and artisanal goods**, and to provide **market access to local artisans, rural entrepreneurs, and women-led enterprises**.
- The **GeM CEO's note** highlighted that the effort supports **sustainable and inclusive economic development**.

Ministry of Culture

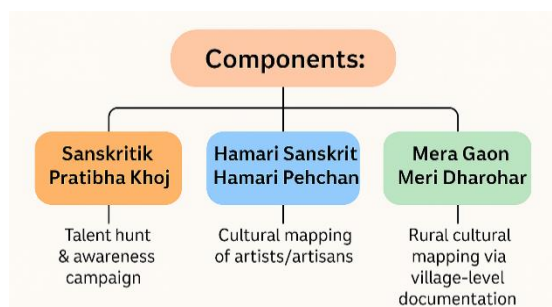
1. Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar' (MGMD) Initiative

- A nationwide cultural mapping project to document the **intangible cultural heritage** of Indian villages.

- **Launched in:** June 2023, under the [Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#) celebrations.
- **Aim:** To map, preserve, and digitally archive traditional knowledge systems, rituals, oral traditions, festivals, and local art forms across **6.5 lakh villages**.
- **Features:**
 - Implemented by **IGNCA**.
 - Cultural database of over **4.7 lakh villages** already created.
 - 360° video documentation of **750 villages**.
 - Development of **MGMD Web Portal** as the **National Cultural Workplace (NCWP)**.
 - Part of National Mission on Cultural Mapping.
 - User-editable data, artist registrations, UICs, and link to welfare schemes.

About [National Mission on Cultural Mapping \(NMCM\)](#):

- **What it is?**
 - A flagship mission to **digitally map India's cultural ecosystem** and empower artist communities.
- **Launched in:** By the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- **Aim:**
 - Identify and promote **cultural assets**.
 - Create a **national database of artists and art forms**.
 - Foster rural development and **self-reliant village economies** via cultural industries.
- **Key Features:**
 - Creation of **National Digital Inventories**.
 - **Virtual Living Museum**, digital badges, and village travel passports.
 - **Cultural event uploads, artist branding**, and ranking via UIC.
 - Integration with **government welfare schemes**.



Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)

1. [Inland Waterway Transport \(IWT\)](#)

- IWT refers to the **movement of goods and passengers through navigable rivers, canals, backwaters, and creeks** using boats, barges, or ferries.
- It is a **fuel-efficient, environment-friendly, and cost-effective** mode of transportation.

[Key Initiatives to Promote IWT in India:](#)

- **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP):** World Bank-funded initiative to **augment capacity of NW-1 (Ganga)**
 - Includes dredging, terminal development, and navigational aids
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Integrated with IWT to **boost port-led development** and hinterland connectivity
- **National Waterways Act, 2016:** Declared **111 waterways as National Waterways (NWs)** for development
- **Jal Vikas Marg Society (JVMS):** Institutional mechanism under IAWI for managing World Bank-assisted projects
- **'Jalvahak' Cargo Promotion Scheme (2024):** Provides up to **35% operating cost reimbursement** to cargo movers using IWT
- **Ganga Vilas Cruise and River Tourism Initiatives:** Boosts passenger traffic and tourism potential on NW-1 and NW-2

About [Inland Waterways Authority of India \(IAWI\)](#):

- **Established:** 1986 under IWAI Act, 1985
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)
- **Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- **Objectives:**
 - **Develop and regulate national waterways**
 - **Enhance infrastructure** for navigation
 - Ensure **eco-friendly and cost-effective** logistics and transport solutions
 - Promote **PPP models and private sector investment** in IWT.

2. Digital Initiatives for Maritime Sector

- A maritime digital push led by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) to modernize port infrastructure, logistics, and governance using emerging technologies.
- **Objective:**
 - Enhance port efficiency and trade ease.
 - Enable data-driven governance.
 - Support sustainability and clean energy goals.
 - Align with **Maritime India Vision 2030** and [Amrit Kaal Vision 2047](#).

Key Digital Initiatives Launched:

1. **Digital Centre of Excellence (DCoE):**
 - **Partnership:** MoPSW & Centre for Development of Advanced Computing.
 - **Purpose:** Spearhead digital transformation in maritime logistics.
 - **Features:**
 - Uses **AI, IoT, Blockchain** for smart ports.
 - Focus on sustainable and green operations.
 - Supports real-time port operation upgrades.
2. **SAGAR SETU Platform:**
 - **What it is:** Unified EXIM digital interface.
 - **Integration:** 80+ ports, 40+ stakeholders.
 - **Goals:**
 - Reduce paperwork and processing delays.
 - Promote seamless, transparent logistics.
 - Aligns with [PM Gati Shakti Master Plan](#).
 - **Impact:** Boosts Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and port productivity.
3. **DRISHTI Framework:**
 - **Full Form:** Data-driven Review Institutional System for Tracking Implementation.
 - **Pillars:** KPI Monitoring, Progress Tracking, Organisation Oversight, and Cell-wise Review
 - **Goal:** Monitor Maritime India Vision 2030 projects in real time.
4. **Scale of Rates (SOR) Template:**
 - **What:** Standardised tariff structure for major ports.
 - **Why:** Reduces ambiguity, ensures transparency.
 - **Benefit:**
 - Digital comparison of tariffs.
 - Flexibility for local port adaptation.
 - Investor and trader confidence boosted.

Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)

1. SHAKTI Scholars – NCW Young Research Fellowship

- SHAKTI Scholars is a six-month, grant-based [research fellowship](#) designed to support young scholars and independent researchers in undertaking policy-relevant, multidisciplinary research on issues affecting women in India.

Launched by: National Commission for Women (NCW)

Aim:

- Encourage evidence-based research on women-centric challenges.
- Build a pipeline of young researchers contributing to [gender-responsive governance](#).
- Support research that can inform laws, schemes, and institutional reforms.

Eligibility criteria:

- **Nationality:** Indian citizens only
- **Age:** 21 to 30 years
- **Minimum qualification:** Graduation from a recognised institution
- **Preference:**
 - Candidates pursuing or having completed post-graduation, M.Phil., or PhD
 - Disciplines such as Gender Studies, Law, Social Sciences, Public Policy, Economics, Health, Technology, Development Studies, etc.

Key features:

1. **Research grant – ₹1 lakh:** The fellowship provides financial support to cover data collection, fieldwork, analysis, and documentation costs.
2. **Duration – 6 months:** A six-month timeframe balances rigorous research with timely policy relevance and feasibility.
3. **Phased fund release:** Grants are disbursed in stages, ensuring accountability and progress-linked research execution.
4. **Research themes include:**
 - Women's safety and dignity
 - Gender-based violence and [POSH implementation](#)
 - Legal rights and access to justice
 - Cyber safety
 - Health, nutrition, education, and skill development
 - [Economic empowerment](#) and labour force participation
 - Women's leadership, political participation, and work-life balance

2. PANKHUDI portal

- A single-window, integrated digital platform that facilitates CSR and voluntary partnerships for women and child development, enabling transparent contributions, proposal tracking, and outcome monitoring across [priority social sectors](#).

Ministry: Ministry of Women and Child Development

Aim: To strengthen coordination, transparency, and structured participation among government, citizens, NRIs, NGOs, and corporates, thereby improving service delivery and outcomes for women and children nationwide.

Key features:

- **Unified CSR interface:** One platform for individuals, NRIs, NGOs, corporates, and government agencies.
- **Priority themes:** Nutrition, health, [Early Childhood Care and Education](#) (ECCE), child welfare & protection, and women's safety & empowerment.
- **Flagship mission support:** Digitally strengthens implementation of Mission Saksham Anganwadi & [Poshan 2.0](#), Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti through defined workflows.

- **End-to-end transparency:** Online registration, proposal submission, approvals, and real-time tracking; non-cash contributions only to ensure traceability.
- **Scale of impact:** Improves infrastructure and services across 14+ lakh Anganwadi Centres, ~5,000 Child Care Institutions, ~800 One Stop Centres, ~500 Shakhi Niwas, and ~400 [Shakti Sadan](#).

3. [Integrated Child Development Services \(ICDS\)](#)

- ICDS is **India's largest early childhood care and nutrition programme**, providing a package of health, nutrition and pre-school services through Anganwadi Centres to children (0–6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers.

History:

- Launched on **2 October 1975** in two pilot blocks—**Dharani (Amravati)** and **Dharavi (Mumbai)**—as a centrally sponsored scheme to combat [childhood malnutrition](#) and mortality.
- Over five decades, it has expanded nationwide, becoming one of the world's largest community-based child development initiatives, with nearly **14 lakh Anganwadi Centres**

Aim:

- Improve nutritional and health status of children (0–6 years).
- Lay foundation for psychological, physical and social development.
- Reduce [child mortality](#), morbidity, malnutrition and school dropouts.
- Ensure inter-departmental coordination for holistic child development.
- Empower mothers through nutrition and health education.

Key Features:

- **Six core services:** Supplementary nutrition, pre-school education, health check-ups, immunisation, referral services, and nutrition-health education.
- **Delivered through Anganwadi Centres** staffed by [Anganwadi Workers](#) (AWWs) and Helpers.
- Services converge with [NRHM](#) for immunisation, ANCs, and health referrals.
- Targets **children below 6, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and women aged 15–45**.
- Maharashtra alone runs **10 lakh+ Anganwadi and mini-Anganwadi centres**, reflecting scale and penetration.

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1. [E-Bill System for fertiliser subsidies](#)

- The e-Bill System is an end-to-end digital platform for submission, processing, tracking, and payment of [fertiliser subsidy bills](#), replacing the earlier manual, paper-based workflow.

Ministry involved: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Aim:

- Ensure timely, transparent, and accountable disbursement of fertiliser subsidies.
- Strengthen financial control, auditability, and efficiency through digital governance.

Key features:

- **End-to-end digital workflow:** Eliminates physical movement of bills and manual processing.
- **Online claim submission:** Fertiliser companies can file subsidy claims and track payment status in real time.
- **Real-time tracking & centralised reporting:** Enables continuous monitoring of expenditure.
- **Built-in financial controls:** Validates payments against predefined criteria and enforces compliance.

- **Tamper-proof audit trail:** Logs every action to support audits and accountability.
- **FIFO processing:** Ensures uniform, rule-based and predictable bill clearance.
- **Faster payments:** Facilitates timely release of weekly fertiliser subsidy payments.

Ministry of Mines

1. Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)

- A **first-of-its-kind national initiative** to develop a complete domestic supply chain—from rare-earth oxides to metals, alloys and finished high-performance REPMs.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Mines (with oversight from Department of Atomic Energy & NITI Aayog)

Targets:

- Establish **6,000 MTPA** of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity
- Select **5 beneficiaries** via global competitive bidding (each up to 1,200 MTPA)
- Build India's **first complete REPM value chain**

Key features:

- **Financial Outlay: ₹7,280 crore**
 - A total of ₹7,280 crore is allocated to build India's first large-scale, end-to-end Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) [manufacturing ecosystem](#).
- **₹6,450 crore: Sales-linked incentives (for 5 years)**
 - ₹6,450 crore will be disbursed as incentives based on actual magnet sales, encouraging high-quality production and global competitiveness.
- **₹750 crore: Capital subsidy for plant setup**
 - ₹750 crore supports the heavy initial investment needed for oxide-to-metal conversion, alloying, and sintering technologies.
- **Duration: 7 years**
 - The entire scheme runs for 7 years, ensuring enough time for infrastructure creation, capacity building, and sustained production.
- **2-year gestation to build facilities**
 - Manufacturers get two years to construct integrated plants, install metallurgical systems, and stabilise [rare-earth processing lines](#).
- **5-year incentive period**
 - For five years after commissioning, companies receive sales-based incentives to scale production and reduce import dependence.
- **Integrated Manufacturing Covered**
 - The scheme supports the full rare-earth value chain under one roof, promoting efficiency, cost reduction, and supply-chain security.
- **Rare-earth oxides → metals → alloys → sintered REPMs**
 - It enables India to convert raw rare-earth oxides into metals, process them into alloys, and finally produce high-performance NdFeB sintered magnets.

About Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM):

- REPMs (especially **NdFeB magnets**) are the **strongest commercial magnets** globally, made by sintering [rare-earth](#)-based alloys like Neodymium-Iron-Boron.

Current Status in India:

- India has **6.9 million tonnes** REE reserves (5th largest globally)
- Yet contributes **~1%** to global production
- REPM demand is **almost fully import-dependent**
- China controls **~90%** of global REPM supply

Key Features:

- High magnetic strength
- High [heat resistance](#)
- Compact size with superior performance
- No viable substitutes in high-performance applications

2. [Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme](#)

TOPIC: NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION (NCMM)



Why in news?

The Union Cabinet, has approved the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with an expenditure of ₹16,300 crore and an additional ₹18,000 crore investment from PSUs.

About National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM):

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Mines
- **Announced In:** Union Budget 2024-25
- **Budget:** ₹34,300 crore (₹16,300 crore from the government + ₹18,000 crore from PSUs & private sector)
- **Objective:** Strengthen India's supply chain for critical minerals through domestic exploration, overseas asset acquisition, and technological innovation.
- **Aims of NCMM:**
 - **Boost Domestic Exploration & Processing:** Expand critical mineral exploration onshore and offshore, fast-track mining approvals, and set up mineral processing parks and recycling hubs.
 - **Promote R&D and Innovation:** Invest in advanced mineral processing technologies and establish Centres of Excellence to drive innovation and sustainability.
- **Key features of NCMM:**
 - **Comprehensive Value Chain Development:** Covers exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recycling of critical minerals.
 - **Financial Incentives:** Offers monetary support for exploration and sustainable mineral recovery.
 - **Stockpile Strategy:** Develops a national reserve of critical minerals for long-term security.
 - **Industry Collaboration:** Encourages PSUs and private firms to invest in global mining projects.

Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

1. [Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights \(PPV&FRA\) Act, 2001](#)

- India's first **sui generis** legal framework (enacted in **2001**) for protecting the rights of **farmers and plant breeders**, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing and seed sovereignty.

Launched in: 2001, under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare; Authority operational since 2005.

Aim: To establish a balanced system that encourages innovation in plant breeding while recognizing farmers' role in conserving [genetic diversity](#).

Key Features:

- **Farmers' Rights (Section 39):** Farmers can save, use, sow, resow, exchange, and share seeds of registered varieties; they are also eligible for **compensation** for non-performance of varieties.
- **Breeders' Rights:** Exclusive rights to produce, sell, or license protected varieties, ensuring intellectual property protection for innovation.
- **Registration Criteria (DUS):** Varieties must meet Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability standards; 57 crop species notified for registration.

- **National Gene Fund:** Created to channel benefit-sharing fees and support in-situ conservation and rewarding farmers.
- **Researchers' Exemption:** Allows use of registered varieties for experimentation and varietal development, ensuring open scientific access.
- **Benefit-Sharing & Protection:** Recognition of community knowledge through [National Register of Plant Varieties](#) (NRPV) and legal remedy for biopiracy.

2. [Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana \(PMDDKY\)](#)

- PMDDKY is a comprehensive agricultural transformation mission launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to modernize Indian farming through technology, irrigation, credit, and market reforms.

Aim of the Scheme:

- To increase crop productivity by 20–30% and reduce post-harvest losses to below 5%.
- To double farmers' income by 2030 through direct market access and modern techniques.
- To make farming climate-resilient, technology-driven, and sustainable.
- To support women, youth, and small farmers, ensuring equitable agricultural growth.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Geographic Focus:** 100 underperforming districts identified by [NITI Aayog](#) with low productivity, weak credit access, and poor irrigation.
- **Inclusivity:** Women farmers, youth [agripreneurs](#), and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are prioritized beneficiaries.

Key Features of PMDDKY:

- **Massive Budget Allocation:** ₹1.44 lakh crore over six years (₹24,000 crore annually from 2025–31).
- **Scheme Convergence:** Merges 36 schemes under a single digital framework for unified implementation.
- **Smart Agriculture:** Integration of IoT sensors, drones, precision tools, and AI-based dashboards for farm monitoring.
- **Digital Dashboard:** Tracks 117 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) — yields, storage, and irrigation progress.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Focus on irrigation, storage, cold chains, processing units, and market linkages.
- **Women Empowerment:** Formation of 10,000 Women Producer Groups, benefitting 5 lakh women farmers.
- **Training and Global Exposure:** Free workshops via [KVKs](#) and international training for 500 farmers in Israel, Japan, and the Netherlands.
- **Green Farming Focus:** Encourages organic, sustainable, and climate-smart practices.

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)

1. [UDAN Scheme](#)

- UDAN ("Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik") is the **flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** launched to make air travel affordable and accessible for the common citizen by linking remote and regional areas to major cities.

Launched in: Introduced on **21 October 2016** under [the National Civil Aviation Policy \(NCAP\)](#), with the first flight taking off on **27 April 2017** between **Shimla and Delhi**.

Aim:

- The scheme aims to democratise aviation, enhance regional connectivity, and promote balanced economic development by linking Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities through affordable flights.

Key Features:

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** Financial support to airlines to keep fares affordable.
- **Airfare Cap:** Ensures that ticket prices remain within reach of the common citizen.
- **Incentivised Framework:** Waivers on airport charges and tax concessions on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).
- **Multi-Stakeholder Governance:** Involves **MoCA, State Governments, AAI, and private operators** for coordinated implementation.
- **UDAN 5.5 & Seaplane Guidelines (2024):** Expanded coverage to **water aerodromes and heliports**, boosting last-mile connectivity.

2. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

- India's apex **civil aviation regulatory body**, responsible for overseeing air safety, licensing, and compliance with international standards.
- **Established in:** Originally set up in **1978** as an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. It became a statutory body under the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020**.
- **Ministry:** Operates under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- **Objective:** To promote safe, efficient, and secure air transportation through robust regulation and proactive safety oversight.
- **Key Functions of DGCA:**
 - **Aircraft & Pilot Licensing:** Registers civil aircraft and licenses pilots, air traffic controllers, maintenance engineers, and crew.
 - **Airport Certification:** Certifies airports for operational safety and efficiency.
 - **Airworthiness Standards:** Formulates airworthiness standards and grants Certificates of Airworthiness.
 - **Accident Investigation:** Investigates aviation incidents and promotes accident prevention measures.
 - **Safety Oversight:** Monitors compliance of all licensed aviation entities under **Aircraft Rules, 1937**.
 - **Training Approval:** Approves flying, simulator, and maintenance training organizations.
 - **Air Transport Services Regulation:** Grants **Air Operator's Certificates** and regulates Indian and foreign airline operations within Indian airspace.
 - **Coordination with ICAO:** Engages in ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) and represents India in global aviation forums.
 - **Indigenous Development:** Promotes domestic manufacturing of aircraft and components.
 - **Advisory Role:** Advises the Government on technical, regulatory, and international matters concerning civil aviation.

NITI Aayog

1. Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0

'Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0'—a 3-month intensive campaign to achieve 100% saturation of critical development indicators in India's most underserved regions.

- **Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0** is a mission-mode, time-bound campaign designed to accelerate progress in **112 Aspirational Districts** and **513 Aspirational Blocks**. It builds upon the historic success of the first phase launched in 2024, focusing on saturating (reaching 100% coverage) specific social sector goals.

Campaign Timeline:

- **Start Date:** January 28, 2026
- **End Date:** April 14, 2026 (Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti)
- **Duration:** 3 Months

Aim & Objectives:

- Achieving full coverage of essential government services in health, nutrition, and education.
- Driving performance through monthly tracking and healthy competition among districts and blocks.
- Ensuring that the benefits of schemes like ICDS and [TB Mukht Bharat reach](#) the most remote households.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The campaign focuses on a specific set of metrics divided between the District and Block levels:

6 KPIs for Aspirational Blocks

1. **Supplementary Nutrition:** Regular intake by children (6 months to 6 years) under ICDS.
2. **Measurement Efficiency:** Real-time tracking of children's growth at Anganwadi Centres.
3. **Anganwadi Sanitation:** Percentage of centers with functional toilets.
4. **Clean Drinking Water:** Availability of drinking water in operational Anganwadis.
5. **Girls' Education:** Schools with adequate and functional girls' toilet facilities.
6. **Animal Welfare:** Percentage of bovine animals vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

5 KPIs for Aspirational Districts

1. **Newborn Health:** Proportion of live babies weighed at birth.
2. **TB Notification:** TB case notification rates (both Public and Private sectors).
3. **Health Outreach:** Regular conduct of Village/[Urban Health Sanitation](#) & Nutrition Days (VHSND/UHSND).
4. **School Infrastructure:** Schools equipped with functional girls' toilets.
5. **Livestock Security:** Universal animal vaccination coverage.

Implementation Strategy & Significance**Strategy for Success**

- **3-Month Action Plan:** Each district and block must develop a tailored roadmap to hit saturation targets by April.
- **Concurrent Monitoring:** District-level officers are mandated to conduct frequent field visits for data validation.
- **Behavior Change:** Intensive awareness campaigns ([Nukkad Nataks](#), Gram Sabhas) to encourage community participation.
- **Collaboration:** A unified approach involving Central Ministries, State Governments, and NITI Aayog.

Aspirational Districts Programme	Aspirational Blocks Programme
A. Launched in January 2018 by Hon'ble Prime Minister	A. Launched in January 2023 by Hon'ble Prime Minister
B. Aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 districts across the country.	B. Aims for saturation of essential government services in 513 Blocks (329 Districts) across the country.
C. Focuses on five themes: Health & Nutrition Education Agriculture & Water Resources Financial Inclusion & Skill Development Infrastructure	C. Focuses on five themes: • Health & Nutrition • Education • Agriculture and Allied Services • Basic Infrastructure • Social Development
D. Progress is measured on 49 indicators of development	D. Progress is measured on 40 indicators of development

2. We Rise Initiative

- A joint public–private initiative under WEP’s Award to Reward (ATR) framework.
- Aimed at identifying and nurturing high-potential women-led MSMEs to become export-ready enterprises.
- **Launched By:**
 - NITI Aayog’s [Women Entrepreneurship Platform \(WEP\)](#) in collaboration with DP World, a global logistics and supply chain leader.
- **Aim:**
 - To scale women-led businesses globally through trade facilitation, mentorship, capacity-building, and access to global value chains.
 - To align with the Government’s vision of women-led development and inclusive economic growth.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Global Expansion Support:** 100 women entrepreneurs to be mentored for export readiness and international business operations.
 - **Market Access:** Selected participants to showcase products at Bharat Mart (Dubai) — a global [B2B and B2C](#) marketplace within Jebel Ali Free Zone.
 - **Strategic Mentorship:** Customized guidance on trade compliance, branding, and cross-border logistics through DP World’s global expertise.
 - **Public-Private Partnership Model:** Integrates WEP’s ecosystem of 90,000+ women entrepreneurs with DP World’s trade infrastructure.
 - **Plug-and-Play Collaboration (ATR):** Builds scalable partnerships to address finance, market linkages, legal support, and business growth challenges.

3. First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre

- A premier innovation hub established outside India under the [Atal Innovation Mission \(AIM\)](#).
- **Launched in:** September 2025, at IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi campus.
- **Objective:**
 - To **promote innovation, research, and entrepreneurship** among students and young professionals.
 - To strengthen India–UAE collaboration in **education, sustainability, and technology-driven solutions**.
- **Functions:**
 - [Incubate start-ups](#) and mentor innovators.
 - Provide infrastructure and labs for cutting-edge research.
 - Encourage joint student exchange, teacher training, and skill-building programs.
 - Act as a bridge for **global knowledge-sharing and innovation networks**.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

- **What it is?**
 - A **flagship initiative of the Government of India** to create a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Organisation:** Implemented by [NITI Aayog](#).
- **Launched in:**
- **Aim:** To develop an **innovation-driven ecosystem** in schools, universities, and industries.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs):**
 - Labs set up in schools for students (Class 6–12) to learn robotics, IoT, 3D printing, and electronics.
 - Over **10,000 labs** established across India.
 - **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs):**
 - Business incubators at universities and corporates.
 - Support start-ups with mentoring, funding, networking, and infrastructure.

- **72 AICs functional**, supporting **3500+ start-ups** and generating **32,000+ jobs**.
- **Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:**
 - Focus on diverse sectors like HealthTech, FinTech, AgriTech, EdTech, Food Processing, Drone & Space Tech, AR/VR.
 - Over **1000 women-led start-ups** supported.

Miscellaneous

1. [Nuclear Energy Mission](#)

- A national mission framework to scale up nuclear power through advanced and indigenous technologies, with a strong thrust on SMR R&D and deployment alongside large reactors.
- **Announced in:** [Union Budget 2025–26](#) as a dedicated push for R&D and deployment of SMRs, with a clear 2033 milestone.

Aim:

- **Scale-up target:** Reach about 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047 to support India's long-term energy transition.
- **SMR target:** At least 5 indigenous SMRs by 2033 for clean, reliable, decentralised nuclear power.

Key features:

- **Big R&D push:** ₹20,000 crore for research, design, development and deployment of SMRs (FY 2025–26).
- **Indigenous SMR pipeline:** [BARC](#) has initiated design work on BSMR-200 (200 MWe), SMR-55 (55 MWe), and a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (~5 MW) for hydrogen generation.
- **Industrial decarbonisation focus:** SMRs are positioned for captive power, repowering retiring fossil units, and remote/off-grid applications.
- **Capacity roadmap with roles:** Public sector expected to contribute ~58–60 GW, with the remainder envisaged via public/private participation under the evolving policy framework.
- **NPCIL-led rollout + partnerships:** [NPCIL](#)'s roadmap includes indigenous PHWRs and foreign cooperation; and the NTPC–NPCIL JV is part of enabling nuclear expansion.

2. [Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India \(SHANTI\) Act, 2025](#)

- A comprehensive legislation that replaces the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, creating a unified framework for regulation, licensing, safety, and liability in India's civil nuclear sector.

Aim:

- Accelerate nuclear power capacity for clean energy transition
- Enable private and [JV participation](#) under strict regulation
- Modernise safety, liability, and oversight mechanisms

Key features:

1. Opening the sector to non-government entities

- Licences can now be granted to Indian private companies, government–private joint ventures, and other entities expressly permitted by the Centre (excluding foreign-incorporated companies).
- Permitted activities include building, owning, operating, and decommissioning nuclear plants, and fabrication, transport, trade, and storage of nuclear fuel.
- **Mandatory safety authorisation** from the [Atomic Energy Regulatory Board](#) (AERB) for any radiation-related activity.

2. Revised nuclear liability framework

- Retains the **no-fault liability principle** for operators and compulsory insurance coverage.
 - Introduces a **tiered liability cap** based on reactor capacity: **₹100 crore to ₹3,000 crore** (replacing the flat ₹1,500 crore cap).
 - **Central government** bears **excess liability** beyond the operator's cap.
 - Liability exclusions (e.g., certain natural disasters) and claims adjudication mechanisms are retained.
3. **Change in operator's right of recourse**
- Removes the right of recourse against suppliers for defective equipment or materials.
 - Recourse remains only where contractually provided or in cases of deliberate acts causing damage, aligning India with global nuclear liability norms.
4. **Expanded territorial jurisdiction for claims**
- Compensation coverage extends to **nuclear damage suffered in foreign states** arising from incidents in India, **subject to specified conditions**.
5. **Statutory status to Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**
- Grants **legal backing** to AERB to ensure safe use of nuclear energy and radiation.
 - **Composition:** Chairperson, one whole-time member, up to seven part-time members (experts of eminence).
 - Appointments via a **search-cum-selection committee**; tenure **3 years, extendable up to 6 years**.
6. **Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council**
- New appellate body to hear appeals against decisions of the Central Government or AERB.
 - Chaired by the Chairperson, Atomic Energy Commission; includes heads of BARC, AERB, and CEA.
 - Further appeal lies with the **Appellate Tribunal for Electricity**.

3. **National Technology Readiness Assessment Framework (NTRAF)**

- The National Technology Readiness Assessment Framework (NTRAF) is a standardised, objective framework to assess the maturity of technologies from early laboratory research to full commercial deployment using 9 Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs).
- **Ministry / Department:**
- Office of the **Principal Scientific Adviser** (OPSA) to the Government of India
- Developed in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Aim:

- Establish a common language between researchers, investors and policymakers
- Enable evidence-based funding decisions under national **R&D** and mission-mode programmes
- Reduce the "Valley of Death" between TRL 4 and TRL 7 by de-risking promising deep-tech innovations

Key features:

- **TRL-based assessment:** Covers the full innovation cycle from Proof of Concept (TRL 1–3) to Prototype Development (TRL 4–6) and Operational Deployment (TRL 7–9).
- **Objectivity over subjectivity:** Uses structured, measurable checklists instead of narrative claims of readiness.
- **Global best practices, Indian context:** Adapted from international models (e.g., NASA TRLs) and customised for India's research and industrial ecosystem.
- **Sector-specific annexures:** Tailored assessment pathways for domains such as **Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals** and **Software**, recognising sectoral differences.
- **Self-assessment tool:** Enables **researchers and startups** to identify technical gaps before applying for funding.

4. Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025

- The Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025 amends the [Central Excise Act, 1944](#) to revise excise duties on tobacco and tobacco-related products, which remain outside the full GST framework.

Key features of the Act:

- Revision of excise duty rates:** Updates central excise duties on tobacco to maintain and enhance the [overall tax burden](#) after the end of GST compensation cess.
- Higher duties on tobacco products:**
 - Unmanufactured tobacco:** 64% → 70%
 - Chewing tobacco:** 25% → 100%
 - Hookah/gudaku tobacco:** 25% → 40%
 - Smoking mixtures for pipes/cigarettes:** 60% → 325%
 - Cigarettes:** From ₹200–₹735 to ₹2,700–₹11,000 per thousand sticks
- Public health objective:** Aligns with global guidance to ensure real cigarette prices rise faster than incomes.
- GST rate restructuring:**
 - Beedis:** Moved to **18% GST**
 - All other tobacco products:** Moved to **40% GST**
- New valuation mechanism:** GST value based on retail sale price declared on the package for chewing tobacco, gutkha, khaini, jarda, etc.

Tax reset

The Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025 specifies new rates of excise duty on tobacco products

- The Finance Ministry has notified that provisions of the Health Security and National Security Act, 2025, which intends to levy a cess on pan masala units, will come into force from February 1
- Beedis have been moved to the **18% GST** category from the now-defunct **28% slab**
- All other tobacco products have been moved to the **40% slab**



About GST Compensation Cess:

- The GST compensation cess is an additional levy imposed on select goods to compensate States for revenue losses arising from the implementation of GST.

Started in: July 2017, alongside the rollout of GST, initially for a five-year period (till June 2022).

Key features:

- Extended till March 31, 2026 due to [COVID-19-related revenue](#) shortfalls.
- Used primarily to repay about ₹2.7 lakh crore borrowed by the Centre to compensate States.
- Levied in addition to GST and, for tobacco, central excise duty.
- Being phased out completely from February 1, 2026, including on tobacco products.

Items covered: Tobacco and tobacco products, Pan masala, Aerated and caffeinated drinks, Luxury cars, Motorcycles above 350 cc and Specified firearms (revolvers, pistols, etc.)

5. Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)

- [PRAGATI](#) is a centralised, ICT-enabled governance platform for grievance redressal, programme implementation, and project monitoring, enabling real-time review of projects of national importance.

Established in: Launched on **25 March 2015** by the Government of India, under the Prime Minister's leadership.

Aim:

- Ensure timely implementation of infrastructure and development projects.
- Resolve inter-ministerial and [Centre-State coordination](#) issues.
- Promote e-transparency, accountability, and outcome-based governance.

Key features:

- **Three-tier architecture:** Links PMO, Union Secretaries, and State Chief Secretaries on one platform, enabling direct coordination, faster decisions, and clear accountability across governance levels.
- **Monthly PM-chaired reviews:** Provides high-level political oversight through regular video-conference meetings, ensuring time-bound resolution of critical project delays.
- **Digital-GIS integration:** Uses real-time data, geo-spatial mapping, and live visuals to objectively track project progress and identify ground-level bottlenecks.
- **Unified data sourcing:** Integrates [CPGRAMS](#), PMG, and MoSPI databases to create a single monitoring dashboard, reducing silos and improving policy coordination.
- **Escalation framework:** Allows unresolved issues to move from ministries to higher institutional and PM-level review, ensuring decisive inter-ministerial action.
- **Digital follow-up:** Tracks all directions electronically until closure, ensuring sustained monitoring, accountability, and outcome delivery.

6. [National Environmental Standard Laboratory \(NESL\)](#)

India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL) and the world's fifth National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration at [CSIR-NPL](#), New Delhi.

About [India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory \(NESL\)](#):

- The National Environmental Standard Laboratory is an apex national facility for testing, calibration, and certification of air pollution monitoring equipment under Indian climatic and environmental conditions.
- **Located in:** CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi
- **Organisations involved:** Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
 - CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL)
- **Aim:**
 - To establish India-specific standards for air pollution monitoring instruments.
 - To support effective implementation of pollution control policies such as [National Clean Air Programme](#) (NCAP).
- **Key features:**
 - Calibration and testing under Indian climatic conditions (temperature, humidity, dust load).
 - Ensures traceable, accurate, and standardised environmental data.
 - Supports domestic manufacturing, startups, [MSMEs](#), and regulators.
 - Only the UK and India currently have such national-level facilities.

About [National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration](#):

- The National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration is an advanced metrology facility for high-precision calibration of solar cells, ensuring [global-standard photovoltaic](#) (PV) measurements.
- **Located in:** CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi.
- **Key features:**
 - Uses laser-[based Differential Spectral Responsivity](#) (L-DSR) system.
 - Achieves world-leading calibration uncertainty of 0.35% (k=2).
 - Developed in collaboration with Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Germany.
 - Part of an elite global group (only the fifth such facility worldwide).

7. [New Aadhaar App](#)

- The New Aadhaar App is a secure, next-generation mobile platform designed by the Unique Identification Authority of India ([UIDAI](#)).

- It is significantly different from the old mAadhaar app, focusing on consent-based control and data minimization in line with the DPDP Act.

Developed by: This next-generation app, developed by UIDAI.

Aim & Objectives:

- **Eliminate Photocopies:** To stop the misuse of Aadhaar data during routine checks at hotels and airports.
- **Resident-Centricity:** To provide Identity at Fingertips while allowing users to choose exactly what data they share.
- **Ease of Living:** To reduce physical visits to [Aadhaar Seva Kendras](#) for routine updates.

Key Features:

Secure Offline Verification (No Internet Needed):

Users can now verify their identity without an active internet connection or sharing their 12-digit number.

- **Share ID:** Generate a password-protected file with only limited fields (e.g., just Name and Age).
- **QR Scanning:** Scan an [entity's QR code](#) to provide instant, digitally signed proof of identity.

Update Mobile Number & Address from Home:

For the first time, residents can update their registered mobile number directly through the app using Face Authentication.

- **Fee:** A nominal fee of ₹75 is applicable.
- **Timeline:** Updates are typically reflected within **15 days**.

One Family – One App:

The app allows the management of up to **five Aadhaar profiles** on a single smartphone. This makes it a perfect tool for parents to manage their children's or elderly dependents' digital IDs.

Selective Data Sharing:

Users no longer have to share their full digital card. You can choose to share only Photo and Age for a movie ticket or Name and Address for a hospital visit, masking the Aadhaar number entirely.

Biometric Lock & Unlock:

A single-click feature allows you to lock your biometrics, ensuring no one can use your fingerprint or iris data without your permission through the app.

8. [Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2025](#)

- The amendment to the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014, issued under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, seeks to simplify norms for corneal transplantation and strengthen the [National Organ Transplant Programme](#) (NOTP).
- **Aim:**
 - To boost cornea donation and transplantation services, streamline the approval process, and remove infrastructural bottlenecks, ensuring equitable access to [eye-care](#) facilities across India.

Key Features:

- **Removal of mandatory clinical specular microscope requirement:** previously used to assess corneal endothelial cell health, easing compliance for smaller eye centres.
- **Promotes equitable access** to transplant services in rural and semi-urban regions by reducing cost and equipment barriers.
- **Strengthens NOTP** by improving coordination among hospitals, tissue banks, and regulatory authorities.
- **Based on expert and stakeholder consultations**, aligning with the government's Vision for [Equitable Healthcare Access](#).

- **Long-term objective:** Strengthen India's **cornea donation ecosystem** and reduce the burden of **corneal blindness** — the **second-leading cause of blindness** among Indians over 50 years of age.

About the Cornea:

- The cornea is the transparent, dome-shaped outer layer at the front of the eye that functions like a window, allowing light to enter and focus on the retina for clear vision.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Acts as a **protective barrier** against dust, microbes, and injury.
 - **Comprises six layers:** Epithelium, Bowman's Layer, Stroma, Pre-Desemet's (Dua's) Layer, Descemet's Layer, and **Endothelium**.
 - **Highly sensitive:** has **300–600 times more pain receptors** than skin, ensuring quick reflex protection.
 - Maintains **eye structure and fluid balance**, essential for vision clarity.
 - **Self-healing:** minor injuries repair rapidly, but deeper damage (scarring or clouding) often requires **corneal transplant surgery** to restore vision.

9. **ARISE Program**

At the **COP30 Climate Summit in Belém**, Brazil, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) launched a new program — ARISE (Accelerating Resilience Investments and Innovations for Sustainable Economies) — with initial funding of \$100 million from Germany and Spain.

About ARISE Program:

- ARISE is the next-generation resilience program launched under the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to help developing countries strengthen their economic and institutional resilience against climate shocks and transform climate risks into opportunities for sustainable growth.
- **Launched by:** Climate Investment Funds (CIF) — a multilateral climate finance mechanism housed within the World Bank.
- **Aim:** To mainstream **climate resilience** into national economic planning, mobilize catalytic finance for adaptation, and empower communities and institutions to withstand and recover from compounding climate risks like floods, droughts, and storms.

About Climate Investment Fund (CIF):

- A multilateral climate finance mechanism that provides concessional funding to developing countries to support low-carbon, climate-resilient development.
- **Established in:** 2008, as a collaborative initiative under the World Bank Group.
- **Managed by:** Hosted within the **World Bank**, implemented through six **Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)** — including the **IFC, ADB, AfDB, EBRD**, and others — ensuring country-led and partnership-based climate action.
- **Aim:** To catalyse transformational climate investments by mobilising public and private finance for clean technology, energy access, resilience, and nature-based solutions in over 70 low and middle-income countries.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Two Core Funds:**
 1. **Clean Technology Fund (CTF)** – finances renewable energy, clean transport, and energy efficiency projects.
 2. **Strategic Climate Fund (SCF)** – pilots and scales innovative programs such as the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), Forestry Investment Program, and Smart Cities Program.
 - **Blended Finance Model:** Combines concessional CIF funds with MDB and private investments to reduce risks and attract commercial capital.

10. Centre Designates CISF as New Safety Regulator for Indian Seaports

- The Government has officially recognised the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** as the Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for all major and minor seaports, empowering it to regulate, oversee, and enforce security standards across [India's maritime facilities](#).
- Port-security responsibility was earlier managed in a fragmented manner under the **Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping)**, without a dedicated professional security regulator for maritime zones.
- **Need for the Change:**
 - **Rising cargo movement and Blue Economy expansion** demanded a uniform, professional security architecture.
 - **250+ seaports lacked standardised assessments**, modern screening systems, and integrated security plans.
 - Increasing threats—smuggling, sabotage, infiltration—required a **specialised paramilitary force** with nationwide presence, expertise, and training.
 - CISF already protects **airports, nuclear plants, metros**, making it the most capable agency to modernise seaport security.

About Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):

- A **Central Armed Police Force** dedicated to securing India's critical infrastructure, industrial assets, and transport systems.
- **Established In: 1969**, through an Act of Parliament, later expanded into a full-fledged armed force under the CISF Act, 1983.
- **Aim:** To provide **specialised, technology-driven security** to critical national infrastructure and ensure safe, secure, and uninterrupted industrial, aviation, and strategic operations.
- **Major Functions:**
 - **Industrial & Infrastructure Security:** Protects PSUs, refineries, steel plants, atomic energy units, [ISRO facilities](#), currency presses.
 - **Airport Security:** Secures **70+ airports**, handling passenger and cargo screening.
 - **Transport Security:** Guards Delhi Metro and other urban transit systems; now regulates seaport security.
 - **VIP & Government Premises Security:** Protects sensitive government buildings and select individuals.
 - **Fire Services:** Operates a specialised fire wing for industrial units.
 - **Disaster Response:** Supports [national disaster management](#) and emergency response operations.

11. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- The **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** is a statutory framework that specifies **stage-wise measures** to be implemented to combat deteriorating air quality in the National Capital Region. It provides predefined actions based on the severity of pollution.

Established in: GRAP was first introduced in **2017** under the directives of the **Supreme Court of India** and the [Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#).

- Later revised by the [CAQM](#) in **December 2024** to include predictive action based on IMD and IITM forecasts.

Aim: The plan aims to create a **graded and preemptive response system** for air quality management by identifying specific interventions to be taken as the AQI worsens in Delhi-NCR.

Criteria / Stages: GRAP classifies air quality into four categories based on AQI levels and corresponding actions:

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>AQI Range</u>	<u>Actions</u>
Stage I	Poor	201–300	Dust control, waste removal, enforcement of vehicle norms
Stage II	Very Poor	301–400	Mechanical sweeping, C&D monitoring, DG set regulations
Stage III	Severe	401–450	Restrictions on BS-III/IV vehicles, construction limits
Stage IV	Severe+	Above 450	Ban on truck entry, WFH orders, halting C&D projects

Key Features of GRAP:

- **Dynamic implementation:** Actions are activated dynamically based on real-time AQI data and IMD/IITM forecasts, allowing authorities to respond before pollution peaks.
- **Cumulative approach:** Each higher stage includes all measures from lower stages, ensuring progressive tightening of restrictions as air quality worsens.
- **Inter-agency coordination:** Implementation involves coordinated efforts among CAQM, CPCB, SPCBs, [Urban Local Bodies](#) (ULBs), and Traffic Police, ensuring accountability at every level.
- **Predictive enforcement:** Measures are invoked in advance when forecasts show a likely rise in AQI, promoting preventive rather than reactive air quality management.

12. Maha MedTech Mission

- The [Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas](#) (MAHA)–MedTech is a national initiative to accelerate innovation, manufacturing, and commercialization of cutting-edge medical technologies in India, enhancing access and affordability in healthcare.

Organisations involved:

- Jointly launched by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Aim:

- To reduce India's dependence on high-cost medical imports, strengthen domestic capacity, and ensure equitable access to affordable and high-quality medical devices and diagnostics aligned with [national health priorities](#) such as tuberculosis, cancer, and neonatal care.

Key Features:

- **Funding Support:** ₹5–25 crore per project (up to ₹50 crore for exceptional cases) for startups, MSMEs, academic, hospital, and industry collaborations.
- **Broad Scope:** Covers devices, diagnostics, implants, [AI/ML-based tools](#), robotics, and assistive technologies.
- **Enabling Frameworks:** Includes Patent Mitra for [IP protection](#), MedTech Mitra for regulatory clearances, and a Clinical Trial Network for validation.
- **Two-Stage Selection:** Concept notes (Sept–Nov 2025) followed by full proposals (from Dec 2025).

13. First-Ever Air Shipment of GI Tagged Indi and Puliyanakudi Limes

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first-ever air shipment of [GI-tagged](#) Indi Lime (Karnataka) and Puliyanakudi Lime (Tamil Nadu) to the United Kingdom.

- **What is GI Tag?**
 - A Geographical Indication (GI) is a form of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) that identifies goods as originating from a specific geographical region, where their quality, reputation, or other characteristics are essentially linked to that origin.
 - GI tags are registered under the [Geographical Indications of Goods \(Registration and Protection\) Act, 1999](#).
- **Issued by:** the Geographical Indication Registry, Chennai, under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade ([DPIIT](#)), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Aim:** To protect regional products, promote authenticity, enhance market value, and ensure economic benefits for local producers by preventing unauthorised use of registered names.

About [Indi Lime](#) (Karnataka):

- **Region:** Cultivated mainly in Vijayapura district, Karnataka.
- **Distinct Features:** Known for high juice yield, zesty aroma, and balanced acidity.
- **Special Attributes:** Valued in culinary, [traditional medicine](#), and cultural practices, reflecting Karnataka's deep-rooted agrarian heritage.

About [Puliyankudi Lime](#) (Tamil Nadu):

- **Region:** Grown extensively in Tenkasi district, known as the "Lemon City of Tamil Nadu."
- **Variety:** Especially the Kadayam Lime, prized for its thin peel, strong acidity, and high juice content (~55%).
- **Nutritional Value:** Contains 34.3 mg/100g of ascorbic acid, rich in Vitamin C and [antioxidants](#), aiding immunity and digestion.
- **Recognition:** Received GI tag in April 2025, acknowledging its regional uniqueness and superior quality.

14. [UPSC Pratibha Setu](#)

- A **public recruitment linkage platform** that allows employers to access data of candidates who cleared UPSC written exams but were not recommended after interviews.
- PRATIBHA stands for, Professional Resource And Talent Integration – Bridge for Hiring Aspirants.
- **Launched by:** Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in 2018, now renamed from PDS to Pratibha Setu in 2024.
- **Objective:** To connect meritorious yet non-selected aspirants with job opportunities across PSUs, autonomous bodies, and private sectors.
- **How It Works?**
 - UPSC provides **details of willing non-recommended candidates** (those who cleared written exams but not final selection).
 - Registered **government, PSU, and private organisations** receive **login credentials** to access the candidate database.
 - Organisations can filter candidates using **subject-wise and discipline-wise** search tools for recruitment purposes.
 - Previously only government bodies could access; now **private employers are also included**, expanding placement scope.
- **Eligible Examinations Covered:**
 - Civil Services Examination, Indian Forest Service Examination, Engineering Services Examination, Indian Economic/Statistical Services, Combined Medical Services Examination, [CDS](#) Examination, Central Armed Police Forces (ACs), and Combined Geo-Scientist Examination only
- **Key Features:**
 - **Merit Recognition:** Highlights UPSC-qualified candidates who missed final recommendation.
 - **Public Visibility:** Candidates voluntarily consent to share details with employers.

- **Digital Platform:** Accessible via UPSC's official portal with secure employer login.
- **Employment Linkage:** Helps bridge [labour market gaps](#) by providing job-matching tools.
- **Equity in Opportunity:** Ensures skilled candidates are not left out of India's talent pool.

15. [Cyber Suraksha](#)

- 'Cyber Suraksha' is a **multi-phased cybersecurity drill** simulating real-world cyber threats in a high-paced, gamified environment for national-level stakeholders.
- **Launched By:** Organised by the Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA).
- **Objectives:**
 - Boost cyber resilience at the national security level.
 - Train personnel to effectively respond to advanced cyberattacks.
 - Foster a **security-first culture** in defence institutions.
- **Key Features:**
 - Includes targeted training, evaluation modules, and leadership capsules.
 - Hosts a [Chief Information Security Officers](#) (CISOs) Conclave for policy and strategic alignment.
 - Integrates Table-Top Exercises to simulate crisis decision-making.
 - Blends structured learning with hands-on scenarios to boost readiness.

About [Defence Cyber Agency \(DCyA\)](#):

- DCyA is an integrated tri-service organisation under India's Ministry of Defence, managing military cybersecurity operations and cyber warfare strategies.
- **Established In:** Operational since November 2019.
- **Aim:**
 - To **safeguard Indian defence networks** and digital infrastructure from cyber threats.
 - Enhance **joint cyber capabilities** across Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Functions:**
 - Acts as a central agency for cyber operations and emergency response (CERTs).
 - Coordinates cyber intelligence, incident response, and strategic cyber defence.
 - Supports training, audits, and threat assessments across military units.
 - Reports to [Chief of Defence Staff](#) (CDS) via Integrated Defence Staff (IDS).

16. [Safe Harbour](#)

- Safe harbour is a legal protection that shields online platforms from being held liable for content posted by users.
- **Legal Basis in India:** Section 79 of the [Information Technology Act, 2000](#) provides safe harbour for intermediaries, mirroring the US's Section 230 of the Communications Act.
- **Key Features:**
 - Protects intermediaries from legal action for third-party content.
 - Conditional immunity—if they take prompt action upon receiving *actual knowledge* of illegal content (via court or government order).
 - Encourages innovation by not overburdening platforms with liability.
- **What is [Intermediary Liability](#)?**
 - It is the concept where intermediaries (like social media platforms, messaging apps, etc.) can be held responsible for content shared by users.
 - **How It Is Regulated in India:**
 - Governed by IT ([Intermediary Guidelines and \[Digital Media Ethics Code\]\(#\) Rules, 2021](#)).
 - Platforms must appoint:
 - A **Grievance Officer** and **Nodal Contact Person** in India.
 - Publish monthly compliance reports.


- The **2023 Amendment Rules** propose to revoke safe harbour for “fake news” identified by the **PIB’s fact-check unit** (challenged in court for overreach).
- **Features of Current Regime:**
 - Conditional immunity based on content moderation and user grievance mechanisms.
 - Restrictions apply if platforms do not comply with takedown requests, especially on misinformation, deepfakes, and [cyberfrauds](#).
- Court rulings (e.g., Supreme Court interpretation of “actual knowledge”) influence enforcement.



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